

Florida EB-5 Immigrant Investor Visa Program

The EB-5 Visa for Immigrant Investors is a United States visa created by the Immigration Act of 1990. The EB-5 Regional Center process provides a method of obtaining a green card for foreign nationals who personally invest their funds in a U.S. corporation or entity designated as a Regional Center by the USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service). To obtain the immigrant visa (the green card/permanent residency) the foreign national must personally invest at least US\$1 million which will create at least 10 full time jobs either directly or indirectly. In addition, by investing in certain Regional Centers located in TEA's (Targeted Employment Areas); i.e. areas that are rural or areas of high unemployment, the required investment amount is only US\$500,000.

The Immigrant Investor Pilot Program was created by Section 610 of Public Law 102-395 on October 6, 1992. This was in accordance with a Congressional mandate aimed at stimulating economic activity and job growth, while allowing eligible aliens the opportunity to become lawful permanent residents. This "Pilot Program" allows a foreign national investor to obtain first a Conditional Permanent Residency for a two-year period. Toward the end of the two-year period, the foreign national investor has to file another petition (i.e. showing the total required investment was made and that the investment created 10 full time jobs either directly or indirectly during the two-year period). If the petition is approved, then the foreign national obtains the unconditional Alien Card, which is full permanent residency in the US.

A Regional Center is defined as any economic unit, public or private, engaged in the promotion of economic growth, improved regional productivity, job creation and increased domestic capital investment. Prior law required the investment in the Regional Center to generate an increase in export sales, however statutory amendments in 2000 and 2002 no longer require this increase. The individual receiving the visa is not required to actively manage the business invested in.

Foreign national investors who wish to invest their personal funds in their own new or existing business or operation, and who wish to have an active role in the direction and management of the U.S. operation should consider the traditional EB-5 process. An investment of either US\$1 million or US \$500,000 will be required.

Foreign national investors who prefer a more passive role in the management of their investment should consider the EB5 Regional Program.

For further information about investing in Florida through the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Visa Program; please contact Enterprise Florida's International Trade & Business Development Division in Coral Gables, Florida at 305-808-3660.

For specific program details and information on the application process, please [visit the official United States Citizenship & Immigration Services \(USCIS\) Investor Visa webpage](#).