

**DATE:** April 25, 2017

**TO:** Subscribers

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**FROM:** Jeffrey Gaskell, Assistant Deputy Commissioner  
Employment and Income Support Programs

**SUBJECT:** Redesigned I-551 Permanent Resident Green Card and I-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD)

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 1, 2017

**CONTACT PERSON:** Temporary Assistance Bureau: (518) 474-9344

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will begin issuing new I-551 Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) and I-766 Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) on May 1, 2017.

These redesigned immigration documents use enhanced graphics and fraud-resistant security features to create cards that are highly secure and more tamper-resistant than the ones currently in use. They are part of an ongoing effort between the USCIS, U.S. Custom and Border Protection and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enhance document security and deter counterfeiting and fraud.

The new Green Cards and EADs will:

- Display the individual's photo on both sides
- Show a unique graphic image and color palette
  - Green Cards will have an image of the Statue of Liberty and a predominately green palette
  - EAD cards will have an image of a bald eagle and a predominately green palette
- Have embedded holographic images; and,
- No longer display the individual's signature

Also, Green Cards will no longer have an optical stripe on the back.

Some Green Cards and EADs issued after May 1, 2017, may still display the existing design format as the USCIS will continue using existing card stock until current supplies are depleted.

Both the existing and the new Green Cards and EADs will remain valid until the expiration date shown on the card.

