

# Mobility: immigration alert

August 2021

## United States

### Adjustment of Status Application is updated to include SSN request

#### Executive summary

On 9 August 2021, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that applicants may now apply for a Social Security Number (SSN) as part of the Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status. This change is effective immediately.

#### Background

Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, is used by an individual in the United States who is applying for lawful permanent residency, colloquially known as a green card. A new section has been added to the latest edition of the Form I-485, which now asks the applicant to answer whether they would like to request an SSN. If the applicant chooses to request an SSN through this form, the applicant will need to provide consent for the disclosure of the applicant's information to the Social Security Administration for this purpose. According to the USCIS' announcement, the request for the SSN will be automatically transferred to the Social Security Administration for issuing the SSN upon approval of the lawful permanent residency.

Previously, an applicant for lawful permanent residency would have the options of separately visiting a local Social Security Administration office with the necessary documents or filing an additional application, Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, to request an SSN. While these options remain available, it is unclear yet if the Form I-765 will be updated as well to reduce redundancy in the application process.

#### What this means

The combination of the Form I-485 and the application for an SSN is intended to "eliminat[e] unnecessary bureaucracy and optimiz[e] collaboration across public-serving agencies" as key priority for the USCIS, while increasing efficiency of the immigration agency's operations and saving applicants' time.

The latest edition is dated 03/29/2021 and is effective immediately. Applicants can continue to use the previous edition, dated 03/10/2021, until 13 October 2021, after which the USCIS will only accept the latest edition. The new form does not require an applicant to always request an SSN as part of the Form I-485.

EY Law will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our U.S. immigration professionals.



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