Notice of Re-Opening and Continued Processing
For the Central American Minors Parole Program

In 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the termination of the Central American Minors (CAM) Parole program. This was a program to consider for parole certain children and family members in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras who were ineligible for refugee resettlement. When the CAM Parole program was terminated, USCIS rescinded conditional approvals of parole of some 2,700 beneficiaries who had not yet traveled to the United States. In April 2019, DHS and plaintiffs reached a binding settlement agreement in S.A. v. Trump, 18-cv-03539 (N.D. Cal), under which DHS agreed to resume processing of this specific class of some 2,700 beneficiaries who were conditionally approved for parole but had not yet traveled to the United States before DHS terminated the CAM Parole program.

Our records indicate that you had been conditionally approved for CAM parole and your conditional approval was rescinded in 2017 following the program termination.

USCIS is reopening your parole case and will continue to process it for consideration under the same CAM Parole program requirements in place before the program ended. Please keep reading to the end of this document for important information about updating your family’s information.

What this means

USCIS will reopen your case and will re-consider you for parole under the CAM Parole program.
If you remain eligible for CAM parole under the CAM Parole program requirements in place before the program ended, USCIS will authorize parole for a period of two years, and you may travel to the United States. Parole allows an individual to come to the United States for a temporary period and to apply for work authorization. Although a parolee is lawfully present in the United States for the time period authorized, parole is temporary and does not lead to legal immigration status in the United States. Please see the enclosed CAM Parole Information Sheet for more details.

Considerations

Before continuing with the CAM parole process, please carefully consider the following:

- **Expiration of Parole:** If you are paroled into the United States under CAM parole, you will receive parole for a temporary period of up to two years. Before your parole period expires, you must depart the United States, obtain an immigration status for which you are otherwise eligible, or apply for re-parole (See the enclosed CAM Parole Information Sheet for more details on filing a Form I-131 for a new parole period).

Although your case will continue to be processed for CAM parole, the CAM Parole program itself remains terminated. Any applications for re-parole will be considered under the standard humanitarian parole program, meaning that you must establish an urgent humanitarian reason or significant public benefit reason (separate from the CAM Parole program) to be eligible for re-parole. Re-parole will only be considered on an individualized case-by-case basis outside the CAM program and will only be issued where the applicant merits a favorable exercise of discretion. More information about parole may be found at [www.uscis.gov/humanitarianparole](http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarianparole).

- **In-Country Processing:** CAM parole processing operates only in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. You must be in El Salvador, Honduras, or Guatemala to be processed for CAM parole.

- **Marriage:** If you are the child of the lawfully present parent in the United States and you are now legally married, you are no longer eligible for the CAM Parole program.

- **Costs:** If you continue with CAM parole processing, you (and your family member) would be responsible for funding the cost of the medical examination and refundable flight to the United States. Because travel dates often need to be changed during the parole process, IOM must purchase refundable plane tickets, which cost more than non-refundable flight options. Your medical examination is only valid up to six months after it is complete. Your medical examination is only valid up to six months after it is complete. Therefore, you should be prepared to pay the price of the plane ticket shortly after you pay the medical examination fee.

- **Age:** If you turned 21 years old after you were conditionally approved for CAM parole, USCIS will continue to process your case, and your age will not impact your eligibility for CAM parole.
Next Steps for the petitioner in the United States:

Update Contact Information
If the beneficiary’s contact information has changed since you first applied for the CAM Parole program, please email [redacted] within two weeks with his or her new contact information.

In your email, please write your beneficiary’s:

- first and last name;
- A-number;
- email address;
- phone number; and
- mailing address.

If we do not receive an email with updated contact information, we will use the contact information we currently have on record.

Update Family Composition
If the beneficiary’s family composition has changed, such as by the birth of a child, since you first applied for the CAM Parole program, please email [redacted] within two weeks with:

- the name of the new family member;
- the relationship (for example, “beneficiary’s child”); and
- his or her date of birth.

