

How to Obtain Proof of Permanent Residence When Your Green Card is Expired



Travel Abroad



Renew Driver's License



Accept a Job



Apply for a Mortgage

The green card renewal process can take over six months. You may need more urgent proof of permanent resident status to travel abroad, renew a driver's license, get a new job, or apply for a mortgage. In these cases, you can get an I-551 stamp in your passport as a substitute for your green card. Follow these steps to quickly get your proof of permanent residence.

1. Prepare and File Form I-90

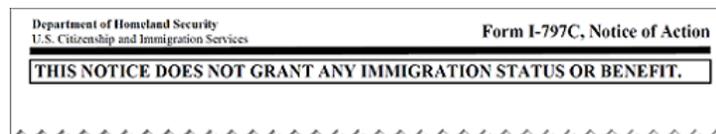
To renew a green card, you'll need to file Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card, and a \$540 filing fee with USCIS. You may download the application directly from [USCIS.gov](https://uscis.gov) and prepare it on your own. Or CitizenPath.com provides a low-cost service designed by immigration attorneys that helps you prepare the application in about 15 minutes. The service helps to eliminate common I-90 errors, delays and rejections. We even guarantee USCIS acceptance.

2. Schedule a USCIS Appointment

Use the [USCIS InfoPass](#) system to make an appointment at a USCIS office near you. Schedule the appointment at least two weeks into the future. You'll need the I-797, Notice of Action, (see step 3 below) before you can attend the appointment. Some offices can become busy and appointments are not available. You may attempt to visit your local USCIS office as a walk-in (many offices will not permit walk-ins) or find another office. Print your appointment notice.

3. Await the I-797 Notice of Action

Approximately two weeks after filing, USCIS will mail you Form I-797, Notice of Action, by mail. This is a "receipt letter" that proves your application has been accepted and is in process. This letter is not proof of your permanent residence. But it's necessary documentation for the next step.



4. Attend USCIS Appointment for I-551 Stamp

Appear at your local USCIS office for the scheduled appointment. Be sure to take the following items to the appointment:

- ✓ Valid, unexpired passport
- ✓ InfoPass appointment notice (if applicable)
- ✓ Form I-797 Notice of Action
- ✓ Expired green card (or copy of lost card if available)

If your request is urgent, take additional documents as evidence of your need for the I-551 stamp. Examples include airline tickets, travel itinerary, letter from lender, doctor's letter about sick relative or death certificate, company letter, etc.