

basis in accordance with the plan of care.

- Section 486.525(a)(1), to provide professional services, including nursing services.
- Section 486.525(a)(2), to address the requirement for patient education and training to be available for patients on a 7 day a week, 24 hour a day basis in accordance with the plan of care.
- Section 486.525(a)(3), to address the requirement of remote monitoring for the provision of HIT and home infusion drugs.

#### B. Term of Approval

Based on the review and observations described in section III. of this final notice, we have determined that ACHC's requirements for HITs meet or exceed our requirements. Therefore, we approve ACHC as a national accreditation organization for HITs that request participation in the Medicare program, effective April 23, 2024 through April 23, 2030.

#### VI. Collection of Information Requirements

This document does not impose information collection requirements, that is, reporting, recordkeeping, or third-party disclosure requirements. Consequently, there is no need for review by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, having reviewed and approved this document, authorizes Trenesha Fultz-Mimms, who is the Federal Register Liaison, to electronically sign this document for purposes of publication in the **Federal Register**.

**Trenesha Fultz-Mimms,**

*Federal Register Liaison, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

[FR Doc. 2024-07884 Filed 4-12-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

##### National Institutes of Health

##### National Institute on Drug Abuse; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections

552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute on Drug Abuse Special Emphasis Panel; NIDA REI-Reaching Equity at the Intersection of HIV and Substance Use: Novel Approaches to Address HIV Related Health Disparities in Minority Populations.

*Date:* April 26, 2024.

*Time:* 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse, 301 North Stonestreet Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Sudhirkumar U. Yanpallewar, M.D., Scientific Review Officer, Scientific Review Branch, National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH 301 North Stonestreet Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 443-4577, [sudhirkumar.yanpallewar@nih.gov](mailto:sudhirkumar.yanpallewar@nih.gov).

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.277, Drug Abuse Scientist Development Award for Clinicians, Scientist Development Awards, and Research Scientist Awards; 93.278, Drug Abuse National Research Service Awards for Research Training; 93.279, Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Programs, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 10, 2024.

**Lauren A. Fleck,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2024-07885 Filed 4-12-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

##### U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

[Docket No. ICEB-2024-0005]

RIN 1653-ZA49

##### Employment Authorization for Certain Palestinian F-1 Nonimmigrant Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship as a Direct Result of the Current Humanitarian Crisis in the Palestinian Territories

**AGENCY:** U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is suspending certain regulatory requirements for certain Palestinian F-1 nonimmigrant students who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories. The Secretary is providing relief to these students who are in lawful F-1 nonimmigrant status, so the students may request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F-1 nonimmigrant status.

**DATES:** This action for certain Palestinian F-1 nonimmigrant students covered by this notice began on February 14, 2024, and ends on August 13, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Snyder, Unit Chief, Policy and Response Unit, Student and Exchange Visitor Program, MS 5600, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), 500 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20536-5600; email: [sevp@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:sevp@ice.dhs.gov), telephone: (703) 603-3400. This is not a toll-free number. Program information can be found at <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For the purposes of this Notice, ICE intends to cover non-U.S. citizens of any nationality, or without nationality, who are Palestinian. F-1 nonimmigrant students who possesses any of the following authentic documents,<sup>1</sup> though not limited to the list below, regardless of the document's validity period<sup>2</sup> or expiration may be eligible for this relief:

- a Palestinian Authority Passport;
- a Palestinian Authority Identification Card;
- a Birth Certificate or Birth Extract verified or issued by a recognized governmental authority identifying the holder as having been born in the Palestinian Territories;
- an identification document issued by a third country, the United Nations, its specialized agencies and related organizations, or the International Committee of the Red Cross, indicating the holder is a Palestinian; or
- a travel document issued by a third country, the United Nations, its

<sup>1</sup> On June 14, 2007, Hamas, designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State in accordance with INA section 219, took de facto administrative control of Gaza, including issuance of civil documents for the territory. Identity documents issued by Hamas after June 14, 2007, will not be accepted, unless verified by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

<sup>2</sup> The term validity period is used in reference to the length of time a document can be used for purposes of travel or identification prior to the expiration date.

specialized agencies and related organizations, or the International Committee of the Red Cross, identifying the holder as a Palestinian.

