

## Central American Minors (CAM) Program

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**What is CAM?** The Central American Minors (CAM) program is a legal pathway through which children and family members facing persecution or danger in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras can reunite with parents who are lawfully present in the United States.

**Am I eligible to apply?** To apply for your children and family members in Central America, you must be a **qualified parent or legal guardian** who is at least 18 years old and lawfully present in the United States with one of the following categories:

- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Legal Permanent Resident (a.k.a. green card holder)
- Parole, for a minimum of one year
- Deferred Action, for a minimum of one year (e.g., DACA)
- Deferred Enforced Departure
- Withholding of Removal
- Pending asylum application, filed *before 5/15/2021*
- Pending U-visa application, filed *before 5/15/2021*

**Who can I apply for to enter the United States?** The CAM program allows qualifying children and family members to enter the United States as either refugees or parolees:

**Qualifying children** - To apply for your children in Central America, they must be:

- Legally your child (biological, step, or legally adopted) or legally under your custody as their legal guardian;
- Unmarried;
- Under the age of 21 years old (at time application is filed); and
- A national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras.

**Qualifying family members** - You can also apply for your other family members that live in the same household as your qualifying children. You must include them in the same application with your qualifying children:

- **Children of your qualifying children**, who are unmarried and under the age of 21
- **Your spouse in Central America\***, who is legally married to you at the time of application and continues to be married to you at the time of entering the United States.
- **Other biological parent of the qualifying children\***, who is not married to you.
- **Siblings of your qualifying children**, who are married and/or 21 years of older. These children can also bring spouses and unmarried children who are under the age of 21.
- **Your qualifying children's caregiver\***, as long as they are related to you or the qualifying child.

\* They can also bring their spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 (even if they are not related to you).

**How do I apply for CAM?** Contact your local resettlement agency or the CAM Hotline at (917) 410-7546. To apply, a parent or legal guardian in the United States must submit a Form DS-7699 Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) for Minors Who Are Nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras (CAM-AOR) with the assistance of a resettlement agency. *There is no fee to apply for the CAM program, and only resettlement agencies can file the application.*

See <https://www.uscis.gov/es/CAM> for more details.

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**If I apply for CAM, what should I expect?** The steps of the application process are:

- (1) **Submit application:** Qualifying parent/legal guardian in the United States works with a local resettlement agency (RA) on a CAM-AOR, and the RA files the application.
- (2) **Pre-screening:** Qualifying children/family members in Central America are interviewed by a government official from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- (3) **DNA tests:** Qualified parent and children/family members take DNA tests to prove their relationship (unless they are not claiming biological relationship). You are not required to pay for your DNA tests.
- (4) **Interview:** Your child and family members will be interviewed by a government official from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- (5) **CAM Decision:** The government decides whether to approve the child and family members to come to the U.S. as a **refugee** or **parolee**—as long as they successfully complete final processing.
  - **If eligible for refugee status,** the government thinks that your family is in danger of persecution or have been persecuted in their home country because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. People who enter the U.S. as refugees have permanent permission to live in the United States.
  - **If the government decides that your family is not eligible for refugee status:**
    - The government will decide on a case-by-case basis whether they are eligible for parole, which is temporary permission to live in the United States, generally for three years. Parolees are allowed to apply for permission to work.
    - If your family is denied refugee status (regardless of the decision on parole), you may submit a Request for Review (RFR) of the refugee decision within 90 days.
- (6) **Medical Exam:** Your children and family members must complete a medical exam before they can travel to the U.S., and those approved for parole must pay the fees related to the medical exam.
- (7) **Security Checks:** Your children and family members must clear final security checks before they will be approved to travel. They will likely not have to do anything for the security checks, but they may be asked to do a “re-interview” with the government to answer questions.
- (8) **Travel and Entry to the United States:** If approved, your children and family members will travel to the United States. IOM will assist with their travel arrangements.
  - **Refugees:** Upon arrival in the United States, a local resettlement agency will provide your family with resettlement support services (including help enrolling in school, language or training programs).
  - **Parolees:** You will be responsible for paying for travel. At the United States port of entry, Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) makes the final decision on whether your children and family members will be granted parole and for how long.

