

# PERMANENT RESIDENCE (GREEN) CARD



**Permanent Residence (Green) Cards are necessary for newcomers to prove their legal status, work within the United States, and travel abroad.**

## When to apply

Most often, newcomers will need to apply one year after arrival. Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders apply for Green Cards while still in their home country and receive them 2 to 6 months after arrival. SIV holders are considered permanent residents upon their arrival to a U.S. Port of Entry.

## Preparing to apply

- Visit USCIS's [Green Card webpage](#) and USCIS's [Guide for New Immigrants](#)
- 1-2 months before submitting applications, refugees need to have a medical check-up and receive the required vaccinations.
- Application fees: There is a submission fee and a fee waiver option.

## Additional information

- Once submitted: it takes approximately 6 months to receive the Green Cards.
- Green Cards are valid for up to 10 years.
- After 5 years living in the United States, refugees can become U.S. citizens through the naturalization process and will not need to renew their Green Cards.

## REMEMBER TO

- Log your volunteer hours
- Log case notes if required of GNT

## Example of Green Card:

