



# Instructions for Application for Regional Center Designation

Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS  
Form I-956  
OMB No. 1615-0519  
Expires 03/31/2027

## What Is the Purpose of Form I-956?

Form I-956, Application for Regional Center Designation, is used to:

1. Request U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) designation as a regional center under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 203(b)(5)(E) that will pool investments and promote economic growth (including prospective job creation and increased domestic capital investment) in a particular geographic area.
2. Request an amendment to an approved regional center.
  - A. You must file an amendment to seek approval for:
    - (1) Changes to the regional center's name;
    - (2) **Significant changes** to the regional center's ownership, organizational structure, administration, management, or oversight, including the sale of the regional center or changes to the regional center's policies and procedures to monitor and oversee associated new commercial enterprises and job-creating entities under 8 CFR 204.412(b);
    - (3) Changes to the regional center's management or oversight that resulted in the departure of a person previously involved with the regional center that held a significant role in the management or oversight of the regional center (including information about the person now filling the vacated position);
    - (4) Any other change resulting in a person becoming involved with the regional center that was not previously subject to the requirements of section 203(b)(5)(H) of the Act; or
    - (5) Changes to the geographic area of the regional center.

## When Must a Regional Center File an Amendment?

A regional center must file an amendment not later than 120 days before the implementation of **significant** proposed changes to its organizational structure, **ownership, administration, management, or oversight, including** the sale of the regional center or other arrangements which would result in individuals not previously subject to the eligibility requirements under INA section 203(b)(5)(H) becoming involved in the regional center.

If exigent circumstances are present, regional centers must provide notice to USCIS not later than five (5) business days after a change for consideration on a case-by-case basis.

## General Instructions

We provide free forms through the USCIS website. To view, print, or complete our forms, you should use the latest version of Adobe Reader, which you can download for free at [get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/). If you do not have internet access, you may call the USCIS Contact Center and ask that we mail a form to you.

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**Signature.** You (or your signing authority) must properly complete your application. USCIS will not accept a stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature on this application. If you are under 14 years of age, your parent or legal guardian may sign the application on your behalf. A legal guardian may also sign for a mentally incompetent person. If the application is not signed, or if the signature is not valid, we will reject your application. See 8 CFR 103.2(a)(7)(ii) (A). If USCIS accepts a request for adjudication and determines that it has a deficient signature, USCIS will deny the application.

**Validity of Signatures.** USCIS will consider a photocopied, faxed, or scanned copy of the original handwritten signature as valid for filing purposes. The photocopy, fax, or scan must be of the original document containing the handwritten ink signature.

**Filing Fee.** See Form G-1055, available at [uscis.gov/forms](https://uscis.gov/forms), for specific information about the fees applicable to this form.

**Evidence.** When you file your application, you must submit all evidence and supporting documents listed in the **What Evidence Should You Submit** and/or **Specific Instructions** sections of these Instructions.

**Biometric Services Appointment.** USCIS may require you to appear for an interview or provide biometrics (fingerprints, photograph, and/or signature) at any time to verify your identity, obtain additional information, and conduct background and security checks, including a check of the criminal history records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), before making a decision on your application or petition. If we determine that a biometrics appointment is necessary, we will send you an appointment notice with the date, time, and location of your appointment. If you are currently overseas, your notice will instruct you to contact a U.S. Embassy, U.S. Consulate, or USCIS office outside the United States schedule an appointment.

At your biometrics appointment, you must sign an oath reaffirming that:

1. You provided or authorized all information in the application;
2. You reviewed and understood all of the information contained in, and submitted with, your application; and
3. All of this information was complete, true, and correct at the time of filing.

If you do not attend your biometric services appointment, we may deny your application.

**Copies.** You should submit legible photocopies of requested documents unless the Instructions specifically instruct you to submit an original document. USCIS may request an original document at any time during our process. If we request an original document from you, we will return it to you after USCIS determines it no longer needs the original.

**NOTE:** If you submit original documents when they are not required or requested, **USCIS may destroy them after we receive them.**

**Translations.** If you submit a document with information in a foreign language, you must also submit a full English translation. The translator must sign a certification that the English language translation is complete and accurate, and that they are competent to translate from the foreign language into English. The certification must include their signature, printed name, the signature date, and their contact information.

**USCIS Contact Center.** For additional information on the application and Instructions about where to file, change of address, and other questions, visit the USCIS Contact Center at [uscis.gov/contactcenter](https://uscis.gov/contactcenter) or call at **800-375-5283** (TTY **800-767-1833**). The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish.

**Disability Accommodations/Modifications.** To request a disability accommodation/modification, follow the instructions on your appointment notice or at [uscis.gov/accommodationsinfo](https://uscis.gov/accommodationsinfo).

