

## Understanding USCIS Premium Processing and Its Applicability to the EB-5 Program

guidance on how USCIS Premium Processing works and clarified its current inapplicability to the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program (Form I-526).

WASHINGTON DC, DC, UNITED STATES, October 31, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Global Immigration Partners today issued guidance on how USCIS Premium Processing works and clarified its current inapplicability to the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program (Form I-526).

While Premium Processing offers faster adjudication for certain employment-based immigration petitions, EB-5 investors should note that Form I-526 is not yet eligible for this service.



Is EB-5 (Form I-526) Eligible for Premium Processing?

As of today, the EB-5 investor petition (Form I-526) remains ineligible for USCIS Premium



As the EB-5 program continues to attract global investors, the need for efficiency and predictability in processing is more important than ever"

Alexander Jovy

Processing. The service currently applies only to select employment-based forms, including:

Form I-129 – Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker

Form I-140 - Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker

Form I-765 – Application for Employment Authorization (specific categories)

Form I-539 – Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status (specific categories)

Although USCIS has discussed expanding Premium Processing eligibility to include EB-5 filings, no official implementation has occurred to date.

How Premium Processing Works (for Eligible Petitions)

Premium Processing allows petitioners to file Form I-907 and pay an additional fee—currently about \$2,805 for most I-129 and I-140 cases—in exchange for a guaranteed adjudication timeframe. If USCIS does not act within the designated period, the agency refunds the premium fee but continues expedited processing.

Current USCIS Premium Processing Timeframes

Form Type Eligible Categories USCIS Response Time I-129 / I-140 (most) H-1B, L-1, O-1, EB-2, EB-3 15 calendar days I-140 EB-1C / EB-2 NIW Multinational Manager/Executive, National Interest Waiver 45 calendar days I-765 / I-539 OPT/STEM OPT, F/M/J status changes 30 calendar days

If USCIS issues a Request for Evidence (RFE) or Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID), the Premium Processing clock pauses and resumes when the applicant's response is received.

Real-World Experience



**Global Immigration Partners** 



EB5 Green Card, EB5 Regional Center

Although USCIS guarantees specific processing windows, applicants' experiences may vary. Some receive decisions in just a few days, while others experience minor delays due to workload,

mailing issues, or system backlogs. In such cases, USCIS generally refunds the premium fee but continues to expedite the case.

EB-5 Petitions Remain Under Standard Processing

For EB-5 investors, standard USCIS processing times still apply. These can range from several months to over a year depending on case type, service center, and applicant nationality. At this time, there are no premium or expedited options for Form I-526 petitions.

Expert Insight from Global Immigration Partners

Latest EB-5 Visa Insights

June 2025

Visa Bulletin Update: No changes for Reserved EB-5;
Unreserved dates unchanged

✓ Visa Issuance & Backlog: 149 % MoM jump in Reserved visas

Legislative Watch: "Golden Visa" proposal generating buzz

Program Integrity & Investor Protection:
Focus on TEAs, regional centers

EB5 proof of funds

"As investor interest in the EB-5

program continues to grow, it's essential to set accurate expectations regarding processing timelines," said a spokesperson for Global Immigration Partners. "While Premium Processing can be a valuable tool for other employment-based petitions, EB-5 applicants must currently plan for standard adjudication times until USCIS officially expands eligibility."

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