#### What action is DHS taking under this notice?

The Secretary is exercising the authority under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9) to temporarily suspend the applicability of certain requirements governing on-campus and off-campus employment for certain F–1 nonimmigrant students who are Palestinian, who were lawfully present in the United States in F–1 nonimmigrant student status as of February 14, 2024, and who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories. Effective with this publication, suspension of the employment limitations is available through August 13, 2025, for those who were in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant status on February 14, 2024. DHS will deem an F–1 nonimmigrant student granted employment authorization through this notice to be engaged in a “full course of study” for the duration of the employment authorization, if the student satisfies the minimum course load set forth in this notice.<sup>3</sup> See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(F).

#### Who is covered by this notice?

This notice applies exclusively to F–1 nonimmigrant students who meet all of the following conditions:

- (1) Possesses any authentic document described in the Supplementary Information section of this Notice;
- (2) Were lawfully present in the United States on February 14, 2024, in F–1 nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i);
- (3) Are enrolled in an academic institution that is Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified for enrollment for F–1 nonimmigrant students;
- (4) Are currently maintaining F–1 nonimmigrant status; and
- (5) Are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories.

<sup>3</sup> Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F–1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a “full course of study,” see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of August 14, 2025, provided the student satisfies the minimum course load requirements in this notice.

This notice applies to F–1 nonimmigrant students in an approved private school in kindergarten through grade 12, public school grades 9 through 12, and undergraduate and graduate education. An F–1 nonimmigrant student covered by this notice who transfers to another SEVP-certified academic institution remains eligible for the relief provided by means of this notice.

#### Why is DHS taking this action?

DHS is taking action to provide relief to certain Palestinian F–1 nonimmigrant students experiencing severe economic hardship due to the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories. Based on its review of the conditions in the Palestinian Territories and input received from the U.S. Department of State (DOS), DHS is taking action to allow certain eligible Palestinian F–1 nonimmigrant students to request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain F–1 nonimmigrant student status.

On February 14, 2024, President Joseph Biden issued a memorandum to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of DHS to defer for 18 months the removal of certain Palestinians present in the United States by implementing Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for those eligible individuals.<sup>4</sup> This action came in the wake of the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel, and Israel’s ensuing military response, which has resulted in the humanitarian conditions in the Palestinian Territories, primarily Gaza, significantly deteriorating. Because of these conditions, DHS is now taking action so eligible Palestinian F–1 nonimmigrant students may request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain F–1 nonimmigrant student status.

#### What is the minimum course load requirement to maintain valid F–1 nonimmigrant status under this notice?

Undergraduate F–1 nonimmigrant students who receive on-campus or off-campus employment authorization under this notice must remain registered for a minimum of six semester or

quarter hours of instruction per academic term. Undergraduate F–1 nonimmigrant students enrolled in a term of different duration must register for at least one half of the credit hours normally required under a “full course of study.” See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(B) and (F). A graduate-level F–1 nonimmigrant student who receives on-campus or off-campus employment authorization under this notice must remain registered for a minimum of three semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(v). Nothing in this notice affects the applicability of other minimum course load requirements set by the academic institution.

In addition, an F–1 nonimmigrant student (either undergraduate or graduate) granted on-campus or off-campus employment authorization under this notice may count up to the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter of online or distance education toward satisfying this minimum course load requirement, unless their course of study is in an English language study program. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G). An F–1 nonimmigrant student attending an approved private school in kindergarten through grade 12 or public school in grades 9 through 12 must maintain “class attendance for not less than the minimum number of hours a week prescribed by the school for normal progress toward graduation,” as required under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(E). Nothing in this notice affects the applicability of federal and state labor laws limiting the employment of minors.

#### May an eligible F–1 nonimmigrant student who already has on-campus or off-campus employment authorization benefit from the suspension of regulatory requirements under this notice?

