

Green Card Lottery Draws Closer To Deadline

Caribbean and other nationals around the world hoping to take a chance on a green card lottery have exactly 12 days from today to get those entries in.

The U.S. Department of State's DV-2012 Diversity Visa lottery program registration period will end at noon on Wednesday, November 3rd. Nationals wishing to participate can do so by submitting a free electronic entry at www.dvlottery.state.gov. You may prepare and submit your own entry or have someone submit the entry for you. Note, however, that no individual, whether an attorney or other, can guarantee you a win since a computer will randomly select individuals from among all qualified entries.

For another year, paper entries are not being accepted. Only one entry can be submitted per person. Nationals of Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean as well as Brazil, Canada, China (Mainland-Born), Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, South Korea, United Kingdom (Except Northern Ireland) And Its Dependent Territories, and Vietnam are exempt from applying.

To enter the lottery, you must have either a high school education or have successfully completed a 12-year course of elementary and secondary education or have two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience. It is also very important that all required photographs be submitted. Your entry will be disqualified if all required photographs are not submitted.

While undocumented migrants within the U.S. can apply for the lottery, they may be unable to collect their green card should they win since winners are required to report to the U.S. consulate in their home country in order to complete the processing. Undocumented migrants currently face a 5-10 years bar should they leave the U.S. and try to return.

The congressionally mandated Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is administered annually by the Department of State and makes up to 55,000 Diversity Visas available each fiscal year to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

The Department of State implemented the electronic registration system beginning with DV-2005 in order to make the Diversity Visa process more efficient and secure.

From May 1, 2011, DV-2012 entrants will be able to use their unique confirmation number provided at registration to check online through Entry Status Check at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> to see if their entry was selected.

Successful entrants will receive instructions on how to apply for immigrant visas for themselves and their eligible family members. Confirmation of visa interview appointments will also be made through Entry Status Check.