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## How To Complete Form I-956

1. Type or print legibly in black ink.
2. If you need extra space to complete any item within this application, use the space provided in **Part 11. Additional Information** or attach a separate sheet of paper. Type or print the name of the regional center entity at the top of each sheet; indicate the **Page Number**, **Part Number**, and **Item Number** to which your answer refers; and sign and date each sheet.
3. Answer all questions fully and accurately. If a question does not apply to you (for example, if you have never been married and the question asks, “Provide the name of your current spouse”) type or print “N/A” unless otherwise directed. If your answer to a question which requires a numeric response is zero or none (for example, “How many children do you have” or “How many times have you departed the United States”), type or print “None,” unless otherwise directed.
4. **USCIS Online Account Number.** You will only have a USCIS Online Account Number (OAN) if you previously filed a form that has a receipt number that begins with IOE. If you filed the form online, you can find your OAN in your account profile. If you mailed us the form, you can find your OAN at the top of the Account Access Notice we sent you. If you do not have a receipt number that begins with IOE, you do not have an OAN. The OAN is not the same as an A-Number.

### Specific Instructions

#### Part 1. Application Type

**Item Number 1. Application Type.** Select the appropriate box to indicate whether you are submitting an initial application for designation as a regional center or an amendment to an approved regional center application.

**Item Numbers 2. - 3. Amendment Type.** If the Form I-956 you are filing is an amendment, provide the regional center identification number at the top of each page and select the appropriate box to indicate the type of changes being requested by your amendment.

#### Part 2. Information About the Regional Center

**Item Number 1. Legal Name of Regional Center Entity.** Provide the legal name of the regional center entity as it appears on the entity’s document of formation. The regional center entity is the legal entity seeking designation (or designated) as a regional center.

**Item Number 2. Other Name(s) the Entity is Authorized to Use or Do Business As (d/b/a).** Provide any other name(s) that the entity is authorized to use or do business as.

**Item Number 3. Organizational Structure of the Regional Center Entity.** Indicate whether the regional center entity is a government entity, a corporation, a partnership (including limited partnerships), a limited liability company, or some other type of entity.

**Item Number 4. Date the Regional Center Entity was Established.** Provide the date the regional center entity was established in mm/dd/yyyy format.

**Item Number 5. State or Territory where the Regional Center Entity was Established.** Provide the U.S. state or territory where the regional center entity was established.

**Item Number 6. List Any Other State or Territory Where the Regional Center Entity is Registered to do Business.** List any other state or territory where the regional center entity is lawfully qualified to do business.

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**Item Number 7. Regional Center Federal Employer Identification Number.** Provide the Federal Employer Identification Number of the regional center entity.

**Item Number 8. Regional Center Mailing Address** (and Physical Address when Applicable). Provide the mailing address where the regional center entity can receive a printed notice from USCIS. If the mailing address of the regional center entity is the same as the physical address, select the box indicating so. If the mailing address of the regional center entity is different from its physical address, provide the physical address of the regional center entity in the space provided in **Part 11. Additional Information**.

**Item Numbers 9. - 12. Regional Center Contact Information.** Provide the telephone number, fax number, email address (if any), and website address (if any) for the regional center entity.

**Item Number 13. Other Addresses Used by the Regional Center.** Provide any additional addresses where the regional center entity is doing business.

### **Part 3. Geographic Area of the Regional Center**

**Item Number 1. Geographic Area of the Regional Center.** Provide a listing of the geographic components (states, counties, census tracts) that comprise the defined, contiguous, and limited geographic area of the regional center. When listing census tract component(s), please enter the 11-digit FIPS code (2-digit state code, 3-digit county code, and 6-digit tract code format) that uniquely identifies each census tract. If filing an amendment to expand the geographic area of the regional center, you must describe both the currently approved geographic area and the area of requested expansion. If you need additional space to list the relevant components of the requested geographic area, list them in the space provided in **Part 11. Additional Information**.

### **Part 4. Substantive Economic Impact on Geographic Area of the Regional Center**

**Item Numbers 1. - 5.** Describe the economic and statistically valid tools to be used to demonstrate that the regional center will have a substantive economic impact on the geographic areas being requested. Describe the amount of investment to be pooled, the types of new commercial enterprises and projects to be sponsored, and the jobs that will be created.

### **Part 5. Policies and Procedures to Ensure Legal Compliance and Monitor and Oversee New Commercial Enterprises and Job-Creating Entities**

**Item Number 1.** Indicate whether the regional center has submitted documentation of the policies and procedures in place **to ensure its compliance and to monitor and oversee the** new commercial enterprises and job-creating entities' compliance with applicable laws.

