

RISCH

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USCIS

**EXPANDS SERVICES FOR
PROCESS MONITORING**

**PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY
ARTICLES**

**THE AMERICAN
TRADITION OF
ATTRACTING WEALTH**

BUSINESS

**12 MILLION WOMEN-
OWNED BUSINESSES
IN THE COUNTRY**



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On Independence Day, the American government welcomes over 5,500 new citizens



PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY ARTICLES

THE AMERICAN TRADITION OF ATTRACTING WEALTH

The American nation has a long tradition of attracting foreign entrepreneurs who drive the economy and promote business growth. Regardless of who occupies the presidency, whether it's Biden or Trump, the United States continues to be a robust nation dedicated to maintaining a strong and prosperous economy. This entrepreneurial approach and constant pursuit of innovation are fundamental to the country's economic success.

Recently, an important event took place in Washington, D.C., known as SelectUSA 2023. This event is organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce and aims to attract foreign investors and entrepreneurs interested in establishing or expanding their businesses in the United States. SelectUSA is a unique platform that brings together government officials, business leaders, and investors from around the world.

The results of SelectUSA 2023 are remarkable. There were over 4,900 participants, with the presence of 55 state and territorial authorities from the U.S., 83 international markets, and over 2,300 foreign investors. This movement has already generated over \$146 billion in investment projects and supported more than 166,000 jobs in the U.S. The event was created during the administration of former President Barack Obama and was only interrupted during the pandemic; however, it has since continued under different Democratic and Republican governments without any partisan obstacles. This is proof of what I affirm: commercial interest transcends political party lines.



Personally, I had the opportunity to witness and play an important role in these statistics by sharing information about immigration guidelines in the United States. This experience made it clear to me the country's commitment to attracting investments and individuals with the potential to generate positive impacts on the economy, culture, and well-being of the population. As one of the few Brazilian attorneys, I contributed to the SelectUSA panels, both in Washington, D.C., and in subsequent rounds held in Brazil. This validates the strong connection and economic importance between the two countries.

During the event, lectures, panel discussions, and networking opportunities are presented, allowing participants to obtain valuable information about the business climate, tax incentives, market access, and other competitive advantages offered by the country. The United States provides a conducive environment for entrepreneurship, with solid infrastructure, a reliable legal system, and a culture of innovation. The country also offers a wide range of business opportunities for foreign entrepreneurs to bring their ideas and initiatives. The tradition of the United States in attracting foreign entrepreneurs remains firm and solid. Events like SelectUSA are evidence of this commitment, providing a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and investment opportunities.

Written by **MIGUEL RISCH** - Brazilian and American lawyer, master's degree in International Law from the University of Miami, and founder of Risch Law Firm in the United States.



ALERTS

USCIS PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENTS BASED ON COMPELLING CIRCUMSTANCES

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today released policy guidance on the eligibility criteria for initial and renewal applications for employment authorization documents (EADs) in compelling circumstances based on existing regulatory requirements at 8 CFR 204.5(p).

For an applicant to be eligible for an initial EAD based on compelling circumstances, they must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The principal applicant is the principal beneficiary of an approved Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Workers, in either the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd employment-based preference category;
- The principal applicant is in valid E-3, H-1B, H-1B1, O-1, or L-1 nonimmigrant status or authorized grace period when they file the Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization;
- The principal applicant has not filed an adjustment of status application;
- An immigrant visa is not available to the principal applicant based on the applicant's priority date according to the relevant Final Action Date in the U.S. Department of State's Visa Bulletin in effect when they file Form I-765;
- The applicant and their dependents provide biometrics as required;
- The applicant and their dependents have not been convicted of felony or two or more misdemeanors; and
- USCIS determines, as a matter of discretion, that the principal applicant demonstrates compelling circumstances that justify the issuance of employment authorization.



The guidance covers compelling circumstances for principal applicants and their dependents and provides a non-exhaustive list of situations that could lead to a finding that compelling circumstances exist, including serious illness and disability, employer dispute or retaliation, other substantial harm to the applicant, or significant disruption to the employer.

The guidance also provides details on evidence an applicant could submit to demonstrate one of these compelling circumstances.

For example, a principal applicant with an approved immigrant visa petition in an oversubscribed visa category or charge ability area, who has lived in the United States for a significant amount of time, could submit evidence such as school or higher education enrollment records, mortgage records, or long-term lease records to support a potential finding of compelling circumstances.

Compelling circumstances could include, if, due to job loss, the family may otherwise be forced to sell their home for a loss, pull their children out of school, and relocate to their home country.

Source: USCIS

Written by **FERNANDO HESSEL** - Strategic communication executive, journalist, MBA in New Business Management, Chief Observer at The White House and The Pentagon.



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BUSINESS

US RECORDS 12 MILLION WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE COUNTRY



WASHINGTON, DC - The US government announced new federal resources aimed at bolstering support for women-owned small businesses as part of the administration's ongoing efforts to revive the economy following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking at the second annual Small Business Administration Women's Business Summit, President Biden highlighted the expansion of a nationwide network of Women Business Centers. These centres provide training, mentoring, business development, and financing opportunities to female entrepreneurs.

The President emphasized the importance of empowering women entrepreneurs, recognizing their role as innovators and job creators, and acknowledging that small businesses are the vital driving force behind the economy and the heart of our communities. The expansion initiative includes establishing 15 new sites, bringing the total number of Women's Business Centers to 160 across all 50 states.

