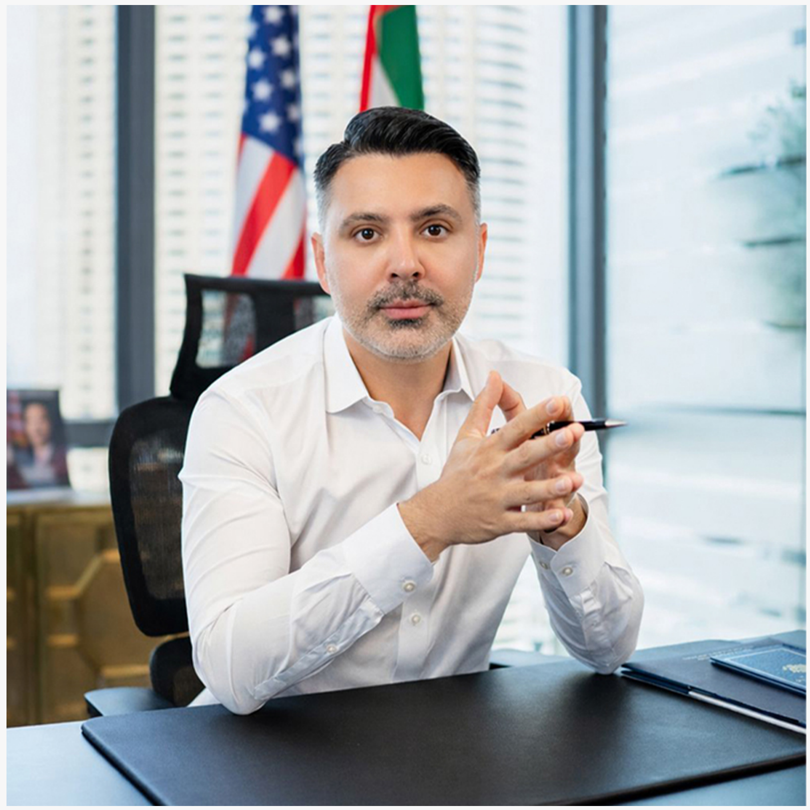
Understanding the September 30 EB-5 Deadline: What It Means for Investors

Shai Zamanian explains why the September 30 EB-5 deadline is a critical milestone for investors considering the U.S. Green Card by investment program.



Shai Zamanian, a U.S.-licensed attorney and Founder of The American Legal Center in Dubai.

DUBAI, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, August 7, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- For decades, the U.S. EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program has provided eligible foreign investors and their families with a pathway to permanent residence in the United States. As September 30, 2026 approaches, however, many prospective investors are asking the same question: What does this deadline actually mean?

Contrary to popular belief, the deadline does not necessarily mean the EB-5 program ends. Rather, it marks the expiration of the current authorization for the EB-5 Regional Center Program unless Congress acts to extend it.

So For investors, the practical implications are significant. Those who properly file their EB-5 petitions before September 30 benefit from the grandfathering protections under the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act (RIA), allowing their petitions to continue to be processed under the current legal framework even if Congress does not immediately reauthorize the Regional Center Program.

This is big.

Investors who wait face a different situation.

If Congress has not acted, which would be of no surprise since Congress has been seen to be ineffective, then new Regional Center petitions may not be accepted until the program is reauthorized.

So you may have to wait some time until the program is officially reauthorized by Congress.

For many families, that uncertainty has practical consequences. Families have Education plans for their kids, perhaps business expansion, relocation and long-term financial planning may all be delayed while investors wait for legislative certainty.

This is not the first time potentially applicants had to wait to file their applications.

This is certainly not without precedent. In 2021, the Regional Center Program temporarily lapsed after Congress failed to renew its authorization before the statutory deadline, preventing new Regional Center petitions from being filed until the program was reinstated through the Reform and Integrity Act in 2022.

According to Shai Zamanian, Founder and Legal Director of The American Legal Center, understanding the practical implications of the deadline is more important than reacting to headlines. "The September 30 deadline shouldn't be viewed as a reason to panic, but as an opportunity to understand your options. Filing before the deadline generally provides investors with the certainty of today's legal framework. Waiting may not mean losing the opportunity altogether, but it could mean your ability to file depends on future congressional action, and that's an uncertainty every investor should understand."

To help investors navigate these developments, The American Legal Center will host a complimentary U.S. EB-5 Investor Seminar in Dubai on Sunday, August 16, 2026, at Rove Downtown Dubai. Led by U.S. immigration attorneys, the seminar will explain the September 30 deadline, the grandfathering protections under the RIA, the anticipated January 2027 investment adjustment and the practical considerations investors should evaluate before deciding when to file. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions and receive guidance based on their individual circumstances.

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