



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Form I-730 Refugee/Asylee Following-to-Join Processing



National Engagement

May 29, 2024

Disclaimer



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Materials presented today are for informational purposes only and are not legal advice. The information disseminated today and statements made by USCIS personnel are intended solely for the purpose of providing public outreach to the agency's stakeholders about issues of mutual interest. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit.

Agenda



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- Progress Updates
- Operational Updates
- USCIS International Operations and International Offices
- Contact Center
- Policy Work
- Data
- Processing of Afghan Beneficiaries



Reminders



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1. Questions from media – media@uscis.dhs.gov.
2. Questions from congressional offices - usciscongressionalinquiries@uscis.dhs.gov.
3. Today's engagement will not be recorded.
4. You can submit written questions through the Q&A box on the right side of your screen.
5. Send questions following today's engagement to public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov. In the subject line, please indicate "Follow Up to May 2024 Form I-730 National Engagement."



Just a
friendly
reminder

Operational Updates



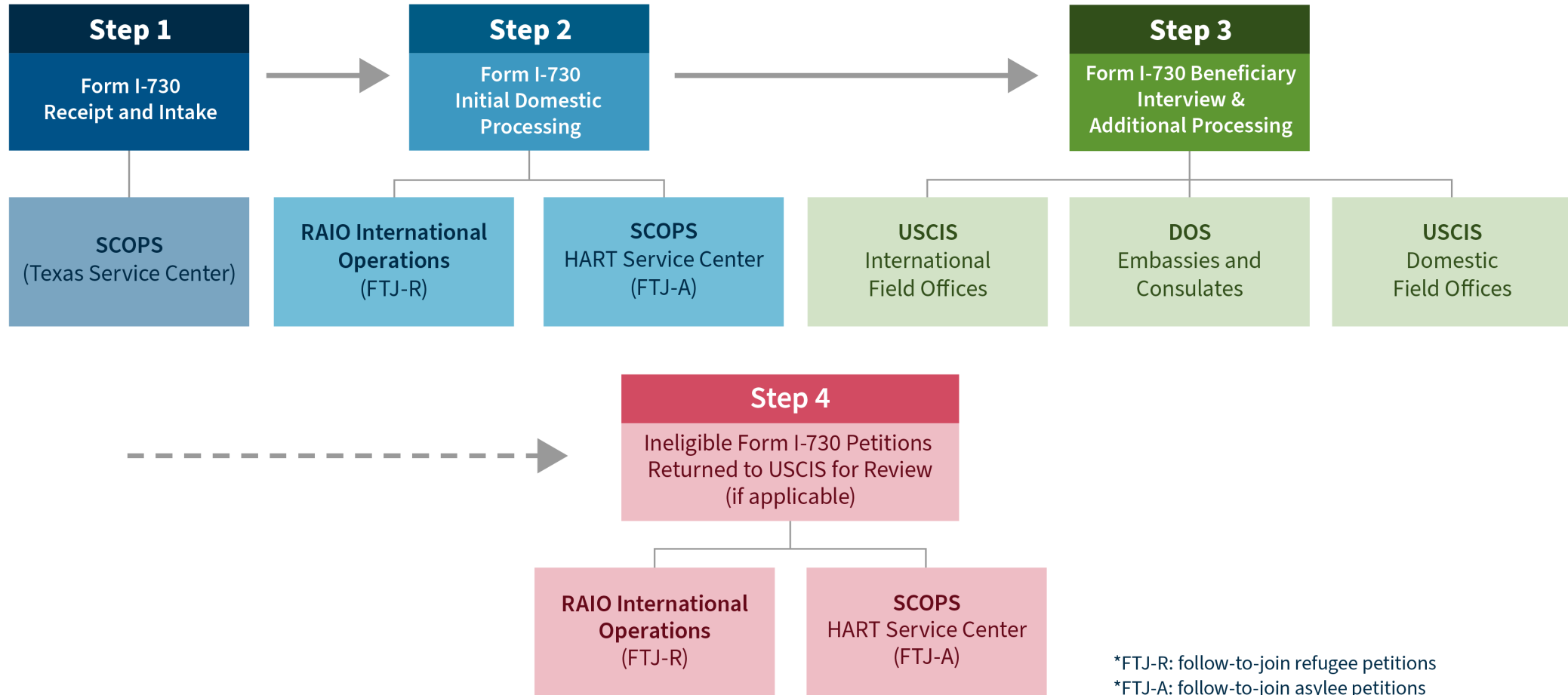
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- Effective May 6, 2024, initial domestic processing of Form I-730 following-to-join refugee (FTJ-R) petitions shifted within RAIO from the Asylum Vetting Center (ZGA) to Refugee and International Operations (RIO).
- The International Operations (IO) part of RIO has a dedicated unit to support this workload.

