

GREEN CARD LOTTERY STARTS OCT. 1

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Body

Immigrants planning to take a chance in the next green card lottery will be able to apply starting Oct. 1, four months early, federal officials said yesterday.

The State Department moved up the normal Feb. 1 application date to give immigrants more time to apply and government officials extra time for processing.

Officials expect 2 million applications. The address for applications will be announced next month.

Some 55,000 green cards will be available under the diversity visa lottery a program to increase the number of immigrants from countries underrepresented in the U.S. population. That includes 20,000 for Africa, 7,000 for Asia, 23,000 for Europe, 2,400 for South and Central America and the Caribbean and about 2,400 for Australia, New Zealand and other parts of Oceania.

Countries that have sent large numbers of immigrants to the U.S. are excluded. They are China, India, the Philippines, Vietnam, South Korea, Poland, Canada, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Jamaica, El Salvador, Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

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