



## General Information System (GIS) Message

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	25DC046 Upstate and New York City
<b>Date:</b>	July 10, 2025
<b>To:</b>	Subscribers
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Commissioners, TA Directors, HEAP Coordinators, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Fair Hearing Officers, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators
<b>From:</b>	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
<b>Subject:</b>	Implementation of Deferred Enforced Departure for Lebanon and Designation of Lebanon for Temporary Protected Status
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Immediately
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Temporary Assistance Bureau: 518-474-9344 or <a href="mailto:tabureau@otda.ny.gov">tabureau@otda.ny.gov</a>

### Section 2

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to inform social services districts (districts) that in accordance with a Presidential Memorandum, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) implemented Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Lebanon. This GIS also notifies districts of the designation of Lebanon for Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

#### ***DED for Lebanese Nationals***

DED is an administrative deferral of removal ordered by the President of the United States (U.S.). DED has been authorized in situations where certain groups of non-citizens may face danger if required to return to countries, or any part of such countries, experiencing political instability, conflict, or other unsafe conditions, or when there are other foreign policy reasons for allowing a designated group of non-citizens to remain in the U.S. temporarily. The DED designation for Lebanon took effect on July 26, 2024. Although DED is not a specific immigration status, non-citizens covered by DED are not subject to removal from the U.S. for a designated period of time. Lebanese nationals covered under DED may apply for a DED-based Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

In addition to Lebanon, certain non-citizen nationals of Liberia and Hong Kong, as well as certain Palestinian individuals are also covered under DED. If in the future the DED directive for any of these designations ends, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will issue guidance to districts regarding the change.

As noted on the [LDSS-4579](#): “Non-Citizen Eligibility Desk Aid,” non-citizens granted DED are considered Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL) by OTDA. If otherwise eligible, non-citizens granted DED may receive Safety Net Assistance (SNA). Non-citizens granted DED are ineligible for Family Assistance (FA), the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), unless they have obtained another non-citizen status that would be satisfactory for benefit eligibility.

The following is a list of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents that non-citizens granted DED may present to districts to verify they were granted DED:

- Form I-766, EAD, with a category code of A11; or
- Form I-797, Notice of Action, that shows the approval of Form I-765 for an EAD with a DED category code of A11; or
- Any other authoritative USCIS document indicating DED granted.

### ***TPS for Lebanese Nationals***

The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to the following temporary conditions in the country: ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters, epidemics, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. The TPS designation for Lebanon took effect on November 27, 2024, due to armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions in Lebanon that prevent Lebanese nationals, and those having no nationality who last habitually resided in Lebanon, from returning to Lebanon safely. If Lebanon’s TPS designation is terminated in the future, OTDA will issue guidance to districts regarding the change.

It is important to note that TPS is not automatically granted to non-citizens. To receive TPS, non-citizens must apply for it by submitting the necessary documentation to USCIS. USCIS is responsible for making the TPS eligibility determination. For information from USCIS regarding TPS, districts may visit <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>. Districts may refer non-citizens who may need assistance with acquiring TPS to the New York State Office for New Americans (ONA), which is an entity that provides services to non-citizens in New York State. Districts may provide non-citizens with the ONA Hotline: 1-800-566-7636.

Districts are reminded that per [GIS 16 TA/DC053](#), OTDA recognizes non-citizens with TPS as PRUCOL. If otherwise eligible, non-citizens with TPS may receive SNA. When determining eligibility, these non-citizens will be coded Welfare Management System (WMS) Citizenship (CIT) Code “O”. Further guidance can be found in [GIS 18 TA/DC042](#) and on the [LDSS-4579](#) “Non-Citizen Eligibility Desk Aid”.

Districts are also reminded that per [GIS 23 TA/DC039](#), OTDA recognizes non-citizens who have applied for TPS as PRUCOL. If otherwise eligible, non-citizens who have applied for TPS may receive SNA. When determining eligibility, these non-citizens will be coded WMS CIT Code “W”. Further guidance can be found in [GIS 23DC080](#).

Non-citizens who have applied for or been granted TPS are ineligible for FA, HEAP and SNAP benefits unless they have obtained another non-citizen status that would be satisfactory for benefit eligibility.

The following is a list of USCIS documents that non-citizens may present to districts to verify they have applied for TPS or were granted TPS:

- Form I-766, EAD, with a category code of C19 or A12;
- Form I-797, Notice of Action, that shows the approval of an EAD with a category code of A12;
- Form I-797, Notice of Action, indicating the USCIS receipt or approval of Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status;
- Postal Return Receipt addressed to USCIS or a copy of a cashed check to USCIS, and the copy of the completed Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status;
- Any other authoritative USCIS document indicating a pending TPS application or TPS granted.

In accordance with [13-ADM-07](#), when determining Public Assistance (PA) eligibility, districts must use the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system to verify the immigration documentation presented by the non-citizen PA applicant or recipient. Benefits must not be delayed, denied, reduced, or terminated pending verification of a non-citizen’s documentation through the SAVE system. If all other eligibility factors have been established and the non-citizen is otherwise eligible, benefits must be granted while awaiting a response from the SAVE system.

In the future, it is possible that DHS could extend the TPS designation for Lebanon. If this were to occur, DHS may issue a blanket automatic extension of the expiring EADs for TPS beneficiaries from Lebanon, in order to allow time for EADs with new validity dates to be issued. Due to the complexity of the rules regarding TPS document extensions, if the “EAD Expiration Date” field of the initial SAVE system response does not indicate that the non-citizen’s TPS has been extended beyond the date on their document, the district must initiate a second step additional SAVE system verification. If the results of the second step additional verification do not indicate an extension has been granted, the district must initiate a third step verification. If the results of the third step verification remain inconclusive, the district must call SAVE Customer Service at: 877-469-2563 to confirm whether the non-citizen still has TPS. All these steps must be taken prior to the district taking any negative action on the PA application or case. These actions must also be noted in the non-citizen’s PA case record.