The White House allocated approximately \$70 million for this expansion, underscoring the unique challenges that women continue to face in the business world.

A significant number of these centres are strategically located at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority-serving institutions. The expansion initiative includes establishing 15 new sites, bringing the total number of Women's Business Centers to 160 across all 50 states. The White House allocated approximately \$70 million for this expansion, underscoring the unique challenges that women continue to face in the business world.

A significant number of these centres are strategically located at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority-serving institutions. This move aims to address the disparities faced by women of colour in entrepreneurship.

This announcement comes on the heels of a remarkable surge in entrepreneurship, with a record-breaking 10.5 million applications submitted to start new businesses in the past two years. The White House attributed these encouraging figures to the President's Investments In America policy. The administration's focus on supporting women-owned businesses coincided with Women's History Month and aligns with the fact that female entrepreneurs currently own approximately 12 million businesses nationwide.

DEMYSTIFYING THE GREEN CARD

Written by Miguel Risch - Brazilian and American lawyer, master's degree in International Law from the University of Miami, and founder of Risch Law Firm in the United States.

Sometimes, there is a misconception about obtaining the so-called Green Card. Contrary to common belief, the USA is, in fact, a country that welcomes immigrants. Since the mid-19th century, the American nation has maintained a constant and frenetic pace of receiving immigrants from various ethnicities and nationalities, regardless of which party is in the White House. The American policy acknowledges that not only entrepreneurs but also talents and skilled individuals contribute to national development. Beyond business visas and those derived from family relationships, the United States offers a generous possibility of immigrant visas based on individual work skills, intellectual capital, recognition of multiple talents, and outstanding professionals. These visas are classified in the American immigration legislation as "Employment-Based visas." On average, over 140,000 visas of this category are issued each fiscal year, granting a Green Card to the applicant and, by extension, to their family.

The two main types of visas that grant Green Cards to this profile of immigrants are technically known as EB1 and EB2 visas. The first focuses on extraordinary abilities, highlighting a remarkable, award-winning, and talented professional. The second category of Green Card, no less important, is aimed at people with a high level of education or exceptional ability, similar to the previous one, but also taking into account the merit analysis of their future activities in the United States, which must be of national interest.

Thus, outstanding individuals from various fields of science, writers, award winners, distinguished professionals, renowned artists and athletes, notable academics, successful entrepreneurs, as well as leaders of various respected organizations, have ample opportunities to obtain the Green Card and the privilege of residing permanently in the country, exploring new horizons and enjoying the benefits, security, and freedom guaranteed in the American territory.

Taking just one example, the need for a talented workforce in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in the United States is increasingly evident. Employment in these areas has grown by 79% in the last three decades, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and an additional 11% increase is expected by 2030. In this context, it is important to highlight the high level of Brazilian professionals. From an early age, they are encouraged to pursue high qualifications through education, which makes them stand out as differentiated and highly attractive professionals. The solid academic background of Brazilian professionals in these areas is an important asset, giving them a competitive advantage when seeking opportunities in any American state.

Another very positive point considered by the American government is that Brazilians have a history of easy adaptation to American culture and deeply integrate into community life in various parts of the country. Brazil has stood out in this scenario, with a growing number of professionals seeking opportunities in the United States. A study conducted by Risch Law Firm based on official data revealed that Brazil ranked seventh among the countries that sent new permanent residents to the United States in 2022. The data from the American governmental immigration agency (USCIS) shows that 23,596 Brazilian immigrants were approved for permanent residency last year.

Therefore, it is understood why there is an openness and growing interest among Brazilian professionals in becoming permanent citizens of the United States. The immigration options, the continuous demand for talented professionals, and the competitive academic background of Brazilians create a favorable environment for obtaining the Green Card. Seeking permanent residence in the USA can be a strategic and wise choice for those who wish to pursue an outstanding international career.

A close-up, high-angle photograph of the American flag, showing the red and white stripes and the blue field with white stars. The flag is draped and slightly wrinkled, set against a plain white background.

BREAKING NEWS

ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WELCOMES OVER 5,500 NEW CITIZENS

WASHINGTON, DC — "The Risch Law Firm embraced the responsibility of making the American dream a reality for countless foreign families. Just as the independence of the USA brought freedom and opportunities, our firm aimed to provide a better life for immigrants, overcoming barriers and building a promising future. Together, we celebrated the spirit of independence and the pursuit of happiness," reaffirmed Miguel Risch, Principal Attorney at Risch Law Firm during the 4th of July festivities.

In this regard, the American government brought excellent news, to which we felt a part of that moment for the life and progress of the United States.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services celebrated Independence Day that year by welcoming more than 5,500 new citizens in over 180 naturalization ceremonies between June 30 and July 7. These ceremonies demonstrated USCIS's commitment to welcoming immigrants and promoting the benefits of U.S. citizenship for all eligible individuals.

In the 2022 fiscal year (FY), USCIS granted citizenship to 974,000 new U.S. citizens. By June 7 of the 2023 FY, USCIS had granted citizenship to 588,900 new U.S. citizens, making significant progress in reducing their naturalization backlog. "Promoting citizenship and making the naturalization process accessible to all who are eligible are a beautiful extension of the many ideals that birthed our nation 247 years ago," said USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou. That holiday was always a special opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the USCIS mission and to welcome new citizens as they began their American journey."

Every July 4th, the U.S. celebrates the day the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence in 1776, declaring that the 13 American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation — the United States of America—and were no longer part of the British Empire.