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Pilot Program: Domestic Renewal of H-1B Visas

The US Department of State has announced plans for a [pilot program](#) to allow H-1B nonimmigrant visa applicants who meet certain requirements to be able to renew their visa within the US. The pilot program will accept applications from *January 29, 2024 to April 1, 2024*. Applicants who meet **ALL** of the following requirements may choose to participate by [applying online](#):

- Applicant must be seeking to renew an H-1B visa;
- **Prior H-1B visa** that is being renewed must have been issued:
 - **In Canada** with an issuance date of **January 1, 2020 through April 1, 2023**; or
 - **In India** with an issuance date of **February 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021**
- Not subject to a nonimmigrant visa issuance fee (this is commonly referred to as a “reciprocity fee”);
- Eligible for a waiver of the in-person interview requirement;
- Have submitted ten fingerprints to the Department of State in connection with a previous visa application;
- Prior visa does not include a “clearance received” annotation;
- Do not have a visa ineligibility that would require a waiver prior to visa issuance;
- Have an approved and unexpired H-1B petition;
- Were most recently admitted to the United States in H-1B status;
- Are currently maintaining H-1B status in the United States;
- Period of authorized admission in H-1B status has not expired; and
- Intend to re-enter the United States in H-1B status after a temporary period abroad.

It is important to note that applicants who apply for this pilot program *but do not* meet the requirements outlined above *will not* receive a refund of their fees. Please carefully read through [the pilot program requirements](#) before applying.

[Contact your ISSS advisor](#) if you have any questions/concerns.