



# U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

*Office of Public Affairs*

## Stakeholder Message

We are consolidating existing policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) regarding officers' application of discretion in adjudications.

For many immigration benefits, requestors must show that a favorable exercise of discretion is warranted, in addition to showing that they meet all other eligibility requirements. Our officers typically analyze discretion at the end of their review, after they have determined the requestor meets all other applicable eligibility requirements.

The [policy guidance](#):

- Provides an overview and the general goals of the discretionary analysis, including the appropriate scope of discretion;
- Provides non-exhaustive lists of discretionary factors that officers should consider on a case-by-case basis;
- Explains how officers should generally weigh factors in a case and properly document the discretionary determination; and
- Explains that the ultimate decision to exercise discretion depends on the facts and circumstances of each individual case.

For more information on USCIS and our programs, please visit [uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov) or follow us on Twitter ([@uscis](#)), YouTube ([/uscis](#)), Facebook ([/uscis](#)) and Instagram ([@USCIS](#)).

Kind regards,

Public Engagement Division  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services