If the regional center provided documentation, describe the documentation (for example, exhibit number and name of the document) submitted.

If the regional center has not submitted documentation, describe the policies and procedures in place **to ensure its compliance with and to monitor and oversee the** new commercial enterprises and job-creating **entities' compliance with applicable laws.**

**NOTE:** The description may include, but is not limited to, the regional center's policies and procedures regarding internal controls, risk management and assessment, governance, and fraud detection and/or deterrence. Documentation may include, but is not limited to, Policy Manuals and Standard Operating **Procedures.**

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## Part 6. Information About All Persons Involved with the Regional Center

**Item Numbers 1. - 6.** Provide the names of all persons involved in the regional center under the applicable category describing their involvement. For any natural person involved with the regional center indirectly through their position or other interest in a legal entity, please describe the organizational structure of their involvement. Persons should be listed under each applicable category if they are involved with the regional center in multiple ways (for example, if a person is both an owner and officer, they should be listed under both the owner category and officer category).

**Item Number 7.** Provide the total number of Supplement Forms I-956H, Bona Fides of Persons Involved with Regional Center Program, to be submitted. If you are filing the Form I-956 as an amendment to add new person(s) involved with the regional center that were not previously subject to the requirements of section 203(b)(5)(H) of the Act, you must only submit Form(s) I-956H for those persons being added.

**Item Number 8.** Describe or identify the evidence submitted demonstrating the direct and indirect ownership and management of the regional center. Evidence should include biographies for management, officers, directors, and any other person with similar responsibilities.

**Item Number 9.** Describe or identify the evidence submitted demonstrating the relevant experience of the persons involved with the regional center that would demonstrate the likelihood of the regional center's success in creating jobs and increasing capital investment.

**We recommend that you print or save a copy of your completed application for your records.**

### What Evidence **Must** You Submit?

As applicable, you **must** submit evidence with your application to demonstrate that you are eligible for designation as a regional center, such as the items listed below.

**You must provide the following evidence for applications filed to request initial designation of a regional center and/or to make amendments to the name, organizational structure, ownership, geographic area, or administration of a previously designated regional center:**

- 1. Map or Illustration of Geographic Area of Regional Center.** You must identify the contiguous and limited geographic area covered by the regional center. You may provide a map or other illustration of the geographic components that comprise the limited and contiguous geographic area of the regional center. Include a list of the geographic components that make up the proposed geographic area of the regional center.
- 2. Substantive Economic Impact on Geographic Area of the Regional Center.** You **must** provide evidence that the regional center's pooled investment will have a substantive economic impact on the proposed geographic area. Your proposal must include reasonable predictions, supported by economically and statistically valid and transparent forecasting tools, concerning the amount of investment that will be pooled, the kinds of commercial enterprises that will receive such investments, details of the jobs that will be created directly or indirectly as a result of such investments, and other positive economic effects such investments will **have**.
- 3. Market Analysis.** You must provide a general market analysis of the proposed job creating activities and explanation regarding how the proposed project activities are likely to promote economic growth and create jobs.
- 4. Promotional Activities.** You must describe the promotional efforts taken and planned by the regional center to recruit regional center investors, including any planned use of social media platforms and web-based communications tools to advertise, promote, sell, or market the EB-5 visa program and any engagement of direct or third-party promoters.

5. **Direct and Indirect Ownership.** You must provide a detailed statement regarding the direct and indirect ownership and management of the regional center, including biographies for management, officers, directors, and any person with similar responsibilities.
6. **Relevant Experience and Expertise.** You must describe the relevant experience and expertise of the persons involved with the regional center that would demonstrate the likelihood of the regional center's success in creating jobs and increasing capital investment.
7. **Policies and Procedures to Ensure Legal Compliance and Monitor and Oversee New Commercial Enterprises and Job-Creating Entities.** You must describe, in writing, the specific policies and procedures reasonably designed to cause associated parties to comply, as applicable, with the immigration laws, criminal laws, labor laws and securities laws of the United States and the laws of the applicable States in connection with the offer, purchase, or sale of securities of the regional center and its associated new commercial enterprises or job-creating entity(ies), as applicable, which may be further documented in a business plan, policy documents, standard operating procedures or written supervisory procedures.

You must also describe how the regional center will monitor and oversee all investment offerings and business activities associated with, through, or under the sponsorship of the regional center, including those occurring at any associated new commercial enterprise or associated job-creating entity(ies) to ensure compliance with sections 203(b)(5) and 216A of the Act, which must include documentation of programs of internal controls by the regional center that provide regular reviews of individual projects and examination of financial records and any planned use of independent reviews by local third-party accountants or auditors.

