

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Green Card processes: category, adjustment and consular stages

How do the major Green Card process stages fit together?

Begin with the underlying category, then distinguish the petition or other qualifying basis from the permanent-residence stage. USCIS adjustment inside the United States and Department of State immigrant-visa processing abroad are different processes. A petition approval or document request is not the final residence decision.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify the process and responsible agency.
- ☐ Separate USCIS and consular instructions.
- ☐ Keep notices with their complete envelopes or delivery records.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

USCIS: Green Card eligibility categories: official navigation

<https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-eligibility-categories>

USCIS: I-130: Petition for Alien Relative

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-130>

USCIS: Adjustment of status

<https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/adjustment-of-status>

U.S. Department of State: Immigrant visa process: petition and later institutions

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/the-immigrant-visa-process/step-1-submit-a-petition.html>

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Source links (continued)

U.S. Department of State: Family immigration: categories and agency roles

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/family-immigration.html>

U.S. Department of State: Employment-based immigrant visas: process categories

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/employment-based-immigrant-visas.html>

USCIS: I-90: Replace Permanent Resident Card

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-90>

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/permanent-residence/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.