Yes. An F–1 nonimmigrant student who is Palestinian, who already has on-campus or off-campus employment authorization and is otherwise eligible may benefit under this notice, which suspends certain regulatory requirements relating to the minimum course load requirement under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i) and certain employment eligibility requirements under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9). Such an eligible F–1 nonimmigrant student may benefit without having to apply for a new Form I–766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD). To benefit from this notice, the F–1 nonimmigrant student must request that their designated school official (DSO) enter the following statement in the remarks field of the

<sup>4</sup> Memorandum on the Deferred Enforced Departure for Certain Palestinians, The White House, Feb. 14, 2024, available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/02/14/memorandum-on-the-deferred-enforced-departure-for-certain-palestinians/> (last visited Feb. 27, 2024).

student's Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record, which the student's Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status, will reflect:

Approved for more than 20 hours per week of [DSO must insert "on-campus" or "off-campus," depending upon the type of employment authorization the student already has] employment authorization and reduced course load under the Special Student Relief authorization from [DSO must insert the beginning date of the notice or the beginning date of the student's employment, whichever date is later] until [DSO must insert either the student's program end date, the current EAD expiration date (if the student is currently authorized for off-campus employment), or the end date of this notice, whichever date comes first].<sup>5</sup>

*Must the F-1 nonimmigrant student apply for reinstatement after expiration of this special employment authorization if the student reduces his or her "full course of study"?*

No. DHS will deem an F-1 nonimmigrant student who receives and comports with the employment authorization permitted under this notice to be engaged in a "full course of study"<sup>6</sup> for the duration of the student's employment authorization, provided that a qualifying undergraduate level F-1 nonimmigrant student remains registered for a minimum of six semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term, and a qualifying graduate level F-1 nonimmigrant student remains registered for a minimum of three semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(v) and (f)(6)(i)(F). Undergraduate F-1 nonimmigrant students enrolled in a term of different duration must register for at least one half of the credit hours normally required under a "full course of study." See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(B) and (F). DHS will not require such students to apply for reinstatement under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(16) if they are otherwise maintaining F-1 nonimmigrant status.

<sup>5</sup> Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F-1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a "full course of study," see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of August 14, 2025, provided the student satisfies the minimum course load requirements in this notice.

<sup>6</sup> See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6).

*Will an F-2 dependent (spouse or minor child) of an F-1 nonimmigrant student covered by this notice be eligible for employment authorization?*

No. An F-2 spouse or minor child of an F-1 nonimmigrant student is not authorized to work in the United States and, therefore, may not accept employment while in F-2 nonimmigrant status. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(15)(i).

*Will the suspension of the applicability of the standard student employment requirements apply to an individual who received an initial F-1 visa and makes an initial entry into the United States after the effective date of this notice in the Federal Register?*

No. The suspension of the applicability of the standard regulatory requirements only applies to certain F-1 nonimmigrant students who meet the following conditions:

(1) Possesses any authentic document described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this Notice;

(2) Were lawfully present in the United States on February 14, 2024, in F-1 nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i);

(3) Are enrolled in an academic institution that is Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified for enrollment for F-1 nonimmigrant students;

(4) Are currently maintaining F-1 nonimmigrant status; and

(5) Are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories.

An F-1 nonimmigrant student who does not meet all these requirements is ineligible for the suspension of the applicability of the standard regulatory requirements (even if experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories).

*Does this notice apply to a continuing F-1 nonimmigrant student who departs the United States after the effective date of this notice in the Federal Register and who needs to obtain a new F-1 visa before returning to the United States to continue an educational program?*

Yes. This notice applies to such an F-1 nonimmigrant student, but only if the DSO has properly notated the student's SEVIS record, which will then appear on the student's Form I-20. The normal rules for visa issuance remain applicable to a nonimmigrant who needs to apply for a new F-1 visa to

continue an educational program in the United States.

