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*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  
**Department of Transitional Assistance**  
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**Operations Memo 2012-22**  
**May 7, 2012**

**To:** Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

**From:**  Stephanie Brown, Assistant Commissioner for Policy, Program and External Relations

**Re:** EAEDC: Temporary Protected Status Designation for Syria

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**Overview**

On March 29, 2012, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). 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.

A foreign country may be designated for TPS due to the following conditions:

- ✓ Ongoing armed conflict (such as a civil war),
- ✓ An environmental disaster (such as an earthquake or hurricane),
- ✓ An epidemic, or
- ✓ Other extraordinary and temporary conditions.

DHS designated Syria for TPS due to continued and worsening violence involving the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG), Syrian military forces and citizen unrest. DHS determined these circumstances to be extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent Syrian nationals from returning in safety.

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**Purpose of Memo**

This Operations Memo:

- advises staff about TPS for Syria;
  - advises TAO staff about EAEDC eligibility for Syrians with TPS;
  - provides information on USCIS filing fees and fee waiver requests that will benefit clients when filing USCIS applications; and
  - provides instructions for entering information in BEACON for individuals with TPS.
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**Syrian TPS**

DHS designated TPS for Syria for the period March 29, 2012 through September 30, 2013. To be granted TPS, an individual must apply to USCIS and meet all eligibility requirements. The application period for Syrian TPS began on March 29, 2012 and ends September 25, 2012.

Syrian nationals who have both continuously resided in and have been continuously physically present in the United States since March 29, 2012 may be eligible for TPS. Applicants must present identity and nationality evidence, proof of when they entered the U.S and proof that they have been continuously residing here to USCIS. USCIS will conduct a thorough security check.

During the TPS designation period, individuals who are granted TPS may also apply for employment authorization documents (EADs) and for travel authorization.

Individuals who meet all eligibility requirements and are approved for TPS will have documentation from USCIS verifying their temporary status and status duration. These individuals will be allowed to remain in the U.S. through September 30, 2013.

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**Eligibility for EAEDC**

Syrian nationals granted TPS are Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL) for purposes of EAEDC eligibility, and accordingly, are eligible for EAEDC benefits provided they meet all other EAEDC nonfinancial and financial requirements.

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

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**USCIS TPS Filing Fees and Fee Waivers** USCIS may require individuals to pay a biometric service fee when filing a TPS application. This fee covers such tests as fingerprinting. There is also a filing fee required by USCIS for an EAD application.

TPS applicants may ask USCIS to waive the TPS and EAD application fees by submitting a USCIS Form I-912 *Request for Fee Waiver* along with both the TPS application and the EAD application; or applicants may submit personal letters to request fee waivers. TPS applicants may call USCIS toll-free at 1-800-870-3767 for all USCIS forms, or visit USCIS websites: [www.uscis.gov/forms](http://www.uscis.gov/forms), for applications and [www.uscis.gov/i-912](http://www.uscis.gov/i-912), for Form I-912 *Request for Fee Waiver* forms.

**Important:** USCIS will reject TPS and EAD applications that are filed without submitting the proper fee, a fee waiver request or a personal letter with each application.

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**BEACON Instructions**

When completing the INS Designation page for individuals with TPS, the case manager must:

- on the Detail tab, select **PRUCOL** in the INS designation drop-down box;
- select **TPS** in the Section reference field;

**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 required to complete the INS Designation page, for the individual with TPS; and
  - annotate the BEACON Narrative tab with: “EAEDC applicant/client with Temporary Protected Status who is a Syrian national.”
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**Questions**

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

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