

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Transitional Assistance

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JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D. Secretary

> JULIA E. KEHOE Commissioner

Operations Memo 2011-32 July 15, 2011

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From: Stephanie Brown, Assistant Commissioner for Policy, Program and

External Relations

Re: EAEDC - Extension and Redesignation of Temporary Protected Status

for Haitians Affected by the January 2010 Haiti Earthquake

Overview

In January 2010, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) following the January 2010 Haiti earthquake. TPS is a temporary immigration benefit, authorized under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationalization Act (INA) granted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). It allows nationals of a designated country to remain in the U.S., and work for a limited time period because conditions in that country are preventing them from returning there.

Field Operations 2010-24 transmitted procedures for processing Haitian National applicants affected by the earthquake.

DHS recently extended the TPS designation and redesignated Haiti for TPS for 18 months from July 23, 2011 through January 22, 2013.

Purpose of Memo

This Operations Memo:

• advises staff about the extension of the TPS designation for Haiti and how it affects current Haitian TPS beneficiaries:

Purpose of Memo (continued)

- advises staff about the redesignation of Haiti for TPS effective July 23, 2011, and how certain Haitian Nationals currently without TPS may now apply for TPS;
- explains EAEDC eligibility for Haitian Nationals with TPS; and
- provides instructions for entering information in BEACON for Haitians with TPS.

Extension of Initial TPS

Haitian Nationals who were already in the U.S. prior to the earthquake were eligible to apply to USCIS for the initial TPS period, January 21, 2010 through July 22, 2011.

Effective July 23, 2011, DHS will allow Haitian Nationals previously approved for TPS to remain in the U.S. through January 22, 2013 provided they re-register with USCIS. The re-registration period began on May 23, 2011 and ends on August 22, 2011.

Individuals who meet all eligibility requirements and are approved for the extended TPS as a result of re-registration will have documentation from USCIS verifying their temporary status and its duration. These individuals will be allowed to remain in the U.S. through January 22, 2013.

TAOs with Clients Affected by Extension

This extension affects clients in the Malden, Newmarket Square, Revere and Taunton TAOs. A list of EAEDC clients with Haiti TPS will be sent electronically with this memo to the TAO directors and assistant directors to be distributed to the appropriate case manager.

Case Manager Responsibility

Once the list is received, the case manager must schedule an appointment with the client to determine if the client has re-registered or intends to re-register for TPS. At the appointment, the case manager should complete an eligibility review if the client is due for review.

Note: Individuals granted TPS may later receive a permanent resident status "green card" under another provision of INA law.

Haiti TPS Redesignation

In addition to the extension, DHS has redesignated Haiti for TPS. This means that effective July 23, 2011, Haitian Nationals admitted to the U.S. between January 12, 2010 and January 12, 2011 and who have continuously lived in the U.S. since January 12, 2011 may now apply for TPS. The redesignation application period began on May 19, 2011 and ends on November 15, 2011.

Individuals who meet all eligibility requirements for the TPS redesignation will have documentation from USCIS verifying their temporary status and its duration. These individuals will be allowed to remain in the U.S. through January 22, 2013.

Eligibility for EAEDC

Haitian Nationals granted TPS are Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL), and accordingly, are eligible for EAEDC benefits provided they meet EAEDC nonfinancial and financial eligibility requirements.

Note: Haitians granted TPS are <u>not</u> considered Cuban/Haitian Entrants and are not eligible for TAFDC and SNAP.

BEACON

When completing the INS Designation page in the Assessed Person Nonfinancials workflow, the case manager must:

- on the Detail tab, select **PRUCOL** in the INS designation drop-down box;
- select **TPS** in the Section reference field; and **Note**: Do not select the Section 244 or Section 244(a)(3) designations that appear in the drop-down box.
- enter all information provided by USCIS that is required to complete the INS Designation page.

The case manager must annotate the BEACON Narrative tab with: Haitian National with Temporary Protected Status.

Obsolete Memo

Field Operations 2010-24: Eligibility for Haitians with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Following the Haiti Earthquake – EAEDC is obsolete.

Questions

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.