*Does this notice apply to elementary school, middle school, and high school students in F-1 status?*

Yes. However, this notice does not by itself reduce the required course load for Palestinian F-1 nonimmigrant students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 at a private school, or grades 9 through 12 at a public high school. Such students must maintain the minimum number of hours of class attendance per week prescribed by the academic institution for normal progress toward graduation, as required under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(E). The suspension of certain regulatory requirements related to employment through this notice is applicable to all eligible F-1 nonimmigrant students regardless of educational level. Eligible Palestinian F-1 nonimmigrant students enrolled in an elementary school, middle school, or high school do benefit from the suspension of the requirement in 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(i) that limits on-campus employment to 20 hours per week while school is in session.

#### **On-Campus Employment Authorization**

*Will an F-1 nonimmigrant student who receives on-campus employment authorization under this notice be authorized to work more than 20 hours per week while school is in session?*

Yes. For an F-1 nonimmigrant student covered in this notice, the Secretary is suspending the applicability of the requirement in 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(i) that limits an F-1 nonimmigrant student's on-campus employment to 20 hours per week while school is in session. An eligible F-1 nonimmigrant student has authorization to work more than 20 hours per week while school is in session if the DSO has entered the following statement in the remarks field of the student's SEVIS record, which will be reflected on the student's Form I-20:

Approved for more than 20 hours per week of on-campus employment and reduced course load, under the Special Student Relief authorization from [DSO must insert the beginning date of this notice or the beginning date of the student's employment, whichever date is later] until [DSO must insert the student's program end date or the end date of this notice, whichever date comes first].<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F-1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a "full course of study," see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the

To obtain on-campus employment authorization, the F–1 nonimmigrant student must demonstrate to the DSO that the employment is necessary to avoid severe economic hardship directly resulting from the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories. An F–1 nonimmigrant student authorized by the DSO to engage in on-campus employment by means of this notice does not need to file any applications with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The standard rules permitting full-time employment on-campus when school is not in session or during school vacations apply, as described in 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(i).

*Will an F–1 nonimmigrant student who receives on-campus employment authorization under this notice have authorization to reduce the normal course load and still maintain his or her F–1 nonimmigrant student status?*

Yes. DHS will deem an F–1 nonimmigrant student who receives on-campus employment authorization under this notice to be engaged in a “full course of study”<sup>8</sup> for the purpose of maintaining their F–1 nonimmigrant student status for the duration of the on-campus employment, if the student satisfies the minimum course load requirement described in this notice, consistent with 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(F). However, the authorization to reduce the normal course load is solely for DHS purposes of determining valid F–1 nonimmigrant student status. Nothing in this notice mandates that school officials allow an F–1 nonimmigrant student to take a reduced course load if the reduction would not meet the academic institution’s minimum course load requirement for continued enrollment.<sup>9</sup>

### Off-Campus Employment Authorization

*What regulatory requirements does this notice temporarily suspend relating to off-campus employment?*

For an F–1 student covered by this notice, as provided under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(ii)(A), the Secretary is suspending the following regulatory requirements relating to off-campus employment:

end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of August 14, 2025, provided the student satisfies the minimum course load requirements in this notice.

<sup>8</sup> See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6).

<sup>9</sup> Minimum course load requirement for enrollment in a school must be established in a publicly available document (e.g., catalog, website, or operating procedure), and it must be a standard applicable to all students (U.S. citizens and foreign students) enrolled at the school.

(a) The requirement that a student must have been in F–1 nonimmigrant student status for one full academic year to be eligible for off-campus employment;

(b) The requirement that an F–1 nonimmigrant student must demonstrate that acceptance of employment will not interfere with the student’s carrying a full course of study;

(c) The requirement that limits an F–1 nonimmigrant student’s employment authorization to no more than 20 hours per week of off-campus employment while the school is in session; and

(d) The requirement that the student demonstrate that employment under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(i) is unavailable or otherwise insufficient to meet the needs that have arisen as a result of the unforeseen circumstances.

