



Population, Refugees, and Migration

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

United States Department of State
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and the Situation
in Ukraine and Neighboring Countries

Fact Sheet for Current Lautenberg Program Applicants
September 21, 2022

Resettlement Support Center (RSC) Eurasia, operated by the International Organization for Migration on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, is continuing operations from its sub-office in Chisinau, Moldova and has opened an additional temporary office in Warsaw, Poland. **RSC Eurasia is not conducting any in-person activities or scheduling any departures from Ukraine** at this time. We encourage Lautenberg program applicants who are in danger to find safety and shelter wherever possible. We will schedule activities and/or departures as soon as the situation permits.

If you have an active U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) case with RSC Eurasia, your case remains active and case processing is continuing, to the extent possible. **We anticipate that some resettlement processing activities may be delayed due to operational challenges on the ground.** We are doing everything we can to process cases as quickly and efficiently as possible but cannot indicate a timeline at this time.

Please contact RSC Eurasia if you have updates, including new documents, a new address, phone number, or email, or questions about your case. Lautenberg program applicants who were being processed in Ukraine and have changed location and/or departed the country should write to RSC Eurasia at icc@iom.int to advise of their new location and contact information. As the volume of inquiries is high, please expect delays in responses. We will respond as soon as possible.

Once you are scheduled for a processing activity, you will receive specific information. If you are unable to attend the scheduled activity in the specified location, please inform RSC Eurasia as soon as possible. **RSC Eurasia will inform you of any changes in case processing.**

If you and your case members have completed all USRAP processing requirements and your case is ready to travel, RSC Eurasia will try to make travel arrangements from your current location, outside of Ukraine. We will notify you with any updates on your case as these become available.

RSC Contact Information: Email: icc@iom.int Phone: +380 44 5685020 – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00am to 2:00pm (CET), excluding official holidays.

It is also important to remember that **ALL steps under the USRAP remain free of charge and applicants should not engage with anyone requesting payment for services to obtain information or a change in status on a case.** Please report any instances of fraud or abuse to the RSC's confidential email box at: FraudRSCEurasia@iom.int.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How is a qualifying relationship defined under the Lautenberg program?

A qualifying relationship for the Lautenberg program is defined as spouse, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren.

Q: Will cases be processed even if applicants are unable to provide all the required documentation due to the conflict?

Applicants must provide all required documentation; however original documents are not required. We accept hard copies, scanned images, or photocopies of documents during the application phase. We will review cases at a later stage on a case-by-case basis for those applicants who are unable to provide original documents due to the war in Ukraine.

Q: If some family members fled Ukraine while other family members remain in the country, can an Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) still be submitted despite family separation as a result of the conflict?

AORs can be filed for all eligible family members considering that circumstances may change when applicants go through case processing activities. Under Lautenberg program guidelines, members of the same household or economic unit of the Primary Applicant (PA), who are physically present with the PA at the USCIS interview, will be considered category members for purposes of adjudication of their refugee claim and their subsequent travel.

Q: If some of my family members, including conscription age males, are unable to leave Ukraine, can our case continue?

If the Principal Applicant (PA) is outside Ukraine while other case members remain inside Ukraine, or if the PA wants to travel to the United States without other case members, then:

The PA can travel without other case members on the case. However, case members are required to travel to the United States either together with PA or within 4 months after the PA is admitted to the United States. If case members are not ready or able to travel within 4 months, they will be unable to depart, and their cases will be closed. PAs who travel without eligible case members who are subsequently unable to travel to join the PA within the 4-month window can submit, within two years after the PA arrives, Form I-730 petitions for the eligible case members to join them in the United States.

Should the PA want to travel with their children but without their spouse on the case, the spouse must travel to the United States within 4 months after the PA and children are admitted to the United States. If the spouse cannot travel within 4 months for any reason, they may be unable to depart, and their case may be closed. If the PA is travelling with children under 18 years of age

without the other parent on the case, the parent who is not travelling must give consent for the children to travel with the PA. As noted above, if the PA and spouse travel separately, the PA can submit a Form I-730 petition for the spouse.

If the PA is inside Ukraine while other case members have fled Ukraine and want to travel to the United States without the PA, then:

Case members cannot travel to the United States without the PA. Case members are required to travel to the United States either together with PA or within 4 months after the PA is admitted to the United States.

If the primary PA is unable to travel to the United States, then any members of the primary PA's household or economic unit on separate cases linked to the primary PA's case should be aware of the following:

Through the Lautenberg program, certain individuals who form part of the same household or same economic unit as the primary PA may be granted access to the program on humanitarian grounds even if they do not individually meet the program access criteria.

Depending on the age and relationship to the primary PA, these individuals may be on separate cases that are linked to the primary PA's case. These individuals undergo processing activities at the same time as the primary PA. However, these individuals will undergo their own USCIS interview. This interview should be completed at the same time as the primary PA.

Under certain circumstances, individuals on separate cases which are linked to the primary PA's case may travel separately after the primary PA's case travels. However, USCIS will make this determination on a case-by-case basis, depending on the information collected during the USCIS interview and on which the USCIS decision was granted.

Q: Can individuals have pending applications under the Lautenberg program and also apply under another program, such as Uniting for Ukraine or a petition to initiate the immigrant visa process (Form I-130)?

