USCIS Approves 10,000 U Visas for 5th Straight Fiscal

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has approved the statutory maximum 10,000 (U visas) for fiscal year 2014. This marks the fifth straight year that USCIS has reached the statutory cap of 10,000 U visas in 2008.

Each year, 10,000 U visas are available for victims of certain qualifying crimes who have suffered substantial physical harm and are willing to help law enforcement authorities investigate or prosecute those crimes. A U visa provides a unique opportunity for victims and their family members to receive assistance from law enforcement.

Congress created the U visa program to strengthen the law enforcement community’s ability to respond to incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other crimes, while also offering protection and hope to those who have suffered as a result.

Though USCIS has reached its statutory cap of 10,000 U visas, it will continue to review pending petitions and send a letter to all eligible petitioners who, due solely to the cap, are not granted U-1 visas, notifying them of the visa availability and options they have in the interim. Eligible petitioners and their family members must continue to meet eligibility requirements at the time the U visa is issued.

USCIS will resume issuing U visas on Oct. 1, 2014, the first day of fiscal year 2015, when visas become available again.

Visit uscis.gov for more information about the U visa on our Victims of Criminal Activity Web page, Questions and Answers.