

# United States | State Department Prepares to Launch Domestic Visa Renewal Pilot

Article By:

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The State Department is poised to launch its H-1B domestic visa renewal pilot program at noon ET on Monday, Jan. 29.

## Key Points:

- As BAL [previously reported](#), the pilot will run from Jan. 29 to April 1, 2024, and will be open to a total of 20,000 H-1B visa holders whose previous H-1B visa was issued within certain time frames by U.S. diplomatic missions in Canada or India.
- As of Wednesday, Jan. 24, applicants can begin pre-loading DS-160 applications via the State Department's [Consular Electronic Application Center](#).
- The State Department published a detailed [FAQ](#) on the pilot program last week covering a number of topics, including which applicants qualify, required documents and fees, processing logistics, refusals and ineligibilities, and related F-1 and H-4 questions.
- Applicants may select "U.S. – Domestic" under the drop-down menu "select a location where you will be applying for this visa" when completing the DS-160 application.

**BAL Analysis:** The pilot program is an important step toward bringing back domestic visa renewal, which has not been widely available in the U.S. since 2004. The pilot will be open only to a limited number of H-1B visa holders, but it could be expanded to other individuals and visa categories later in 2024.

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National Law Review, Volume XIV, Number 25

Source URL: <https://natlawreview.com/article/united-states-state-department-prepares-launch-domestic-visa-renewal-pilot>