

Global Immigration alert

August 2026

United States

DOS expedited visitor visa appointment pilot program expands to additional consular posts

Executive summary

On 18 August 2026, the Department of State (DOS) published an updated list of US embassies and consulates participating in the nonimmigrant visa (NIV) expedited appointment pilot program. This pilot program, which is scheduled to run through 31 December 2026, allows eligible applicants to pay an additional \$750 fee to schedule a visitor (B-1/B-2) visa interview within 10 business days, subject to appointment availability.

Background and Analysis

On 9 June 2026, DOS published a temporary final rule establishing a \$750 fee for expediting B-1/B-2 NIV interview appointments. All consular posts in Mexico were added to the pilot program in July, and the following locations are now participating as of 18 August:

- Canada - Embassy and all Consulates
- Bogota, Colombia - Embassy
- Guatemala City, Guatemala - Embassy
- San Jose, Costa Rica - Embassy
- Tegucigalpa, Honduras - Embassy

Additional locations may participate in the pilot program the future.

To receive an expedited visa interview, applicants must first follow the standard visa scheduling process by paying the \$185 Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fee and scheduling an interview appointment. Each location participating in the pilot program will set aside a limited number of expedite appointments per day. Applicants will be able to view

available expedited appointments during the scheduling process.

If the applicant selects an expedited interview appointment, the \$750 expedite fee must be paid within 10 minutes to secure the appointment. The fee facilitates an expedited interview only. Visa applications will still follow standard vetting and adjudication processes.

Once the expedited appointment is scheduled, the date and time cannot be changed and the \$750 fee is not refundable. If the applicant fails to attend the expedited appointment, they will forfeit the \$750 fee.

What this means

Individuals who are eligible to apply for B-1/B-2 visas at consular locations participating in the pilot program may be able to schedule expedited visa interviews for an additional \$750 fee. The fee does not provide expedited processing, vetting, or adjudication but instead only offers the applicant the option schedule a visa interview within 10 business days, subject to appointment availability.

We will continue to monitor and share future developments. For additional information, or if you wish to discuss this further, please contact your EY Law LLP professional or Mehlman Jacobs LLP professional.

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