

USCIS TRANSFERS LONG PENDING I-485 APPLICATIONS TO NSC AND TSC

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USCIS Service Center Operations advises that in anticipation of the next phase of bi-specialization, I-485 applications that are still pending at the California and Vermont Service Centers will be transferred to a Service Center which has jurisdiction over the filing.

Bi-specialization is a new USCIS filing and adjudication procedure, the first phase of which began in April 2006. Under the bi-specialization program, the goal of the USCIS is to centralize filings through the alignment of similar workloads between two "sister" service centers. The Vermont and California Service Centers have been paired together to adjudicate most nonimmigrant related filings (e.g. I-129, I-539, etc.) while the Nebraska and Texas Service Centers have been paired together to adjudicate most immigrant related filings (e.g. I-140, I-485, etc.). Pairing work between two service centers will allow the USCIS to better manage cases and provide better customer service.

Under this most recent phase of bi-specialization, those I-485 applications still pending at the California Service Center are being transferred to the Nebraska Service Center, while those I-485 applications still pending at the Vermont Service Center are being transferred to the Texas Service Center. The types of I-485 applications being transferred include those cases subject to both visa retrogression and security/background checks. Transfer notices will be sent to the applicants and all cases will be processed based on their original filing date and not the date of the transfer.