8. **Information About All Persons Involved with the Regional Center.** Each person involved with the regional center must complete and submit Supplement Form I-956H, Bona Fides of Persons Involved with Regional Center Program. Each Supplement Form I-956H must be attached to the Form I-956, Application for Regional Center Designation.

If you are filing the Form I-956 as an amendment to add new person(s) involved with the regional center that were not previously subject to the requirements of section 203(b)(5)(H) of the Act, you must only submit Form(s) I-956H for those persons being added.

### Where To File?

Please visit our website at [uscis.gov/I-956](https://uscis.gov/I-956) for the most current information about where to file this application.

### Address Change

The regional center must notify USCIS of any change to the mailing address of the regional center entity within 30 days of such change. Notification of these changes can be made by sending an email to the EB-5 Program mailbox at: [USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@dhs.gov](mailto:USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@dhs.gov). If you do not have internet access, you may call the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283 (TTY 1-800-767-1833). The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish.

**NOTE:** Do not submit a change of address request to the USCIS Lockbox. Sending notification of address change to the EB-5 Program mailbox at [USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@uscis.dhs.gov) does not negate your requirement to notify USCIS as explained in [uscis.gov/addresschange](https://uscis.gov/addresschange).

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## Processing Information

You must have a United States address to file this application.

**Initial Processing.** Once USCIS accepts your application, we will check it for completeness. If you do not properly complete this application, you will not establish a basis for your eligibility and we may reject or deny your application.

**Requests for More Information.** USCIS may request that you provide more information or evidence to support your application. We may also request that you provide the originals of any copies you submit. If we request an original document from you, we will return it to you after USCIS determines it no longer needed.

**Requests for Interview.** We may request that you appear at a USCIS office for an interview based on your application. During your interview, USCIS may require you to provide your biometrics to verify your identity and/or update background and security checks.

**Decision.** The decision on Form I-956 involves a determination of whether you have established eligibility for the requested designation, or an amendment to a previously approved designation. USCIS will notify you of our decision in writing.

**Approval.** If you have established that you qualify for the benefit sought, USCIS will approve your application. The approval notice will provide information about the responsibilities and obligations of your USCIS designated regional center. It will also list the evidence to submit in support of regional center-associated individual EB-5 petitions, as well as details on the reporting and oversight requirements for regional centers.

**Denial.** If you have not established eligibility for the benefit sought, USCIS will deny this application. The denial notice will describe the reasons for the denial, and the regional center's right to appeal to the Administrative Appeals Office as specified in 8 CFR part 103.3.

## USCIS Forms and Information

To ensure you are using the latest version of this application, visit [uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov).

## Penalties

If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with your Form I-956, we will deny your application and may deny any other immigration benefit. In addition, you will face severe penalties provided by law and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

## DHS Privacy Notice

**AUTHORITIES:** The information requested on this application, and the associated evidence, is collected under INA sections 101, 103, 203, 204, 216A, and 245 (as amended), and the EB-5, Reform and Integrity Act of 2022, Div. BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-103).

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**PURPOSE:** The primary purpose for collecting the requested information on this application is to determine if the regional center has established eligibility for regional center designation or amended designation. DHS will use the information you provide to grant or deny the regional center application. The identifying information requested on this application relating to the principals of the regional center and the owners of associated new commercial enterprises will allow DHS to perform standard background checks with law enforcement agencies. These background checks may reveal derogatory information that may result in denial of your application and/or termination of the regional center's designation.

**DISCLOSURE:** The information you provide is voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information, including your Social Security number (if applicable), and any requested evidence, may delay a final decision in your case or result in denial of your application.

**ROUTINE USES:** DHS may share the information you provide on this application with other Federal, state, local, and foreign government agencies, and authorized organizations. DHS follows approved routine uses described in the associated published system of records notices [DHS/USCIS-007 - Benefits Information System and DHS/USCIS-001- Alien File, Index, and National File Tracking System of Records] which you can find at [dhs.gov/privacy](https://dhs.gov/privacy). DHS may also share the information, as appropriate, for law enforcement purposes or in the interest of national security.

### Paperwork Reduction Act

USCIS may not conduct or sponsor an information collection, and you are not required to respond to a collection of information, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at **23.29** hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering the required documentation and information, completing the application, preparing statements, attaching necessary documentation, and submitting the application. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Policy and Strategy, Regulatory Coordination Division, 5900 Capital Gateway Drive, Mail Stop #2140, Camp Springs, MD 20588-0009; OMB No. 1615-0159. **Do not mail your completed Form I-956 to this address.**