

Boston Immigration Partner Weighs-In on USCIS Plans to Reduce Backlogs and Processing Times

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Brian Coughlin was interviewed by *SHRM* after the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced new actions on March 29 to help reduce caseload backlogs and improve processing times for immigration applications. He was asked about a final rule expanding premium processing, which is an expedited service now available only to petitioners filing for temporary workers and to certain employment-based green card petitioners.

"Premium processing service ensures that USCIS will adjudicate a filing within 15 calendar days from its receipt," said Brian. "The government fee is presently \$2,500. This is a very useful, albeit expensive option, as normal case processing times are extremely lengthy—more than a year—for some case types."

The final rule expands the categories of forms ultimately eligible for premium processing services to include additional categories of I-140 green card petitions, certain Form I-765 EAD applications, and some Form I-539 applications to change or extend status.

"Expanding premium processing service to EAD applications will provide much-needed relief to thousands of people who are presently unable to lawfully work in the U.S.," he added. "It will also provide relief to employers, who are suffering from a lack of candidates during the present labor shortage."

Read the full article in [*SHRM*](#) (subscription required).

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