

USCIS Announces Registration Period for FY2026 H-1B Visa Lottery

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On February 5, 2025, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that the initial registration period for the H-1B lottery process will open at noon ET on **March 7, 2025** and will run through noon ET on **March 24, 2025**.

In connection with the lottery process, USCIS last year launched new organizational accounts that allow companies and their legal representatives to collaborate on H-1B registrations. Registrants who already have an H-1B myUSCIS online account from past H-1B registrations may continue to use their existing credentials to log into their accounts. Those without accounts will be required to create new accounts to enter beneficiaries into the H-1B visa lottery.

Employers should identify which of their employees or prospective employees may need H-1B cap-subject filings, including those with advanced degrees. This typically includes current F-1 employees working on Optional Practical Training work authorization or employees working in a different visa status or with Employment Authorization Documents (EADs). Employers should anticipate their workforce needs for FY2026 and carefully consider whether the filing of cap-subject H-1B petitions is needed.

If you think you have a candidate for H-1B status who might be subject to the cap, we encourage you to contact your Vorys attorney as early as possible to allow sufficient time to complete the registration process.