

All 10,000 Crime Victim Visas Issued

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The USCIS has issued all 10,000 visas available this year for immigrant crime victims who help authorities investigate and prosecute perpetrators. The last of this fiscal year's supply of visas was approved on July 15, marking the first time the "U" visa limit has been since the program became active in 2008.

Until October 2010, when the new fiscal year begins, the federal government will be granting interim legal status to non-citizens whose applications are approved for the visas so they can work. Starting in October, another 10,000 visas will be available.

The visas are given to illegal immigrants, who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other crimes in exchange for cooperation with law enforcement. The milestone highlights challenges law enforcement officers face in investigating and prosecuting crimes involving illegal immigrants, who are too afraid of deportation to report crimes.