

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION**

**Petition to Classify Special Immigrant Under INA 203(b)(4) as an Employee
or Former Employee of the U.S. Government Abroad, or the Surviving
Spouse or Child of an Employee of the U.S. Government Abroad**

**OMB Number 1405-0082
DS-1884**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Why is this collection necessary and what are the legal statutes that allow this?

An alien who qualifies as a special immigrant as described in section 101(a)(27)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(D), meets the requirements for employment-based immigrant visa preference under INA section 203(b)(4), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(4). Pursuant to section 101(a)(27)(D), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(D), an alien employee or honorably retired former alien employee of the United States government abroad (or the American Institute in Taiwan) may qualify as a special immigrant so long as he or she performed faithful service to the United States for a total of 15 years or more. To qualify, the principal officer of the Foreign Service establishment (or the Director for the American Institute in Taiwan) must recommend that the alien be granted such status, and the Secretary of State must approve the recommendation on the grounds that it is in national interest to do so.

Pursuant to INA section 204(a)(1)(G), 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(G), an individual claiming special immigrant status may file a petition only with the Secretary of State and only after notification by the Secretary that such status has been recommended and approved. Once the Secretary has approved the recommendation, the individual has one year in which to complete and submit this information collection (Form DS-1884) to petition for special immigrant status.

The Emergency Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (“ESSAA”) (Public Law 117-31) was signed into law on July 30, 2021, amending INA section 101(a)(27)(D) to add a new subparagraph (ii) that extends eligibility for special immigrant status to the surviving spouse and children of an employee of the United States government abroad, provided the employee performed faithful service for not less than 15 years or was killed in

the line of duty regardless of years of service. These provisions became effective June 30, 2021, and apply retroactively. Pursuant to INA section 204(a)(1)(G)(ii), applicants seeking classification under INA 203(b)(4) to obtain special immigrant status under INA section 101(a)(27)(D) must file a petition with the Secretary of State by submitting Form DS-1884.

2. What business purpose is the information gathered going to be used for?

The information collected in the Form DS-1884 will inform the Department of State's decision to classify an individual as a special immigrant under INA section 203(b)(4) so that the individual may apply for a special immigrant visa pursuant to INA section 101(a)(27)(D). The information requested on the form is limited to that which is necessary for the Department to process the petition for a special immigrant visa.

3. Is this collection able to be completed electronically (e.g., through a website or application)?

The applicant may retrieve an electronic copy of this collection from <https://eforms.state.gov/>. The completed form can be submitted in person at the consular section in the applicant's resident location, or via mail or email with the consular section. Individuals may file the petition at an alternative consular section if emergent or humanitarian circumstances warrant such an action.

4. Does this collection duplicate any other collection of information?

This collection is not duplicative of another existing collection.

5. Does this collection impact small business?

This information collection does not burden small businesses or other small entities.

6. What are consequences if this collection is not done?

If this collection is not done, the Department will be unable to process petitions for special immigrant status under INA section 203(b)(4).

7. Are there any special collection circumstances?

No special collection circumstances are associated with this collection.

8. Did the Department solicit public comments on the collection?

The Department published a notice in the Federal Register soliciting public comments for a period of 60 days on May 5, 2026 (91 FR 24314). The comment period ended July 6, 2026, and the Department received one comment from a private national security and infrastructure risk analytics firm. The comment contained questions about internal Department processes that were outside the scope of and nonresponsive to the request for public comment on this proposed information collection. The Department notes that unclassified information related to visa operations is available to the public in Volume 9 of the Foreign Affairs Manual.

9. Are payments or gifts given to the respondents?

No. No payments or gifts are provided to respondents.

10. Are any assurance of privacy/confidentiality provided to respondents?

The applicant is informed that, in accordance with INA section 222(f), 8 U.S.C. § 1202(f), information obtained from applicants in the immigrant visa application process is considered confidential and is to be used only for the formulation, amendment, administration, or enforcement of the immigration, nationality, and other laws of the United States. The statement further notes that, at the discretion of the Secretary of State, copies of visa records may be made available to a court which certifies that the information contained in such records is needed in a case pending before the court. Visa records can also be shared with a foreign government in certain circumstances.

11. Are any questions of a sensitive nature asked?

The form does not seek personal information of a sensitive nature.

12. What is the hour time burden and the hour cost burden on the respondent needed to complete this collection?

The Department estimates that approximately 3,000 respondents will complete form DS-1884 each year. This estimate is derived from the number of visa slots

available to applicants eligible to file the form following the enactment of Section 5104 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024 (formerly the Granting Recognition to Accomplished Talented Employees for Unwavering Loyalty (GRATEFUL) Act). The Department estimates that each response will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. This means the total hour time burden is 750 hours.

To calculate the hour cost burden, we use the following formula:

(annual hour time burden) x (median U.S. hourly wage estimate) = Hour Cost Burden

This gives us a total hour cost burden of \$18,382.50 (750 hours x \$24.51).¹

13. What is the monetary burden to respondents (out of pocket costs) needed to complete this collection?

There is no monetary burden associated with this information collection.

14. What are the costs incurred by the Federal Government to complete this collection?

The Department does not collect a fee to file the DS-1884 and costs associated with this collection are estimated based on the fully burdened hourly rate of a Foreign Service Officer (FSO) of \$225.04. This figure not only encompasses the time associated with form review, records management, system checks, and all related activities within Data Intake and Review but also accounts for all overhead costs, such as domestic consular affairs (CA) management, human resources, partner bureau costs, and CA systems maintenance. It takes approximately 10 minutes for the Department to process each form, and with an estimated number of 3,000 responses, the Department expects a total of 30,000 minutes, or 600 hours, will be spent processing the DS-1884. This means it will cost approximately \$112,520 to process the form (600 hours x \$225.04 FSO hourly rate).

That said, visa services are fee-funded and the Department generally recovers these operating costs through application fees.

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (May 2025): [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

15. Are there any changes/adjustments to this collection since the previous submission?

The DS-1884 was modified in 2022 to allow the surviving spouse or child of an eligible U.S. government employee abroad to petition for special immigrant status. The 2022 supporting statement also explained the Department's intent to revise the form to remove the consular officer signature line. However, a clerical error resulted in this signature line remaining on the revised version of the form and the time burden associated with this information collection was also not revised to account for the additional time it may take for a surviving spouse or child to collect and complete information about his or her deceased spouse or parent. The Department is submitting for approval a copy of the collection that corrects these errors, removing the consular officer signature line and modifying the per response estimate from 10 minutes to 15 minutes. There are no new changes proposed at this time.

16. Will any data gathered by this collection be published?

No. The data gathered by this collection will not be published, however, a quantitative summary of all Department of State visa activities is published in the annual Report of the Visa Office. The Report of the Visa Office is an annual report providing statistical information on immigrant and non-immigrant visa issuances by consular offices, as well as information on the use of visa numbers in numerically limited categories. The Visa Office currently has annual reports available from 2000 to 2024. The link to the site is:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-statistics.html>.

17. Will the OMB expiration date be displayed?

Yes. The Department will display the OMB expiration date on the collection.

18. Are any exceptions to the OMB certification statement being sought?

No. The Department is not seeking exceptions to the OMB certification statement.

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.