Next Steps for the beneficiary in El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras:

You and your relative in the United States will be contacted to schedule a new medical examination. If you turned 13 ½ years old since the CAM Parole program termination, you will be contacted for an appointment to take fingerprints.

USCIS will verify whether you are still eligible for CAM parole under the previous CAM Parole program standards.

A copy of this notice was mailed to your relative in the United States on [redacted]

If you have any questions about the CAM Parole program, please contact [redacted]

Sincerely,

[redacted]

cc: [redacted]
Central American Minors (CAM) Parole Program: Information for Conditionally Approved Applicants

Background:

In 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the termination of the Central American Minors (CAM) Parole program. This was a program to consider for parole certain children and family members in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras who were ineligible for refugee resettlement. When the CAM Parole program was terminated, USCIS rescinded conditional approvals of parole of some 2,700 beneficiaries who had not yet traveled to the United States.

In April 2019, DHS and plaintiffs reached a binding settlement agreement in S.A. v. Trump, 18-cv-03539 (N.D. Cal), under which DHS agreed to resume processing of this specific class of some 2,700 beneficiaries who were conditionally approved for parole but had not yet traveled to the United States before DHS terminated the CAM Parole Program.

General Parole Information

The Secretary of Homeland Security may, in his or her discretion, parole any foreign national into the United States temporarily for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. (See Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) Section 212(d)(5)). Parole allows an individual, who may be inadmissible or otherwise ineligible for a visa or refugee status, to come to and stay in the United States for a temporary period.

A person who has been paroled ("parolee") is not admitted into the United States for purposes of immigration law. Parole allows an individual to be lawfully present in the United States temporarily and to apply for work authorization. Although a parolee is lawfully present in the United States for the time period authorized, parole is by nature temporary and does not confer or lead to legal immigration status in the United States. (Read the section, "After You Arrive in the United States," below, for further explanation.)

CAM Parole Case Processing

You have been conditionally approved for parole into the United States, meaning that final approval of parole cannot be granted until certain additional steps have been completed. These steps include:

- Verification of continued lawful presence of your relative in the United States by USCIS;
- Favorable results of background and security checks conducted by USCIS;
- Favorable results of a medical examination, conducted at your expense, and scheduled by International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- Coordination of travel arrangements, at your own expense, with IOM;
- Travel within the validity period of the parole authorization letter (Form I-512L).
Medical Examination

IOM will contact your relative in the United States to collect payment for your medical examination. After receiving payment, IOM will contact you to arrange your medical examination. You must attend your medical exam. IOM will then submit your medical exam results to USCIS.

You must have a valid medical clearance when you travel to the United States. A medical exam is generally valid for six (6) months from the date of the physical examination. Medical exams documenting a Class “A” TB, or Class “B1” TB condition, are only valid for three (3) months.

Travel Arrangements

If your medical results are within acceptable guidelines and if you are authorized for CAM parole, IOM will contact your relative in the United States to arrange your flight. Your relative in the United States must purchase your airline tickets to the United States through IOM. Because travel dates often need to be changed during the parole process, IOM must purchase refundable plane tickets, which cost more than non-refundable flight options. Your relative in the United States should book your travel, through IOM, within the time period that IOM suggests; otherwise, your medical exam or security checks could expire, which could cause your relative additional expenses.

Travel Authorization

After IOM receives payment for your travel to the United States, IOM will submit your travel itinerary to USCIS. At that time, USCIS will:

- Perform final security checks,
- Ensure your medical exam results remain valid until date of travel, and
- Verify that your relative in the United States still has a qualifying lawful presence in the United States.

If USCIS determines that you continue to meet all requirements for parole under this program, USCIS will issue for you a Form I-512L, Authorization for Parole of an Alien into the United States. IOM will give you the Form I-512L on the date of your flight to the United States along with your airline tickets.

Note: You and your relative in the United States must continue to qualify for the CAM Parole program at the time Form I-512L is issued and you travel to the United States.

