

USA

EB-5 Investor Visa Programme Summary

EB-5 Investor Visa Programme

The United States of America has a population of around 340 million. US inhabitants reside in the world's third largest country by total area. The US represents the world's largest economy by nominal GDP. This is fuelled by its status as a leading importer and exporter of goods. 50 states make up the US, offering a wide range of business environments that suit all requirements.

As a nation, the US is home to some of the world's most advanced medical and educational facilities. A diverse climate and stunning geography make it even more appealing as a residency. You will be able to access the public education system at all age levels. The US also has several highly-regarded private schools. Many of these are multi-lingual and provide a route to some of the world's highest-ranking universities.

Requirements/Investment Options

The 1990 Immigration Act created the EB-5 Investor Visa. It has become an established path for foreign investors and their families (spouse and dependants under the age of 21) to obtain a Green Card (permanent residence). You must be willing to make a significant investment in the country, as the fundamental purpose of the EB-5 Visa is to stimulate the US economy through job creation and capital investment. In return, you receive all the benefits of permanent US residency.

There are two investment options that you can choose from to successfully obtain an EB-5 Visa:

- **Make a Direct Active Investment**

This requires a minimum investment of US\$1.05 million. The figure comes down to at least US\$800,000 if investing in a TEA (Targeted Employment Area) where unemployment equates to 150% or more of the national average. Another option is to invest in rural areas. You will fund a new or existing commercial enterprise or job-creating entity.

The investment must create or preserve 10 full-time jobs. This excludes you and your immediate family members. You will actively manage and supervise employees. Other responsibilities include looking after the day-to-day operations and forming policies.

- **Invest Passively in a Regional Center**

An EB-5 Regional Center is a public or private economic unit that promotes economic growth in the US. Developers and operators direct and manage these Regional Centers, so your input will be reduced. Again, you will need to invest US\$1.05 million or US\$800,000 if investing in TEAs (Targeted Employment Areas) or rural areas.

The investment must create or preserve 10 full-time jobs. You cannot include yourself or your immediate family members as one of the 10.



Process Overview

There are over 700 approved EB-5 Regional Center projects across the US. You should focus on Regional Centers who have had a successful track record history with associated EB-5 projects. These projects have been financially viable, have an effective and credible developer and operator managing the project, are EB-5 immigration compliant, and offer a clear exit strategy on returning your investing capital. We will help you identify and select the right Regional Center for you.

The first step for you as an EB-5 investor is to sign an Agreement of Representation with a qualified US EB-5 immigration attorney. These are professionals with expertise and experience in offering immigration due diligence and legal advice.

Attorney legal fees range from US\$20,000 to US\$25,000 plus costs (government processing fees, copies and mail) for the preparation and filing of the EB-5 investor petition. The next step occurs after the EB-5 petition is approved, and involves filing applications with the US consulate for the conditional permanent residency of you, your spouse, and children under the age of 21.

The third step is when you file a petition with USCIS when your conditional permanent residency is about to reach the two-year period. This will see you and your family obtain unconditional permanent residency.

When you transfer the required investment to the EB-5 Regional Center project, you must also pay the administration/syndication fee of either US\$70,000 or US\$90,000.

Qualifying Dependents

As the main applicant, you must have at least \$800,000 capital to invest and be able to prove your funds are sourced legally. You can add your spouse as a dependant. Like you, they must be over 18 years of age, have no criminal record or prosecution, and no serious illnesses. You can also include unmarried children under the age of 21.

Citizenship

It is possible to acquire US citizenship after five years of legal residence from the date of issue of the Conditional Green Card.

Dual Citizenship

The USA has no restrictions on dual citizenship.

Taxation

All US citizens and residents, including resident aliens and citizens who reside outside of the US, pay federal tax on their worldwide income. Also taxed as residents are individuals who meet a 'substantial presence test', which requires physical presence in the US for 183 days or more during a calendar year. Income tax rates are progressive up to 39.6%.

