

The Four Most Common Ways To Obtain U.S. Green Card



A **“green card”** is key to eventually becoming a United States citizen. The formal term for a “green card” is a legal permanent residency. Having a “green card” allows you to legally live and work in the United States. There are four major ways to get a “green card”.

1

“GREEN CARD” THROUGH FAMILY

Is one of your parents or your spouse American citizen? A citizen of the United States over 21 years old can support an application for permanent residency for his or her spouse, children, parents or siblings. In addition, a “green card” holder can, in turn, usually sponsor his or her spouse or children.



2

“GREEN CARD” THROUGH A JOB



When granting permanent residence through an employment-based “green card”, priority is given to:

- people of extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business or athletics,
- outstanding professors and researchers,
- certain executives and managers

Entrepreneurs, people who have a job offer from a US company and workers engaged in very specific areas (religious workers, for instance) are also eligible for a green card.

3

BEING A REFUGEE OR ASYLEE

Immigrants who entered the United States as a refugee or asylee can apply for a “green card” one year after entering the country. This also applies to immediate family members of asylees.



4

WINNING THE “GREEN CARD” LOTTERY



Every year, the United States currently allows 55,000 prospective immigrants to obtain a “green card” through the Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery. The lottery is open to nationals of countries whose immigration rates to the USA are the lowest. The list of countries whose citizens cannot participate in the green card lottery changes each year.