Delayed Travel

Notify IOM or the USCIS international field office if you need additional time to collect money to pay for the medical exam or plane ticket. USCIS will then administratively close your CAM parole case. After you collect sufficient funds, contact the USCIS international field office to request reopening your case. The cost of a medical exam is approximately $100, but varies depending on location.
After You Arrive in the United States

Length of Parole Authorization

Once you arrive at the United States port-of-entry, a DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer may authorize parole for a period of up to two (2) years. CBP would then issue a Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, which will be evidence of your parole and lawful presence in the United States.

It is important that you maintain a valid parole document in order to maintain a lawful presence in the United States. Before the end of the parole period, you must: 1) apply for re-parole, 2) seek lawful status for which you are otherwise eligible, or 3) leave the United States. If you choose to apply for re-parole from within the United States, you must apply for re-parole on Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, with all required supporting documents no later than 90 days before your CAM parole expires. You must include the filing fee or Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver. Any applications for re-parole will be considered under the standard, non-CAM parole process, meaning that you must establish an urgent humanitarian reason or significant public benefit reason (separate from the CAM Parole program) to be eligible for re-parole. Re-parole will only be considered on an individualized, case-by-case basis (no longer under the CAM Parole program) and will only be issued if you merit a favorable exercise of discretion.

Work Authorization

Parolees do not automatically receive permission to work in the United States. If you would like to work while in the United States as a parolee, you may apply for a work permit by filing Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with the required documentation and either the applicable filing fee or a Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver. Select category c(11) – “Paroled in the Public Interest” on your Form I-765 application.

If your Form I-765 is approved, you will receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) valid up to the expiration date of your parole. If you want to continue to work in the United States after that expiration date, you must be approved for re-parole and then must file Form I-765 again, with the applicable filing fee or fee waiver request.

Parole Limitations

Parole is not an immigration status. It only allows an individual to be lawfully present in the United States and to apply for work authorization. As a person without a visa or other means to be lawfully admitted to the United States, a parolee is still considered to be an “applicant for admission” under U.S. immigration law. Parole allows only one arrival to the United States and does not authorize you to come back if you travel outside of the United States. If you travel outside the United States without obtaining
advance parole before you leave (see “Travel Outside of the United States” below), there is a chance you
would not be allowed to return to the United States.

Travel Outside of the United States

If you travel outside the United States during your authorized parole period, you do not automatically
have permission to return. If you plan to travel outside the United States and want to return, you must
apply for “advance parole” (which is different than the CAM parole) before you leave the United States
by filing a Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, and paying the applicable fee or Form I-912,
Request for Fee Waiver. USCIS may grant your application if you show that you seek to travel for urgent
humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Humanitarian reasons include travel to obtain medical
treatment, attend funeral services for a family member, or visit an ailing relative. See Instructions for
Form I-131 for additional information.

Public Benefits

In general, only a foreign national who is a “qualified alien” is eligible for federal public benefits. (8
U.S.C. § 1641(b)). An individual who is paroled into the United States for a period of at least one year is
considered to be qualified for public benefits. This one year period means the period of parole granted to
the individual, rather than the amount of time the individual has spent in the United States as a parolee.

Being a qualified alien does not mean that an individual will be eligible for a particular public benefit.
The individual must also meet all eligibility requirements for the particular benefit as determined by each
public benefit program. Generally, an individual who is qualified must also wait five years after being
paroled into the United States before he or she is eligible to apply for any public benefits. Parolees are
generally not eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
Program (SNAP) (formerly known as Food Stamps). It is up to each State to determine eligibility of
parolees for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, and Children’s Health
Insurance Program (CHIP).

Parole Termination or Expiration

Your parole may be terminated if:

- You depart the United States without advance parole authorization;
- You violate any laws of the United States; or
- DHS, in its discretion, decides to terminate your parole.

If your parole expires or is terminated and you do not depart the United States or obtain an immigration
status for which you may be otherwise eligible, you will begin to accrue unlawful presence, meaning you
will be considered to be in the United States illegally. This may bar you from future immigration benefits
and you may be placed in removal proceedings before a judge to be removed from the United States.