

# Temporary Protected Status (TPS)- Afghanistan



Equity Corps of Oregon  
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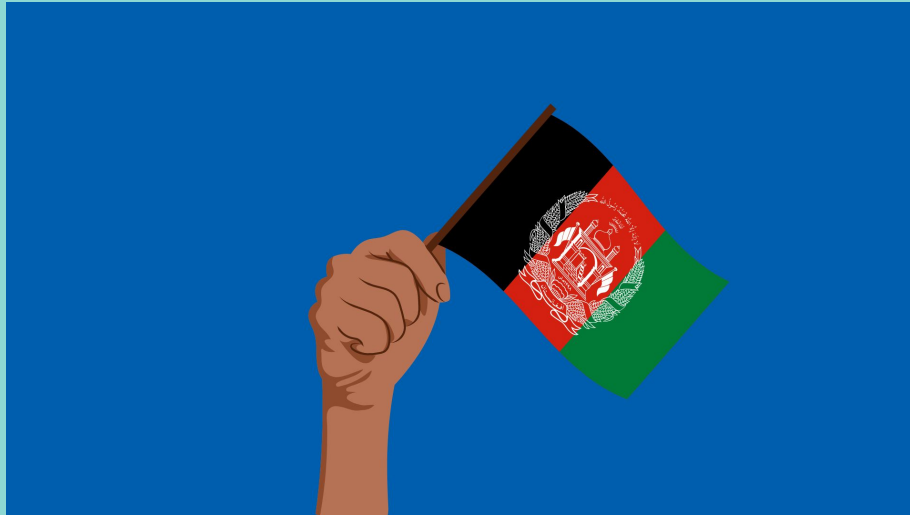
***I am not an immigration attorney at Innovation Law Lab, a nonprofit organization that supports immigrant rights and that is part of Equity Corps of Oregon. We do not work for the U.S. government or for any of the agencies described here.***



## What this presentation will cover

- What is TPS and who qualifies?
- How will TPS affect other aspects of my immigration case?
- What are the next steps for applying for TPS?

# What is TPS?



- TPS is a temporary status that prevents the deportation of certain persons from specific countries that are considered too unstable to receive them
- TPS is granted for a period of 18 months and must be re-designated and renewed
  - TPS beneficiaries must re-apply for the status every 18 months
- TPS, by itself, is not a pathway to permanent legal residence or permanent status in the US



- As the name (temporary) suggests, TPS is NOT a permanent status, but for many countries the government has continued renewing the designation for many years
- TPS comes with the opportunity to receive a work permit, which will be valid until the end of the designated TPS period
- TPS, on its own, does not grant you permission to travel outside of the United States





# Who from Afghanistan qualifies for TPS?





- **TPS for Afghanistan is currently designated for**
  - **September 20, 2023- May 20, 2025**
- **People who are applying for TPS for the first time must apply by May 20, 2025**
  - **People who are re-registering for TPS must apply by November 24, 2025**



## Requirements

- Be a citizen of Afghanistan (or a person with no nationality who last resided in Afghanistan)
- Have been physically present in the United States on September 20, 2023, and have lived here since
- Register for TPS before the expiration of the registration period for Afghanistan



# Ineligibility

- **Persons with certain criminal histories in the United States**
  - Having a felony conviction, or two or more misdemeanor convictions
- **People who are subject to the bars to asylum**
  - For example, you may not be eligible if you harmed someone else for a protected reason
- **People who have received an offer of permanent residence or who are citizens of another country**
  - Many exceptions apply; consult with your attorney if this might apply to you

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# How will TPS affect my immigration case?



- You may apply for TPS at the same time you apply for asylum or for other immigration benefits
- Applying for or receiving TPS will not automatically end your case in immigration court; however, you can ask the government to close your case once you have applied or been approved.
  - Some people may decide to continue with their immigration court case to receive a decision on their asylum application sooner
    - Remember, asylum has a path to permanent residence; TPS does not



# How much will it cost to apply?

- The TPS applications costs \$50 per person (each person in your family must apply separately), plus an \$85 biometrics fee for those who are 14 years or older
- There is also a cost of \$410 for anyone seeking work authorization who is between 14 and 65 years old.
  - The total cost for someone 14 to 65 years old who is also seeking a work permit is \$545.
- You may request a fee waiver if you cannot afford to pay the filing fees.
- ECO does not charge for its legal services



# If I am from Afghanistan, what are the next steps for me to apply for TPS?



- TPS applications for Afghanistan may be submitted as of September 25, 2023
- If you are enrolled in ECO, ECO will contact you to schedule an appointment as soon as there is capacity to meet with you
- Remember you have until May 20, 2025 to apply for TPS
  - In your particular case, TPS may not be the most important thing to work on right now
  - For example, you may have an individual hearing coming up, or you may be eligible for an asylum work permit, which will issue faster than TPS

**While you are waiting to apply for TPS, here are some steps you can take to be ready:**

- **Save money to pay for the applications, or collect proof that you are unable to pay the filing fees**
  - **Receiving a public benefit is the easiest way to qualify for a fee waiver (like OHP or Trimet pass)**
- **Collect proof that you were in the United States on September 20, 2023, and that you have lived here since that date**
- **Collect proof of your Afghan or Venezuelan citizenship, if you do not have it already**

**Thank you for your time and  
attention!**

**What questions do you have?**