President Biden’s Initial Rollback of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP): What You Need to Know

On February 11, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it would begin processing those who were previously required to “remain in Mexico” under MPP.

When will this program begin?

The first phase is expected to begin in San Diego, California, on February 19, followed by Brownsville, Texas, on February 22, and El Paso, Texas, on February 26.

Who is eligible?

This new process only applies to individuals who were returned to Mexico under MPP and have active cases (approximately 25,000 people).

Individuals outside of the United States who were not returned to Mexico under MPP or who do not have active immigration court cases are not eligible for this program and should wait for further instructions.

What is an “active case”?

An “active case” is a case without a final decision from the Department of Justice’s Executive Office for Immigration Review. If you have an upcoming hearing date, under current guidance, the U.S. government will consider you to have an active case. You can call 1-800-898-7180 or go to the immigration court website (https://portal.eoir.justice.gov/InfoSystem/Form?Language=EN) and enter your Alien Registration Number (A-Number or A#) to determine whether you have an upcoming hearing date. It is free to access this website, and you should not pay anyone for this information. The term “active case” does not currently include cases with final removal orders or cases that have been terminated, but it does include those with appeals pending before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).

What should I do if I have an active MPP case and am eligible for this program?

DHS has requested that individuals not take any action at this time and should remain where they are until they receive further instructions. The Department has launched an online registration process that will be accessible from any location, available at: https://conecta.acnur.org. This is a free website that does not cost anything to use. Once registered on this website, eligible individuals will be provided with additional information about where and when to present themselves. Individuals should not approach the border until instructed to do so. Only those registered will be processed at designated ports of entry for this program. DHS intends to process people on a “first
in, first out” basis, meaning those who have been placed in MPP earliest should be allowed into the United States before those who have not been waiting as long.

**Where is the online registration process? How do I access it?**

The online portal for registration is available for free at: [https://conecta.acnur.org](https://conecta.acnur.org). It is important not to pay anyone for access to the portal; those who say that payment is required to access the portal are fraudulent actors. Only access information from trusted sources on how to register, such as the DHS website ([dhs.gov](http://dhs.gov)).

**What happens once an individual enrolled in this program enters the United States?**

Further information is expected to be provided by the government in the coming days.

**Does this guidance apply to those in the United States?**

No. Individuals in the United States with active MPP cases will receive separate guidance at a later date.

**Why is the U.S. government beginning the program with this limited group of individuals only?**

In order to maintain an orderly process at the border, the U.S. government plans to limit the number of people subject to MPP who it will admit each day. The government only has capacity to process a set number of cases each day. The government intends to allow everyone with an active MPP case into the United States over the next few months, but it has to implement a fair procedure to do so.

**Are there protocols relating to COVID-19?**

Yes. As they prepare to enter the United States, those participating in this program will receive a medical screening and COVID-19 test. Those who test positive will continue waiting in Mexico until they test negative.

**Does this program apply to migrants who were never enrolled in MPP who seek to enter the United States?**

No. Title 42 remains in place, and migrants are still subject to being expelled to Mexico or being sent back to their home country.

**What if I have an urgent reason to request entry into the United States right now (such as a life-threatening medical issue or security concern)?**

Individuals and families waiting in Mexico who have urgent humanitarian concerns can work with non-governmental organizations to seek humanitarian parole to be admitted into the United States. Because so many people have urgent needs, the federal government does not grant humanitarian
parole frequently, but the new MPP admissions do not eliminate the possibility of humanitarian parole for those who qualify.

**Once I arrive in the Unites States, who can I contact for help?**

This will depend on the city you arrive in. You may request contact information for and seek help from the local Catholic Charities.