Form I-730 Processing



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Transfer Notice



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- The transfer notice will indicate the office we transferred your Form I-730 FTJ-R petition to.
- Legal representatives will receive a copy of the receipt and transfer notices.
- USCIS will soon send Notices of Transfer to International Operations, indicating we sent your petition from the Asylum Vetting Center to International Operations.
- Allow up to 8 weeks for petitions to be transferred to International Operations.

Mailing/Express Mailing Address:
USCIS Asylum Vetting Center
Form I-730 Processing Unit
401 W Peachtree St NW, Ste 2500
Atlanta, GA 30308

Street Address:
USCIS Asylum Vetting Center
Form I-730 Processing Unit
401 W Peachtree St NW, Ste 2500
Atlanta, GA 30308

Month 00, 2024

[PETITIONER NAME]
[ADDRESS]
[ADDRESS]



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Asylum Vetting Center

**U.S. Citizenship
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Notice of Transfer to International Operations *Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition*

Beneficiary Name: [BENEFICIARY NAME]
A-Number: [BENEFICIARY A-NUMBER]
Receipt Number: [RECEIPT NUMBER]
Receipt Date: [RECEIPT DATE]

As part of standard processing USCIS is transferring certain Form I-730 *Refugee/Asylee Relative Petitions*, including the petition for the above-referenced beneficiary, to USCIS International Operations (Washington, DC).

Please allow eight (8) weeks for the petition to reach International Operations. You will not receive a new receipt notice. If you have any questions about your petition, contact USCIS at egov.uscis.gov/e-request/Intro.do

If your physical address or mailing address changes while the petition is pending, please notify USCIS using the Online Change of Address option or downloading form AR-11 at www.uscis.gov/addresschange to ensure you receive updated notices about this petition.

Change of Address



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- **IMPORTANT:** Please notify USCIS if the contact information for your Form I-730 changes.
- To update your or your beneficiary's address in the United States, follow the instructions on How to Change Your Address at uscis.gov/addresschange.



International Operations



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- IO's dedicated unit will complete initial domestic processing of all Form I-730 FTJ-R petitions, as well as processing of Form I-730 beneficiaries at USCIS international offices outside the United States.
- Will improve consistency and efficiency in processing.
- International Operations is not a public-facing office.
- The Asylum Vetting Center no longer processes Form I-730. Do not contact or visit them for information about your Form I-730.

USCIS International Offices



- New international field offices in Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Doha, Qatar; and Ankara, Türkiye.
- Staff will interview Form I-730 beneficiaries in these countries. This responsibility is transitioning from the Department of State consular staff to USCIS.
- USCIS adjudicators who focus on Form I-730 processing can support FTJ petitions for Afghan beneficiaries at Camp As Sayliyah (CAS).
- USCIS has 11 international field offices that conduct Form I-730 interviews of beneficiaries.

Form I-730 Eligibility



- Only principal refugees or asylees can file a Form I-730 petition for following-to-join benefits.
- If you were admitted to the United States as a derivative or accompanying refugee or asylee, you are not eligible to file Form I-730 for your spouse and children.
- If you have a pending refugee or asylee application, you are not (yet) eligible to file Form I-730 for your spouse and children, and we may deny your Form I-730.
- You must file Form I-730 within 2 years of your admission to the United States or grant of asylum.
- Petitioners may file for their spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21.

Customer Service



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- Updated guidance and information on Form I-730 processing for USCIS Contact Center staff.
- Working to expand the USCIS Policy Manual to enable the USCIS Contact Center to respond to Form I-730 inquiries from petitioners directly.
- Working to expanding processing times on the USCIS Processing Times website to account for all USCIS offices that work on Form I-730 petitions for domestic and international processing.

Requests for Evidence



- USCIS conducted an internal review of templates for Requests for Evidence and denials.
- USCIS revised templates to clearly detail and indicate the specific information or documentation we are requesting and why we need it.

USCIS Policy Manual and Form Revision



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- USCIS is working on updates to the USCIS Policy Manual and Form I-730:
 - A new policy manual section on relative petitions for refugees and asylees.
 - An update to the USCIS Policy Manual so the USCIS Contact Center can respond to inquiries from Form I-730 petitioners. This will allow us to expand our customer service options and provide greater clarity to petitioners.
 - A revision to update Form I-730.
- These updates are currently under development, and we will provide more detailed information when they are finalized.

Form I-730 Data Snapshot



- As of May 28, 2024, approximately:
 - 25,900 Form I-730 petitions are pending initial domestic processing.
 - 9,600 petitions are pending an interview and additional processing with USCIS.
 - 16,500 petitions are pending interview and additional processing with the Department of State.