*Will an F–1 nonimmigrant student who receives off-campus employment authorization under this notice have authorization to reduce the normal course load and still maintain F–1 nonimmigrant student status?*

Yes. DHS will deem an F–1 nonimmigrant student who receives off-campus employment authorization by means of this notice to be engaged in a “full course of study”<sup>10</sup> for the purpose of maintaining F–1 nonimmigrant student status for the duration of the student’s employment authorization if the student satisfies the minimum course load requirement described in this notice, consistent with 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(F). The authorization for a reduced course load is solely for DHS purposes of determining valid F–1 nonimmigrant student status. Nothing in this notice mandates that school officials allow an F–1 nonimmigrant student to take a reduced course load if such reduced course load would not meet the school’s minimum course load requirement.<sup>11</sup>

*How may an eligible F–1 nonimmigrant student obtain employment authorization for off-campus employment with a reduced course load under this notice?*

An F–1 nonimmigrant student must file a Form I–765, Application for Employment Authorization, with USCIS to apply for off-campus employment authorization based on severe economic hardship directly resulting from the current humanitarian crisis in the

<sup>10</sup> See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6).

<sup>11</sup> Minimum course load requirement for enrollment in a school must be established in a publicly available document (e.g., catalog, website, or operating procedure), and it must be a standard applicable to all students (U.S. citizens and foreign students) enrolled at the school.

Palestinian Territories.<sup>12</sup> Filing instructions are located at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>.

*Fee considerations.* Submission of a Form I–765 currently requires payment of a \$520 fee. An applicant who is unable to pay the fee may submit a completed Form I–912, Request for Fee Waiver, along with the Form I–765, Application for Employment Authorization. See <https://www.uscis.gov/i-912>. The submission must include an explanation about why USCIS should grant the fee waiver and the reason(s) for the inability to pay, and any evidence to support the reason(s). See 8 CFR 106.2 and 106.3.

*Supporting documentation.* An F–1 nonimmigrant student seeking off-campus employment authorization due to severe economic hardship must demonstrate the following to their DSO:

(1) This employment is necessary to avoid severe economic hardship; and

(2) The hardship is a direct result of the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories.

If the DSO agrees that the F–1 nonimmigrant student is entitled to receive such employment authorization, the DSO must recommend application approval to USCIS by entering the following statement in the remarks field of the student’s SEVIS record, which will then appear on that student’s Form I–20:

Recommended for off-campus employment authorization in excess of 20 hours per week and reduced course load under the Special Student Relief authorization from the date of the USCIS authorization noted on Form I–766 until [DSO must insert the program end date or the end date of this notice, whichever date comes first].<sup>13</sup>

The F–1 nonimmigrant student must then file the properly endorsed Form I–20 and Form I–765 according to the instructions for the Form I–765. The F–1 nonimmigrant student may begin working off-campus only upon receipt of the EAD from USCIS.

*DSO recommendation.* In making a recommendation that an F–1 nonimmigrant student be approved for Special Student Relief, the DSO certifies that:

(a) The F–1 nonimmigrant student is in good academic standing and is

<sup>12</sup> See 8 CFR 274a.12(c)(3)(iii).

<sup>13</sup> Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F–1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a “full course of study,” see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of August 14, 2025, provided the student satisfies the minimum course load requirements in this notice.

carrying a “full course of study”<sup>14</sup> at the time of the request for employment authorization;

(b) The F–1 nonimmigrant student is a Palestinian, and is experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories, as documented on the Form I–20;

(c) The F–1 nonimmigrant student has confirmed that the student will comply with the reduced course load requirements of this notice and register for the duration of the authorized employment for a minimum of six semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term if at the undergraduate level, or for a minimum of three semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term if at the graduate level;<sup>15</sup> and

(d) The off-campus employment is necessary to alleviate severe economic hardship to the individual as a direct result of the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories.

*Processing.* To facilitate prompt adjudication of the student’s application for off-campus employment authorization under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(ii)(C), the F–1 nonimmigrant student should do both of the following:

(a) Ensure that the application package includes all of the following documents:

(1) A completed Form I–765 with all applicable supporting evidence;

(2) The required fee or properly documented fee waiver request as defined in 8 CFR 106.2 and 106.3; and

(3) A signed and dated copy of the student’s Form I–20 with the appropriate DSO recommendation, as previously described in this notice; and

(b) Send the application in an envelope which is clearly marked on the front of the envelope, bottom right-hand side, with the phrase “SPECIAL STUDENT RELIEF.”<sup>16</sup> Failure to include this notation may result in significant processing delays.

