New regulations impacting asylum seekers’ access to an Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) went into effect on August 25, 2020. A summary of the key changes is [here.](https://mcusercontent.com/54957adddfd016a52bb234010/files/85cb3d49-ece6-4944-8ad9-15c57e571771/new_work_permit_regulations_Oct2020_2_.pdf)

Benefits of ASAP membership

* Federal district court, in CASA de Maryland v. Wolf, issues preliminary injunction prohibiting application of certain parts of the new rules to members of ASAP and CASA. As a result, members can:
  + Apply for a work permit 150 days after filing an asylum application;
  + Have asylum application “deemed complete” after 30 days;
  + Have work permit application processed within 30 days;
  + Apply for a work permit even if asylum application was filed after the one-year filing deadline;
  + Not be charged $85 biometrics fee for EAD (and not be required to retake biometrics if this has already been done for I-589);
  + Not be subject to a discretionary denial of EAD application
* Application form available online:
  + [Membership Application Form – English](https://airtable.com/shr0snmbfClgrnzIP)
  + [Solicitud de Membresía – Español](https://airtable.com/shrFUjC8bHDq23Mxl)
* EAD Rules for ASAP members FAQs (includes link to sample work permit application): <https://asylumadvocacy.org/work-permits-for-asap-members/>
* ASAP Membership FAQs: <https://asylumadvocacy.org/members/>

Fees

* Fee Waivers ([I-912](https://www.uscis.gov/i-912)) are available

Wait times

* There have been lockbox delays increasing wait time from days to 11 weeks or more.
* The Nebraska Service Center has been experiencing delays of about 4 weeks to 8 months; National Benefits Center (NBC), 4 months to 9.5 months.

Biometrics

* Biometrics are incredibly delayed and unfortunately these requests cannot be expedited, though requests may be made.
* Can make requests to use previously submitted biometrics

Congressional Assistance

* Congressional Assistance may be requested by the client via the [USCIS Privacy Release form](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/privacy-releases/USCIS-OLA-Privacy-Release-Oct-2019.pdf) for member of Congress. Please work with ONE member of Congress in the location where the applicant lives.  Send the completed form in the voice of the client without any attorney information to Morgan, Miranda (Smith) <Miranda\_Morgan@smith.senate.gov>.