

*If a student has been approved for employment authorization under TPS, how does he or she apply for authorization to take a reduced course load under this notice?*

There is no further application process. The student only needs to demonstrate economic hardship caused by the March 1, 2011 civil unrest in Syria to his or her DSO and receive the DSO recommendation in SEVIS. No other EAD will be issued.

*Can a student who has been granted TPS, and has allowed his or her F-1 status to lapse, apply for reinstatement to F-1 student status?*

Yes. Current regulations permit a student who falls out of student status to apply for reinstatement. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(16). For example, this provision would apply to a student who worked on a TPS-related EAD or dropped his or her course load before publication of this notice, and therefore fell out of student status. The student must satisfy the criteria set forth in the student status reinstatement regulations.

*How long will this notice remain in effect?*

This notice grants temporary relief until October 3, 2013 to a specific group of F-1 students whose country of citizenship is Syria. DHS will continue to monitor the situation in Syria. Should the special provisions authorized by this notice need to be modified or extended, DHS will announce such changes in the **Federal Register**.

#### **Paperwork Reduction Act**

An F-1 student seeking off-campus employment authorization due to severe economic hardship must demonstrate to the DSO at the school where he or she is enrolled that this employment is necessary to avoid severe economic hardship. If the DSO agrees that the student should receive such employment authorization, he or she must recommend application approval to USCIS by entering information in the remarks field of the student's SEVIS record. The authority to collect this information is currently contained in the SEVIS collection of information currently approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 1653-0038.

This notice also allows F-1 students whose country of citizenship is Syria and who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of civil unrest in Syria since March 1, 2011, to obtain employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load,

while continuing to maintain their F-1 student status.

To apply for work authorization an F-1 student must complete and submit currently approved Form I-765 according to the instructions on the form. The authority to collect the information contained on the current Form I-765 has previously been approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) under OMB Control No. 1615-0040. Although there will be a slight increase in the number of Form I-765 filings because of this notice, the number of filings currently contained in the OMB annual inventory for Form I-765 is sufficient to cover the additional filings. Accordingly, there is no further action required under the PRA.

**Janet Napolitano,**  
*Secretary.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

[Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-4061-DR; Docket ID FEMA-2012-0002]

### **West Virginia; Major Disaster and Related Determinations**

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of West Virginia (FEMA-4061-DR), dated March 22, 2012, and related determinations.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* March 22, 2012.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Peggy Miller, Office of Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3886.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated March 22, 2012, the President issued a major disaster declaration under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.* (the "Stafford Act"), as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of West Virginia resulting from severe storms, flooding, mudslides, and landslides beginning on March 15, 2012, and continuing, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency

Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.* (the "Stafford Act"). Therefore, I declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of West Virginia.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance and Public Assistance in the designated areas and Hazard Mitigation throughout the State. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance is supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Other Needs Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration for the approved assistance to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

The time period prescribed for the implementation of section 310(a), Priority to Certain Applications for Public Facility and Public Housing Assistance, 42 U.S.C. 5153, shall be for a period not to exceed six months after the date of this declaration.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, Deanne Criswell, of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this major disaster.

The following areas of the State of West Virginia have been designated as adversely affected by this major disaster:

Logan County for Individual Assistance. Lincoln, Logan, and Mingo Counties for Public Assistance.

All counties within the State of West Virginia are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households In Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas; 97.049, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance—Disaster Housing Operations for Individuals and Households; 97.050, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households—Other Needs; 97.036, Disaster Grants—Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

**W. Craig Fugate,**  
*Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

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