



IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

SOMALIA TPS

The U.S. government announced that it is extending and redesignating Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Somalia.

What is TPS?

TPS is a temporary immigration status that gives people protection from deportation for as long as their TPS status remains valid. They are also eligible for a work permit (Employment Authorization Document or EAD), and can apply for permission to travel outside of the U.S. **The new designation of Somalia TPS is for 18 months, from March 18, 2023, to September 17, 2024.** After that time, the U.S. government may again extend TPS for Somalia, or may choose to end it.

I have Somalia TPS. What do I need to do?

- **You must re-register for TPS before May 12, 2023.**
- Your work permit is automatically extended through March 17, 2024. You will need to apply for new work authorization to receive a work permit valid through September 17, 2024.
- However, if your TPS and work permit applications were still pending on March 13, 2023, you do not need to re-register or apply for new work authorization. If your application is approved, your TPS and work authorization will be granted through September 17, 2024.

I want Somalia TPS. Do I qualify?

- You may qualify if you:
 - Are a Somali national,
 - Have been continuously residing in the United States since January 11, 2023,
 - And meet other criteria for TPS and a work permit.
- You must apply before **September 17, 2024.**

What Do I Need to Re-register or to Apply for Somalia TPS?

To re-register or to apply for Somalia TPS, you will need certain documents, including:

- A Somali passport, birth certificate, or national ID;
- Proof of entry into the U.S. such as a visa, passport stamp, I-94, or NTA;

This resource is available at <https://ilapmaine.org/>. Last update: March 14, 2023.



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- Documents showing you have been in the U.S. since January 11, 2023, such as medical records, benefits notices, leases, pay stubs, or school records;
- Records for any arrests, charges, and criminal court cases you may have in the U.S. or anywhere else in the world;
- Copies of any previous immigration applications you may have filed; and,
- Any other immigration documents you have received during your time in the U.S.

How Do I Request Assistance with TPS from ILAP?

If you live in Maine and want to re-register or apply for Somalia TPS, please collect the documents listed above, then visit www.ilapmaine.org/get-legal-help for information on how to schedule an intake appointment.

What Else Do I Need to Know?

Beware of fraud and people who try to trick immigrants out of their money by pretending they can help with immigration cases. Learn more about how to protect yourself here: <https://ilapmaine.org/protect>.