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| U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services |

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| **Fee Waiver Guidance**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is funded largely by application and petition fees.  Recognizing that some applicants cannot pay the filing fees, USCIS established a fee waiver process for certain forms and benefit types. Demonstrated inability to pay is the only reason USCIS will approve a fee waiver.Waiving a fee for one applicant transfers the cost of processing their application to other applicants through higher fees.  Therefore, USCIS carefully considers the merits of each fee waiver request before making a decision.**How do I request a fee waiver?*** Read the [instructions for Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver](http://www.uscis.gov/i-912), to see if a fee waiver is available for the form you are filing.
* Use [Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=4c30003cf147c210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=6ca66d26d17df110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD) if possible.  We will also accept a written request.
* File your fee waiver request with the form for which you are requesting the fee waiver.  Do not send a fee waiver request by itself.

Note: You cannot use our e-Filing system to file a form for which you are requesting a fee waiver.  Please file a paper application.**How does USCIS make a decision on a fee waiver request?** To be eligible for a fee waiver, one of the following must be met:* You or qualified members of your household are currently receiving a means- tested benefit. A means-tested benefit is one for which the individuals’ income/resources determine eligibility and/or the benefit amount.
* [Your household income is at or below the 150% poverty level](http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-912p.pdf) at the time you file.  Check the 2013 poverty levels at this link:  [Form I-912P, HHS Poverty Guidelines for Fee Waiver Requests](http://www.uscis.gov/i-912p).
* You are experiencing a financial hardship that prevents you from paying the filing fee, including unexpected medical bills or emergencies.

**Where can I get more information?** You can find more information at these links:* [Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver](http://www.uscis.gov/i-912)
* [Form I-912P, HHS Poverty Guidelines for Fee Waiver Requests](http://www.uscis.gov/i-912p).
* [USCIS Fee Waiver Policy](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/2011/March/FeeWaiverGuidelines_Established_by_the_Final%20Rule_USCISFeeSchedule.pdf)
* **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Paperwork Reduction Act Information [OMB No. 1615-0116, Expires 10/31/2012]

This page can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/feewaiver>Last updated:04/19/2013 |

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