PRACTICE RESOURCES

## Practice Alert: DHS Notice Terminating CHNV Parole Processes

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As AILA previously <u>forewarned</u>, on March 21, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued an <u>advance copy</u> of the notice to be published in the Federal Register on March 25, 2025 which will terminate the categorical parole programs for inadmissible noncitizens from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela (CHNV) and their immediate family members. The program was established during 2022-2023 and has provided parole to approximately 532,000 applicants as of January 22, 2025.

# Events and Training OnDemand Web Seminar

Alternatives for CHNV Clients: Exploring Other Immigration Options Download the free recording of our December 12, 2024, web seminar, Alternatives for CHNV Clients: Exploring Other Immigration Options.

The following are key takeaways from the DHS Notice:

## End Date for CHNV Program

- The CHNV parole programs will be terminated as of the expected March 25, 2025 date of publication in the Federal Register.
- The notice terminates CHNV parole grants 30 days after its publication, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security makes an individual determination to the contrary. **The expected termination date is April 24, 2025.**
- DHS will be cancelling all pending applications (Form I-134A) and revoking the approval of applicants who have not travelled to the U.S. This applies to individuals who are still awaiting entry approval under the program.
- DHS will provide individual notice regarding termination to CHNV parolees through their USCIS online accounts.

#### **Voluntary Departure:**

- Parolees without a lawful basis to remain in the United States following this termination of the CHNV parole programs must depart the United States before their parole termination date or April 24, 2025, whichever is earlier.
- Noncitizens departing the United States via land border POEs should report their departure once outside the United States via the CBP Home mobile app. Noncitizens should visit https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/home for more information about voluntarily reporting their departure.
- Noncitizens who have since obtained a lawful immigration status or other basis that permits them to remain in the United States are not required to depart the United States pursuant to this notice.

### **Enforcement Actions:**

- Following this termination, DHS generally intends to promptly remove noncitizens who entered the United States under the CHNV parole
  - programs and who no longer have any lawful basis to remain in the United States.
- The notice states that DHS retains its discretion to commence enforcement action against any noncitizen at any time, including during the 30-day waiting period after publication
- DHS intends to prioritize for removal those who:
  - (1) have not properly filed an immigration benefit request (e.g., adjustment of status, asylum, Temporary Protected Statues, T or U nonimmigrant status) with the appropriate fee or fee waiver before the notice is published.
  - (2) are not the beneficiary of a properly filed immigration benefit (e.g., petition for alien relative, fiancé petition, petition for immigrant employee)

#### **Expedited Removal**

- Expedited removal proceedings may be initiated for noncitizens who have been in the U.S. for less than 2 years.
- Expedited removal is available only when a noncitizen has not been continuously present in the United States for at least the two years preceding the date of the inadmissibility determination.

#### EAD (C11) Termination:

- Parole-based employment authorization issued to CHNV parolees under 8 CFR 274a.12(c)(11) will automatically terminate upon:
  - (1) the expiration date specified on the employment authorization document,
  - (2) DHS's institution of removal proceedings against the alien, or
  - (3) a grant of voluntary departure.
- Such employment authorization may also be revoked on notice consistent with the procedures in 8 CFR 274a.14(b)<sup>1</sup>. DHS has determined that, after termination of the parole, the condition upon which the employment authorization was granted no longer exists and thus DHS intends to revoke parole-based employment authorization consistent with those revocation on notice procedures. Under this authority, work authorization for CHNV parolees would also end on April 24, 2025.

AILA is monitoring the issuance of the Federal Register Notice and any possible litigation that may challenge the notice. We will provide additional guidance as necessary.

#### **Impact on other Parole Programs:**

It should also be noted that we expect that similar terminations could be expected in the coming weeks for other parole programs considered to be <u>"categorical"</u> by the administration, including:

- Uniting For Ukraine (U4U),
- Family Reunification Parole programs for nationals of Colombians, Cubans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Haitians, Hondurans, and <u>Ecuador</u> (FRP)
- Operation Allies Welcome (OAW)
- Central American Minors (CAM) Program
- Parole granted through Safety Mobility Offices

On <u>February 14th</u>, USCIS had also ordered an agency-wide administrative pause on all pending benefits requests filed by migrants of CHNV, U4U, and FRP programs. Given this pause, AILA believes that U4U and FRP will be the next programs that will be terminated similar to CHNV.

AILA members should be prepared for an attempt to immediately terminate these parole grants and for the administration to treat these individuals as immediate removal priorities if an application for lawful status, including TPS, has not been filed.

Special thank you to High Impact Adjudications Assistance Committee member Cristina Santiago and USCIS Benefits Policy Committee members Ari Sauer and Olga Rojas for their assistance with this practice alert update.

#### <sup>1</sup> 8 CFR 274a.14(b) *Revocation of employment authorization*

(1) *Basis for revocation of employment authorization.* Employment authorization granted under § 274a.12(c) of this chapter may be revoked by the district director:

(i) Prior to the expiration date, when it appears that any condition upon which it was granted has not been met or no longer exists, or for good cause shown; or

(ii) Upon a showing that the information contained in the application is not true and correct.

(2) Notice of intent to revoke employment authorization. When a district director determines that employment authorization should be revoked prior to the expiration date specified by the Service, he or she shall serve written notice of intent to revoke the employment authorization. The notice will cite the reasons indicating that revocation is warranted. The alien will be granted a period of fifteen days from the date of service of the notice within which to submit countervailing evidence. The decision by the district director shall be final and no

appeal shall lie from the decision to revoke the authorization.