

American Coalition for Ukraine supports the following recommendations from our member organizations:

PROTECTING DISPLACED UKRAINIANS IN THE UNITED STATES

Immediate Immigration Priorities and Policy Recommendations / September 2026

Overview. An estimated 510,000 Ukrainian nationals are living in the United States with various temporary statuses. Many cannot safely return while Russia's war continues. Nearly 240,000 entered through the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) sponsored parole program, while others were granted humanitarian parole at the border, admitted on nonimmigrant visas, or were already in the United States when the full-scale invasion began.

CURRENT IMMIGRATION CHALLENGES

- Ukraine's TPS designation was automatically extended through April 19, 2027 because DHS did not act by the statutory review deadline. The extension protects only those already eligible under the current designation and does not cover Ukrainians who arrived after the existing cutoff date.
- TPS, U4U re-parole, and Employment Authorization Document (EAD) applications continue to face long processing delays. TPS, parole, and EAD validity periods may not align, creating gaps in employment authorization, identification, and access to services.
- Some Ukrainians face denials, removal proceedings, detention concerns, or fear of enforcement while applications are pending. At the same time, long-term immigration options remain limited.

Why it matters. These gaps can cost families jobs, income, health insurance, housing, driver's licenses, education, medical care, disability services, and other basic stability. They also cause U.S. employers to lose trained workers. Ukrainians who filed on time should not lose lawful stability because their applications remain pending.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION

1. **Extend and redesignate TPS.** Formally extend Ukraine's current TPS designation for 18 months and redesignate it for a new term so Ukrainians who arrived after August 16, 2023 can apply.
2. **Resolve USCIS backlogs and document gaps.** Expedite pending TPS, U4U re-parole, and EAD applications; protect timely filers from employment authorization interruptions; and realign EAD validity with the underlying TPS or parole period.
3. **Resume U4U entry.** Reopen Uniting for Ukraine to new sponsors and beneficiaries, and reissue travel authorizations to Ukrainians who were approved before the program was suspended.
4. **Provide interim protection from removal.** Consider Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) and direct DHS/ICE to avoid enforcement against Ukrainians with valid parole or pending TPS who pose no public-safety threat, including at routine immigration appointments.
5. **Create durable legal pathways.** Advance statutory protections such as the Protecting Our Guests During Hostilities in Ukraine Act and the Ukrainian Adjustment Act, and permit qualified Ukrainian parolees to pursue employment-based permanent residence without leaving the United States for consular processing.
6. **Restore essential support and guidance.** Re-fund Refugee Support Services (RSS) and Transitional and Medical Services (TAMS), and issue clear federal guidance to employers and state agencies regarding document validity and pending applications.