



April 2024 Voter article from Immigration Interest Group

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SO - - YOU WANT TO WORK??

(From a Channel 7 News article by Katie Perkins & Jessica Crawford, Jan. 8, 2024, "The Legal Process Migrants in Denver Must Go Through to Obtain a Work Permit")

From all reports, the migrants who have recently arrived in Denver want to work to support themselves, but, the federal government will only approve migrants for work authorization under specific circumstances.

Those entering the US legally may be eligible for a work permit.

Historically, there are a couple of ways people can enter the U.S legally:

- Obtaining permanent residency through a family or through employment
- With a temporary visa: vacation, study at a university, or time-limited work assignment

Other Ways to be eligible for work permits:

1. **Parole** – getting in the U.S. temporarily for urgent humanitarian reasons – country specific
 - The Biden administration has granted this to migrants from: Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Haiti, and Ukraine. They can enter U.S. and apply for a work permit immediately.
2. **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)**
 - Countries designated by Dept. of Homeland Security
3. **Asylum**
 - Those eligible must wait for 150 days after filling out the free application for asylum to do a separate application for work authorization.

Work Permits for those on parole and TPS can cost close to \$500. Sometimes fee waivers are granted for biometric screening but rarely for the \$410 application fee. Besides the cost, other complications are that the application must be filled out on a computer and there is a language barrier. Some non-profits are attempting to help the newcomers to file for work permits.

Immigration discussion at May 14 - 16 Unit meetings, be on top of what is happening.

