

UNCLASSIFIED STATE 00131870

SEP 13

SUBJECT: 2015 DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM (DV-2015)

1. The formal public announcement of the Diversity Visa (DV) 2015 program will be made the week of September 9, 2013, in Washington, D.C. After that date, posts may access an English-language version of the DV-2015 instructions bulletin from the CA Internet site Travel.State.Gov (TSG).
2. The Immigration and Nationality Act states that no DVs shall be provided for "high admission" countries - those countries from which there were more than a total of 50,000 immigrants during the period of the previous five years. Each year, the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services compiles the immigrant admission figures for the previous five years to identify the countries that must be excluded from the annual DV program. Since a separate determination is made before each program application period, the list of countries eligible for the program changes from year to year.
3. Please note that for DV-2015, Nigeria is no longer on the eligible countries list. The complete list of ineligible countries includes: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, South Korea, the United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam. These countries are ineligible for the DV-2015 program because they met the 50,000 threshold for immigrant entries to the United States in the past five years. (Note: Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan remain eligible.)
4. The E-DV system will be open for applications beginning noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on October 1, 2013, and ending at noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on November 2, 2013. Posts should encourage DV program entrants to apply early. In the past, system delays caused by extremely heavy demand in the final days of the registration period have prevented some applicants from registering for the program. While we continue to upgrade the system, overwhelming demand could cause delays. No entries will be accepted after noon EDT on November 2, 2013, regardless of whether or not there are system delays during the registration period.
5. The Department is once again utilizing web-based tools to notify entrants of their selection and immigrant visa (IV) interview appointment as part of ongoing efforts to combat fraud perpetrated against DV entrants. The Department will not send selectee notification or appointment letters to successful entrants by regular mail or by e-mail. Starting May 1, 2014, entrants may enter their DV-2015 entry confirmation number into the Entrant Status Check, available at www.dvlottery.state.gov, to find out whether their entry was selected or not. Subsequently, selected individuals who respond to the notification instructions provided on the E-DV selectee confirmation page on Entrant Status Check will also receive notification of their scheduled IV appointment through Entrant Status Check. DV-2015 data will be available through Entrant Status Check

until June 30, 2015. All entrants should keep their confirmation number until June 30, 2015, whether they are initially selected or not.

6. The Entrant Status Check, when available on May 1, 2014, will provide next-step instructions to selectees.

7. DV-2015 selectees who respond to the notification instructions on Entrant Status Check will receive e-mail communications alerting them that a visa appointment has been scheduled. Such e-mails will not contain information on the actual appointment date and time but will instead direct selectees to check their interview appointment details on Entrant Status Check.

8. Translations of the instructions bulletin will be posted as soon as possible.

9. Key data:

* The DV-2015 program registration period will run from noon, EDT on October 1, 2013, through noon, EDT November 2, 2013.

* The DV-2015 program will be conducted entirely electronically, including electronic entry. Paper entries are not accepted. The Department website established for the submission of E-DV entries is www.dvlottery.state.gov.

* Registered entries that comply with form submission instructions will result in the display of a confirmation screen page containing the applicant's name and confirmation number, which should then be printed. The confirmation screen page will provide information the entrant must use to electronically check the status of his/her own entry through the Entrant Status Check available at www.dvlottery.state.gov. Only those entrants who have their confirmation information will be able to check their Entrant Status and, if selected, receive application instructions and notification of their IV interview appointment. A link on the Entry Status Check page will allow entrants to retrieve their confirmation number by entering their e-mail address, last name, and year of birth.

* Entrants may prepare and submit their own entries or have someone submit the entry for them. Regardless of whether an entry is submitted by the individual directly or assistance is provided by an attorney, friend, relative, etc., only one entry may be submitted in the name of each individual, and the person entering DV-2015 remains responsible for ensuring that the information is correct and complete. All entrants, including those not selected, will be able to check the status of their entry through the Entrant Status Check available at www.dvlottery.state.gov.

* The law allows only one entry by or for each person during each registration period. The Department of State uses sophisticated technology to detect multiple entries. Entrants who submit more than one entry will be disqualified.

10. Please refer to the DV-2015 Instructions for complete program rules and answers to Frequently Asked Questions from entrants. These instructions

should be read carefully as failure to comply with all the instructions could result in the disqualification of an entry.

Kerry

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