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USA EB-5 INVESTOR VISA PROGRAM



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1) New Business Enterprise:

- Invest or be in the process of investing at least US\$1,800,000. If the investment is in a designated Targeted Employment Area* then the minimum investment requirement is US\$900,000
- Benefit the U.S. economy by providing goods or services to the U.S. markets
- Create full-time employment for at least 10 U.S. workers. This includes U.S. citizens, Green Card holders (lawful permanent residents), and other individuals lawfully authorized to work in the U.S. (however, it does not include the applicant, his/her spouse, sons, or daughters)
- Be involved in the day-to-day management of the new business or directly manage it through formulating business policy - for example as a corporate officer or board member

* Targeted Employment Area is defined by law as, "Rural area or an area in the USA that has experienced high unemployment of at least 150 percent of the national average."

There are three ways within the EB-5 category that can qualify an applicant for a Green Card and they are:

- *Creating a new commercial enterprise OR*
- *Investing in a troubled business OR*
- *Investing in a regional centre*



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

2) Troubled Business:

- The same investment requirements of the new commercial enterprise also apply to a troubled business investment (US\$1,800,000 or US\$900,000 in a targeted employment area)
- Invest in a business that has existed for at least two years
- Invest in a business that has incurred a net loss, based on generally accepted accounting principles, for the 12 to 24 month period before the applicant filed the Form I-526 Immigrant Petition by an Alien Entrepreneur
- The loss for the 12 to 24 month period must be at least equal to 20 percent of the business's net worth before the loss
- Maintain the number of jobs at no less than the pre-investment level for a period of at least two years
- Be involved in the day-to-day management of the troubled business or directly manage it through formulating business policy - for example, as a corporate officer or board member

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS



3) Regional Centre Pilot Program: (A majority of investors apply under this program) :

- Invest at least US\$1,800,000 or US\$900,000 in a regional centre affiliated to a new commercial enterprise or a troubled business located within the area of the USCIS Designated Regional Centre (RC).
- Create at least 10 new full-time jobs either directly or indirectly through the capital investment
- Of the 10,000 investor visas (i.e. EB-5 visas) available annually, 5,000 are set aside for those who apply under a pilot program involving an INS-designated regional centre.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Investors who wish to obtain a Green Card for themselves and their family members but who do not wish to actively manage their business should consider the EB-5 Investor Visa.
- Relatively smaller amount of investment required as compared to many European countries
- Applicants directly obtain permanent residency in lieu of temporary residency as is the case with many European Residency by Investment programs
- The applicant's spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 years may be admitted to the U.S. with the applicant
- EB-5 visa permits employment in the USA and hence gives investors the flexibility to do what they want
- Wider choice of investment options available - There are many regional centers to choose from across the country; many options available with respect to the type of project and location
- Applicants and their dependents can live, study and work in USA right from day one
- Visa free travel to over 172 countries around the world after obtaining American citizenship