Yes. Lautenberg program applicants may apply to other programs if they meet the eligibility requirements for the program.

Q: What happens to an individual's existing Lautenberg program application if they come to the United States through a temporary humanitarian parole pathway such as Uniting for Ukraine?

Lautenberg program applicants who are paroled into the United States will have processing of their Lautenberg cases paused; however, Lautenberg case processing can continue once applicants have left the United States.

Additionally, if the principal applicant is admitted as a refugee via the Lautenberg Program before or after their child or spouse enter via another pathway, such as parole, the principal refugee can file Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition, to seek to have their spouse or child receive refugee status in the U.S.

Arriving in the United States through a temporary humanitarian parole pathway such as Uniting for Ukraine would not disqualify Lautenberg program applicants from later seeking refugee status from outside the United States or from applying for asylum while in the United States. Requests to reopen previously closed applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis based on program criteria.

Current applicants should notify the Resettlement Support Center (RSC) at icc@iom.int with information about their travel plans and should provide an address, phone number, and/or email address where they can be reached in advance of their departure for the United States or as soon as possible thereafter.

Q: Can my application to be resettled in the United States continue even if I apply for assistance under the European Union’s Temporary Protection Directive (TPD)?

Yes. Applying for temporary protection measures, such as the European Union’s TPD, will not affect the status of your USRAP application. You should inform the RSC if you apply for and/or receive an offer of resettlement or another status in a third country.

Q: I have been granted temporary protection in a country other than my own outside the United States. What will happen now regarding my United States resettlement application?

Individuals who have been granted temporary protection in another country remain eligible for consideration for permanent resettlement to the United States. In contrast, “firm resettlement” in another country by a PA is a bar to resettlement in the United States. Because each case is unique, the facts and circumstances of the case must be reviewed to determine whether an applicant qualifies for refugee status in the USRAP.

Q: If I decide to leave Ukraine, to which country should I relocate to guarantee continued case processing?

RSC Eurasia is unable to advise you about or support you with relocation within Ukraine or travel to third countries while your USRAP application is being processed. RSC Eurasia undertakes case processing activities in Europe (except Austria, which is covered by RSC Austria) and Central Asia and, when possible and in line with programmatic criteria, transfers all cases in other locations to the RSC that covers that geographical region for further processing.

If you move to another country, please inform the RSC of your current location and contact details. The RSC will strive to organize case processing activities from your current location.

Q: I am in Ukraine. Can the RSC assist me with finding shelter in Ukraine or crossing the border to another country?

RSC Eurasia is unable to advise or support applicants with relocation within Ukraine or another country, or support travel to third countries while your application is being processed. Many organizations, including the United Nations (UN), international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and others are actively working inside and outside Ukraine to assist those in need. How to access this assistance varies depending on location.

Q: I have left Ukraine and am currently in another country. Can the RSC organize my interviews, medical examinations, or flight to the United States from my current location?

Please contact the RSC to update your current location and provide new contact details. The RSC will strive to organize case processing activities from your current location. After you have informed RSC Eurasia of your location, the RSC will inform you of next steps.

Q: I have been informed that my case is ready for travel. Can I buy my own tickets to the United States?

Refugees travelling to the United States within the scope of the USRAP **cannot** arrange their own travel. Medical checks prior to travel and departure must be arranged by IOM.

Q: My relatives or friends in the United States would be willing to help me with housing or other assistance. Will this help me travel faster to the United States?

Individuals with active USRAP cases must complete all processing requirements. Having support available in the United States does not provide a faster pathway to permanent refugee resettlement.

Individuals with ties in the United States who are interested in seeking temporary protection in the United States may request parole through the *Uniting for Ukraine* program. Individuals must have a supporter in the United States who files a Form I-134 “Declaration of Financial Support” on their behalf.

Uniting for Ukraine provides a new parole pathway for Ukrainian citizens forced to flee their homes as a result of Russia’s ongoing invasion of Ukraine. Individuals granted parole through *Uniting for Ukraine* will be able to travel to and stay in the United States for up to 2 years. The program does not provide all the same benefits resettled refugees receive when they arrive through the USRAP. *Uniting for Ukraine* opened for registration on April 25, 2022, and is managed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

More information on the requirements and benefits of this program can be found on the Uniting for Ukraine website at www.dhs.gov/ukraine.

Q: I have been trying to contact RSC Eurasia for some time, but I have not yet received a response. Can I contact someone else to ask about my case status?

Case status information may only be provided by RSC Eurasia, and only to the applicants on the case or an individual designated in writing for status updates by the case applicants. The RSC makes every effort to respond to all emails in a timely manner. Due to the high volume of inquiries, you should expect delays in response time. Please remember that USRAP remains free of charge and applicants should not engage with anyone requesting payment for services to obtain information or a change in status on a case.

Q: Can my application be expedited?

Application for resettlement to the United States is a lengthy process. Every effort is being made to ensure case processing continues as quickly as possible. RSC Eurasia will contact you as soon as further information is available for your case.

Q: I need immediate humanitarian assistance. What should I do?

Many organizations, including the United Nations (UN), international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and others are actively working inside and outside Ukraine to assist those in need, including governments across Europe. How to access this assistance varies depending on location.