

7.5 MILLION APPLY TO U.S. FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCY

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The State Department has received **7.5 million** lottery applications from foreign nationals interested in moving to the **United States**, government officials said.

The diversity lottery - the third of its kind under legislation passed by Congress - seeks to increase immigration from underrepresented parts of the world. Applications were accepted for one month beginning Feb. 12.

The drawing will be held sometime in June.

A computer randomly will select 55,000 winners. Winners, and members of their immediate families, will be granted **permanent** resident visas.

Lottery officials are urging that winners act promptly because only those completing their paperwork will receive visas.

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