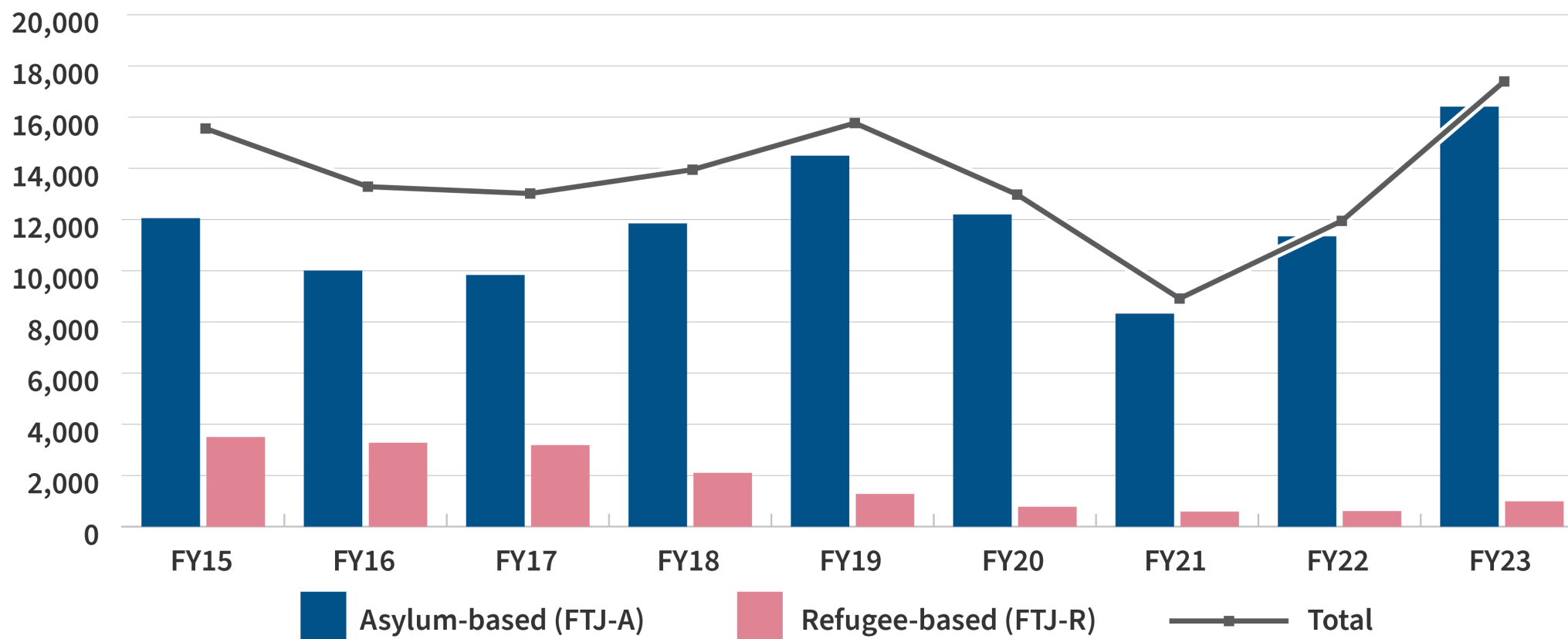


Form I-730 Data



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USCIS Form I-730 Receipts per Fiscal Year



Processing of Afghan Beneficiaries



- As of May 28, 2024, approximately:
 - 7,800 Form I-730 petitions are pending with USCIS for Afghan beneficiaries.
 - 7,200 are FTJ-A petitions.
 - 645 are FTJ-R petitions.



Resources



U.S. Citizenship
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Form I-730 webpage

uscis.gov/i-730

How to Request Reconsideration for Informal or Camp Marriages

uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/how-to-request-reconsideration-for-informal-or-camp-marriages

Child Status Protection Act

uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/child-status-protection-act-cspa

Information for Afghan Nationals

uscis.gov/allieswelcome

Family Reunification for Afghans

state.gov/afghanistan-family-reunification

Change of Address

uscis.gov/addresschange

Processing Times

egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/historic-pt
egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/reducing-processing-backlogs



Avoid Scams



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- Beware of individuals posing as or impersonating U.S. government officials.
- Beware of individuals asking for personal information.
- Beware of scam websites. U.S. government websites end in **.gov**.
- Watch for identity theft.
- Learn about immigration attorneys and accredited representatives of a recognized organization.



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Learn more ways to avoid scams at uscis.gov/avoidscams.



Questions



Concluding Remarks



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- For additional questions, please email public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.
- USCIS is committed to providing accurate and timely information to the public.
- For more information on our national engagements, visit uscis.gov/outreach.
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Author: USCIS

Date of last revision: May 29, 2024

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