# WESTERN STATES

## Instructions & templates - Comment on USCIS administrative and other barriers

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is requesting input from the public on how it can reduce administrative and other barriers within its regulations and policies that impede access to the USCIS immigration benefits and the fair, efficient adjudications of these. This request is in response to President Biden's Executive Order 14012, "Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration System". *Deadline:* USCIS is accepting input until **May 19 at 9PM PT**.

As an international student or scholar who has directly engaged with the USCIS (or who might engage with USCIS in the near future), your feedback to them is valuable. We encourage you, and/or your visa dependents, to take a moment to submit a comment describing your personal experiences with the USCIS and how they could be improved.

This might include:

- **Processing times and delays** - Were you notified of each step/time it would take? Were stated times correct? Were there long wait times or delays that impacted your timeline or ability to start work or school in the US?
- **Fees** - Did you incur any unexpected fees? Did you find the fees prohibitive?
- **Accessibility** - Anything that needed physical copies that could have been done online?
- **In-person interviews** - Did you have to go through in-person interviews that were unnecessary and delayed your process? This might be particularly relevant if the USCIS field office was not at all close to you, or was not easily accessible by public transport.
- **Applications or forms rejected for incompleteness** - Did you have to restart any processes because of forms that were rejected for small clerical or typographical issues, or because forms were filled out incorrectly because the instructions were unclear?
- **Lack of premium processing options** for you or your dependents' visa type, or delays in processing a dependent's visa or work authorization paperwork?
- **Inability to talk to a person at USCIS for clarification** - Have instructions or procedures been unclear, and you had difficulty (long waiting times on the phone; receiving call backs at inconvenient times; missing call backs and needing to start over) finding someone to ask for advice?

We encourage you to write about your specific experience with the USCIS by identifying the barriers you encountered, and the way it impacted your life or career. You don't need to have encountered delays or fees for your experience to count - USCIS also needs to know about

frustrating, confusing, or unclear procedures and instructions and how they could be made better. In your comment, please briefly describe yourself, where you live and work, and your study and/or research, before moving on to describing your experience with the USCIS. The deadline for this is **May 19 at 9PM PT**. Please submit your comment today!

## Instructions to submit your individual comment:

1. Go to https://www.regulations.gov/document/USCIS-2021-0004-0001
2. Click “Comment”
3. In the “Comment*” field, type or paste your comment (max 5000 characters)
4. (Optional) In the “Email Address” field, type your email address
5. For the “Tell us about yourself! I am...*” field, choose either “An Individual” or “Anonymous”; if you choose “An Individual”, then fill in “Your Contact Information” (only First Name and Last Name are required)
6. Click “I’m not a robot”
7. Click “Submit Comment”

8. (Optional) Please let us (the UAW International Solidarity Working Group) know that you have submitted a public comment by filling out this quick form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScr9p1iTS2ng2aNcaSCOE2JWHPaWxx2oGHhrgBHCfr33S9iJg/viewform