

PRIMARY AVENUES FOR LAWFUL ENTRY INTO THE U.S.

DIVERSITY VISA PROGRAM



The information provided below is a summarized version of the American Immigration Council's fact sheet titled: "How the United States Immigration System Works." Published: June 24, 2024

The Diversity Visa Program was created by the Immigration Act of 1990 as a dedicated channel for immigrants from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. A visa is a document allowing foreign nationals to enter, stay, or work in the U.S.

The goal of the program is to increase diversity of immigrant populations in the United States.

Applying for a Diversity Visa

Each year, only 55,000 visas are randomly allocated through a computer lottery for foreign nationals from countries that have sent fewer than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. in the past five years. **These visas are rare to obtain.**

Eligibility

To be eligible for a diversity visa, potential applicants from qualifying countries must have a high school education (or its equivalent), or have, within the past five years, a minimum of two years working in a profession requiring at least two years of training or experience. Spouses and minor unmarried children of the applicant may also enter the U.S.

4 Principles of U.S. Immigration Laws



Promoting
Diversity



Bringing Skills to
U.S. Economy



Reunification of
Families



Humanitarian
Protections