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Factsheet on TPS & SSR for Somalia

March 2023

Background

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [announced](#) the designation of Somalia for TPS and SSR for 18 months, from **March 18, 2023, through September 17, 2024**.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a form of humanitarian relief that allows eligible Somalis currently living in the US to obtain work permits and protection from deportation. An application for TPS does not affect an application for asylum or any other immigration benefit. You can apply for travel authorization for special purposes. More information [here](#).

Special Student Relief (SSR) provides relief to Somali students who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the humanitarian crisis in Somalia. It allows them to apply for employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F-1 nonimmigrant student status. More information [here](#).

Who is eligible for TPS?

- *Extension for Current TPS Holders:* The extension allows currently eligible TPS holders to retain TPS through September 17, 2024, so long as they continue to meet the eligibility requirements for TPS. There are approximately 430 current Somalia TPS beneficiaries who are expected to be eligible to re-register.
- *Redesignation for New TPS Holders:* The redesignation of Somalia allows additional individuals who have been continuously residing in the United States since January 11, 2023, to obtain TPS. It is estimated that approximately 2,200 individuals may be eligible for TPS under this redesignation.

Is there a deadline to apply?

- *Current TPS Holders:* The deadline for current Somali TPS holders to re-register is May 12, 2023.
- *New TPS Holders:* The deadline for newly eligible Somali nationals is September 17, 2024. Because of the extreme application backlogs at USCIS, it is advised that eligible individuals [apply immediately](#).

How much does it cost to apply?

The fees vary and can be found [here](#). Typically, the TPS application ([Form I-821](#)) fee is \$50, the biometrics fee is \$85, and the work authorization ([Form I-765](#)) fee is \$410. You can request a fee waiver ([Form I-912](#)) for the filing fee by demonstrating the inability to pay. There is no fee for Form I-821 if you are re-registering for TPS.

Can I apply for TPS if I have a criminal history?

Yes, but it depends on the charge. It is important that you consult an immigration lawyer immediately.

Does TPS provide a path to citizenship?

No, TPS does not lead to permanent residency (green card) or citizenship.

For legal assistance in the NYC office, e-mail nylegal@africans.us or call (347) 746-2281

For legal assistance in the DMV offices, e-mail dmv@africans.us or call (202) 816-0416

For all others, email: nationalactlegal@africans.us or call (610) 675-6193