If USCIS approves the student’s Form I–765, USCIS will send the student a Form I–766 EAD as evidence of employment authorization. The EAD will contain an expiration date that does not exceed the end of the granted temporary relief.

### Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) Considerations

*Can an F–1 nonimmigrant student apply for a DED-related EAD and for benefits under this notice at the same time?*

Yes. Although they are not required to apply for a DED-related EAD, if an eligible F–1 nonimmigrant student wants to obtain such an EAD, the student must file Form I–765 and pay the related fee (or request a fee waiver). The F–1 student may also apply for Special Student Relief under this notice by requesting that the DSO notate on their Form I–20 in SEVIS that the student has been authorized to carry a reduced course load and is permitted to work an increased number of hours under Special Student Relief while school is in session. The DSO should also notate on the Form I–20 that the student is working pursuant to a DED-related EAD. As long as the F–1 nonimmigrant student maintains the minimum course load described in this notice, does not otherwise violate the student’s nonimmigrant status, including as provided under 8 CFR 214.1(g), and remains covered under DED, then the student maintains F–1 nonimmigrant status and DED concurrently.

*When a student applies simultaneously for a DED-related EAD and benefits under this notice, what is the minimum course load requirement while an application for employment authorization is pending?*

The F–1 nonimmigrant student must maintain normal course load requirements for a “full course of study”<sup>17</sup> unless or until the F–1 nonimmigrant student is granted employment authorization under this notice. DED-related employment authorization, by itself, does not authorize a nonimmigrant student to drop below twelve credit hours, or otherwise applicable minimum requirements (e.g., clock hours for non-traditional academic programs). Once approved for a DED-related EAD and Special Student Relief employment authorization, as indicated by the DSO’s required entry in SEVIS and issuance of an updated Form I–20, the F–1 nonimmigrant student may drop below twelve credit hours, or otherwise applicable minimum requirements (with a minimum of six semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term if the student is at the undergraduate level, or a minimum of three semester or quarter hours of instruction per academic term if the student is at the

graduate level). See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(v), 214.2(f)(6), 214.2(f)(9)(i) and (ii).

*How does an F–1 student who has received a DED-related EAD then apply for authorization to take a reduced course load under this notice?*

There is no further application process with USCIS if a student has been approved for a DED-related EAD. However, the F–1 nonimmigrant student must demonstrate and provide documentation to the DSO of severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories. The DSO will then verify and update the student’s SEVIS record to enable the F–1 nonimmigrant student with DED to reduce their course load without any further action or application. No other EAD needs to be issued for the F–1 nonimmigrant student to have employment authorization.

*Can a noncitizen who has been granted a DED-related EAD apply for reinstatement to F–1 nonimmigrant student status after the noncitizen’s F–1 nonimmigrant student status has lapsed?*

Yes. Current regulations permit certain students who fall out of F–1 nonimmigrant student status to apply for reinstatement. See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(16). This provision might apply to students who worked on a DED-related EAD or dropped their course load before February 14, 2024, and therefore fell out of F–1 nonimmigrant status. The student must satisfy the criteria set forth in the F–1 nonimmigrant student status reinstatement regulations.

*How long will this notice remain in effect?*

This notice grants temporary relief through August 13, 2025,<sup>18</sup> to eligible F–1 nonimmigrant students. DHS will continue to monitor the situation in the Palestinian Territories. Should the special provisions authorized by this notice need modification or extension, DHS will announce such changes in the **Federal Register**.

<sup>18</sup> Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F–1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a “full course of study,” see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of August 14, 2025, provided the student satisfies the minimum course load requirement in this notice.

<sup>14</sup> See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6).

<sup>15</sup> 8 CFR 214.2(f)(5)(v).

<sup>16</sup> Guidance for direct filing addresses can be found here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765-addresses>.

<sup>17</sup> See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6).

**Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)**

An F–1 nonimmigrant student seeking off-campus employment authorization due to severe economic hardship resulting from the current humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories must demonstrate to the DSO that this employment is necessary to avoid severe economic hardship. A DSO who agrees that a nonimmigrant student should receive such employment authorization must recommend an application approval to USCIS by entering information in the remarks field of the student's SEVIS record. The authority to collect this information is in the SEVIS collection of information currently approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 1653–0038.

This notice also allows an eligible F–1 nonimmigrant student to request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while the academic institution is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain F–1 nonimmigrant student status.

To apply for employment authorization, certain F–1 nonimmigrant students must complete and submit a currently approved Form I–765 according to the instructions on the form. OMB has previously approved the collection of information contained on the current Form I–765, consistent with the PRA (OMB Control No. 1615–0040). Although there will be a slight increase in the number of Form I–765 filings because of this notice, the number of filings currently contained in the OMB annual inventory for Form I–765 is sufficient to cover the additional filings. Accordingly, there is no further action required under the PRA.

**Alejandro Mayorkas,**

*Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.*

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**BILLING CODE 9111–CB–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY****U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

[Docket No. ICEB–2024–0004]

RIN 1653–ZA48

**Employment Authorization for Ethiopian F–1 Nonimmigrant Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship as a Direct Result of the Current Armed Conflict and the Current Humanitarian Crisis in Ethiopia**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Homeland Security is suspending certain regulatory requirements for F–1 nonimmigrant students from Ethiopia who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current armed conflict and the current humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia. The Secretary is providing relief to these students who are in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant status, so the students may request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F–1 nonimmigrant status.

**DATES:** This action is effective June 13, 2024, through December 12, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Snyder, Unit Chief, Policy and Response Unit, Student and Exchange Visitor Program, MS 5600, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20536–5600; email: [sevp@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:sevp@ice.dhs.gov), telephone: (703) 603–3400. This is not a toll-free number. Program information can be found at <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****What action is DHS taking under this notice?**

The Secretary is exercising authority under 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9) to temporarily suspend the applicability of certain requirements governing on-campus and off-campus employment for F–1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Ethiopia regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Ethiopia), who are present in the United States in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant student status on the date of publication of this notice, and who are experiencing severe economic

hardship as a direct result of the current armed conflict and the current humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia. The original notice, which applied to F–1 nonimmigrant students who met certain criteria, including having been lawfully present in the United States in F–1 nonimmigrant status on December 12, 2022, was effective from December 12, 2022, through June 12, 2024. See 87 FR 76068 (Dec. 12, 2022). Effective with this publication, suspension of the employment limitations is available through December 12, 2025, for those who are in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant status on the date of publication of this notice. DHS will deem an F–1 nonimmigrant student granted employment authorization through this Notice to be engaged in a “full course of study” for the duration of the employment authorization, if the student satisfies the minimum course load set forth in this notice.<sup>1</sup> See 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(F).

**Who is covered by this notice?**

This notice applies exclusively to F–1 nonimmigrant students who meet all of the following conditions:

(1) Are a citizen of Ethiopia regardless of country of birth (or an individual having no nationality who last habitually resided in Ethiopia);

(2) Were lawfully present in the United States on the date of publication of this notice in F–1 nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i);

(3) Are enrolled in an academic institution that is Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified for enrollment for F–1 nonimmigrant students;

(4) Are currently maintaining F–1 nonimmigrant status; and

(5) Are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current armed conflict and the current humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia.

This notice applies to F–1 nonimmigrant students in an approved private school in kindergarten through grade 12, public school grades 9 through 12, and undergraduate and graduate education. An F–1 nonimmigrant student covered by this notice who

<sup>1</sup> Because the suspension of requirements under this notice applies throughout an academic term during which the suspension is in effect, DHS considers an F–1 nonimmigrant student who engages in a reduced course load or employment (or both) after this notice is effective to be engaging in a “full course of study,” see 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6), and eligible for employment authorization, through the end of any academic term for which such student is matriculated as of December 12, 2025, provided the student satisfies the minimum course load requirements in this notice.