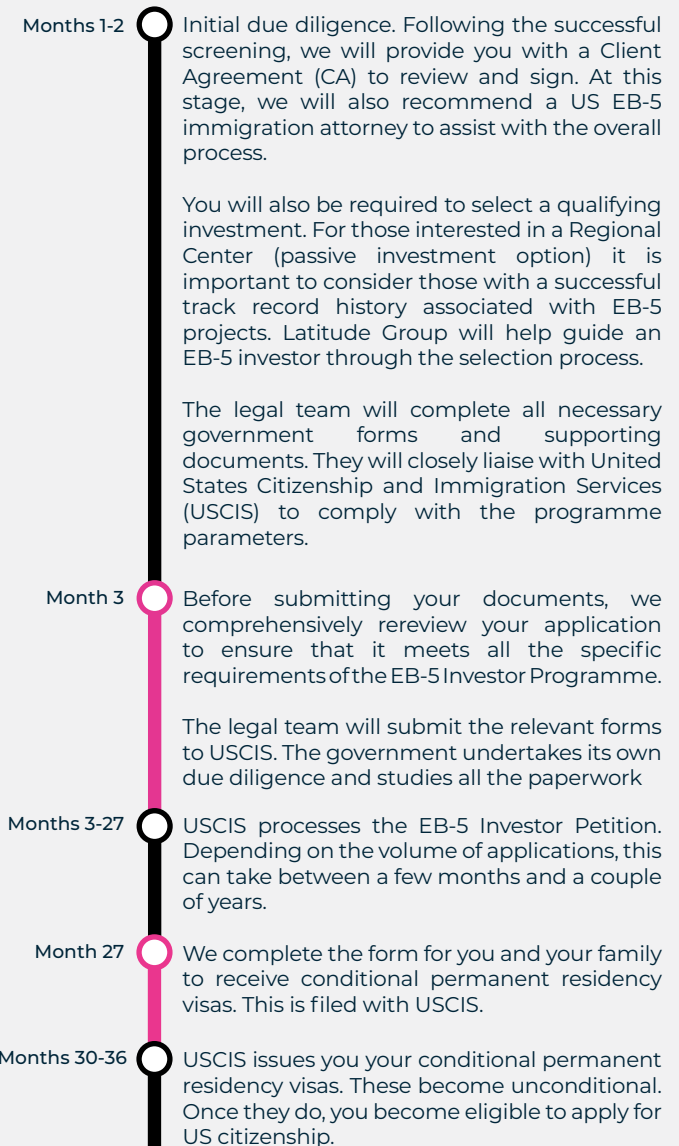
The maximum rate of capital gains tax is 20%. For US citizens and residents, a unified estate and gift tax is imposed, on the net value of the transferred assets, in excess of USD\$5,450,000. The top rate for estate and gift tax is 40%. There is no net worth tax in the US.

Summary of Key Advantages

- A fast route to achieving US permanent residence Investment from USD\$800,000
- The world's largest economy is the perfect base for investors
- The ability to live, work, study, or retire anywhere in the US, not determined by where the investment is made
- US citizenship is possible after five years



Application Process





List of Countries – 178

- Afghanistan***
- Albania
- Algeria***
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia**
- Austria
- Azerbaijan**
- Bahamas
- Bahrain*
- Bangladesh*
- Barbados
- Belarus***
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin**
- Bhutan**
- Bolivia*
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso*
- Burundi*
- Cambodia*
- Cameroon**
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Central African Republic***
- Chad***
- Chile
- China**
- Colombia
- Comoros*
- Congo***
- Costa Rica
- Croatia
- Cuba**
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Djibouti*
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- DR Congo**
- Ecuador
- Egypt*
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea**
- Eritrea***
- Estonia
- Ethiopia*
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Gabon**
- Gambia*
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana***
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guinea**
- Guinea-Bissau*
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India**
- Indonesia*
- Iran***
- Iraq*
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Ivory Coast**
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan*
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya**
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait*
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos*
- Latvia
- Lebanon*
- Lesotho
- Liberia***
- Libya**
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macao
- Madagascar*
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives*
- Mali***
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritania*
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar**
- Namibia
- Nauru***
- Nepal*
- Netherlands
- New Zealand**
- Nicaragua
- Niger***
- Nigeria**
- North Korea***
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman*
- Pakistan**
- Palau
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea**
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar*
- Romania
- Russia***
- Rwanda*
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa*
- San Marino
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Saudi Arabia*
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone*
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands*
- Somalia*
- South Africa
- South Korea
- South Sudan**
- Spain
- Sri Lanka**
- Sudan***
- Suriname**
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria**
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania*
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste*
- Togo**
- Tonga*
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan***
- Tuvalu*
- Uganda**
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan**
- Vanuatu
- Vatican
- Venezuela***
- Vietnam**
- Yemen***
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe*

*Visa on Arrival | **eVisa | ***Visa Required