DHS USCIS Office of Information Technology (OIT)

USCIS – Torch API Program

Developer Onboarding Guide

v1.0

June 23, 2022

Product Owner: Amanda Damewood

Email: amanda.f.damewood@uscis.dhs.gov

Platform Owner: Steven R. Grunch

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Document History				
Date	Revision	Description of Change	Created By	Approved By
6/22/2022	1.1	First version	Aqeel Butt	

Approver(s) Signature
Signature(s) below constitute approval of this application procedure.

_____   _____

Name, Title   Date

1.0   DOCUMENT PURPOSE

Provide external consumers information related USCIS Torch Program, Torch Developer Portal and how they can leverage it to consume available API products.

This document will provide you all relevant information related to:
- USCIS's vision for Torch API Products
- Overview of Torch Developer Portal
- Get started with consuming SandBox API Products

2.0   SCOPE

This onboarding document includes all information related to the below listed topics:
- Why Torch API Program?
- Torch Developer Portal information
  - Developer **Sign Up** Requirements
  - API **Catalog**
  - API **Documentation**
  - USCIS **Domains**
  - **Bulletins** and etc.
- Available **Environments**
  - SandBox
  - Production
- Path to **Production**
  - Approval Process
- **Getting Started** with Case Status
- **Rules** of **Behavior**
- Status **Monitoring**

3.0   USCIS TORCH API PROGRAM

USCIS has been on a digital transformation journey. One of USCIS's biggest goals has been to improve and optimize the processing of all forms being used to apply for immigration benefits. There has been a lot of development done internally to improve integrations between several systems that USCIS uses to process various benefits. USCIS has been following an API first approach internally. This allows internal systems to speak to each other using industry standard approaches. .

As improvements continue to be made to improve security, technical architectures, and scalability of these applications, USCIS is also committed to improving business processes that enable faster processing times. Based on industry feedback, we understand that our biggest customers use case management systems that enable efficient completion of the various forms we process. Currently our customers print out completed forms and mail them to one of USCIS.

With the availability of our API products, submission via printing and mailing will become more and more inefficient due to cost and the time it takes to get a form to an internal USCIS system for processing. With the Torch API Program, we plan to securely expose externalized versions of our internal API products. Based on industry feedback, the systems being used by our biggest

customers can integrate with our API products directly, enabling a secure digital payload exchange. This will improve processing times and overall customer experience.

We plan to expose our API Products in an incremental fashion, including sandbox APIs to initiate testing with interested customers. We will be releasing API Products as they are completed. All information regarding API Products will be found on the Torch Developer Portal.

4.0   TORCH DEVELOPER PORTAL

The Torch Developer Portal provides a **Marketplace** experience that allows **USCIS** to seamlessly **produce** and **secure** APIs being **maintained** by several developers. All users are "developers" in the marketplace.

The platform gives USCIS the ability to present **Open API Specifications** for efficient and quick **testing** of ours API products directly from the **UI**. Depending on the API, you can have a different **authentication** protocol securing our endpoints, this information will be available as part of the documentation to ensure a **successful test**.

The Torch **API Catalog** is structured using **USCIS Domain Driven Design** approach. Based on the "type" of functionality you are looking for; you will be able to **search** through the **different domains** to find the right API. Below are the **Domains** for reference:

- Adjudication
- Content Management
- Correspondence & Scheduling
- Customer Service
- Intake
- Mission Support
- Risk & Fraud
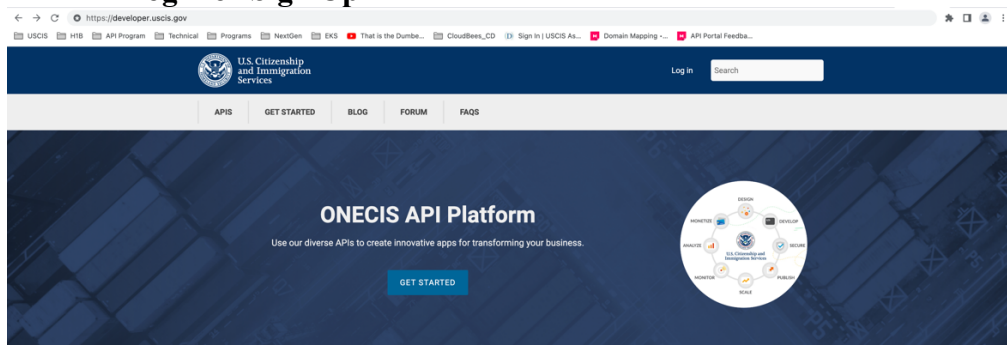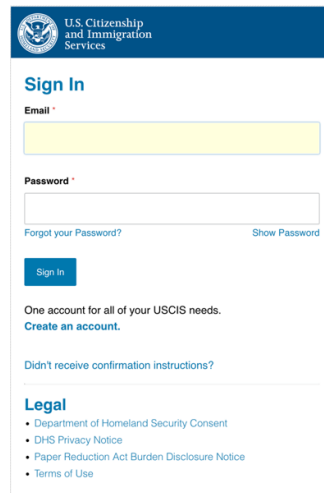- Identity Management

5.0   ACCESS REQUESTS

All access requests including API Credentials are managed through the Torch Developer Portal. Developers are required to create an account at https://myaccount.uscis.gov.
NOTE: Please use your corporate email to sign up.

The same account is used to login to the Torch Developer Portal. The Torch Platform can be accessed at: https://developer.uscis.gov

- Click on **Login or Sign Up**

Torch Platform has 2 types of roles for consumers looking to consume USCIS API Products.

- **SandBox Developer (Default)**
    - Non-Production API Product Consumers
- **Production Developer (Approval Required)**
    - Production API Product Consumers

After successfully logging in using your USCIS myaccount credentials, every developer is assigned the SandBox Developer role. This should give you the ability to create a **Developer App** in the Torch Platform to select and request access to different API Products. As part of the App creation, you are automatically assigned OAuth 2.0 Client Credentials, which you can use to authenticate your commercial system and consume different API products.

6.0   ENVIRONMENTS

USCIS will begin the Torch API Program by offering Non-Production API Products, which are only intended for testing. USCIS will communicate updates around Production access and any additional requirements through the Torch Developer Portal.
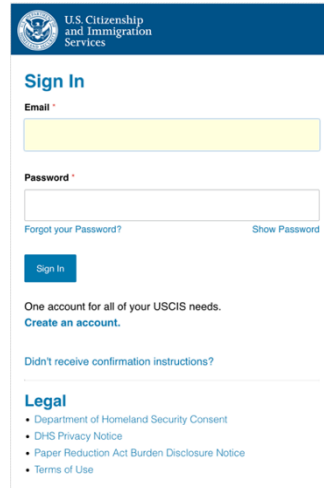
The 2 environments are represented by different base paths as show below:
- **SandBox External**
    - https://api-int.uscis.gov/

- **Production External**
    - https://api.uscis.gov/

All USCIS API endpoints will start with the corresponding base paths. All specific API Product information will be part of the API Documentation.

7.0   GETTING STARTED
- Create USCIS MyAccount (Use corporate email) - https://myaccount.uscis.gov.

- Login to the Torch Developer Portal - https://developer.uscis.gov

- Once logged in to the portal, create a Developer **App – Add App**

- The Developer **App** will automatically get **OAuth 2.0** credentials assigned to use for authenticating API calls
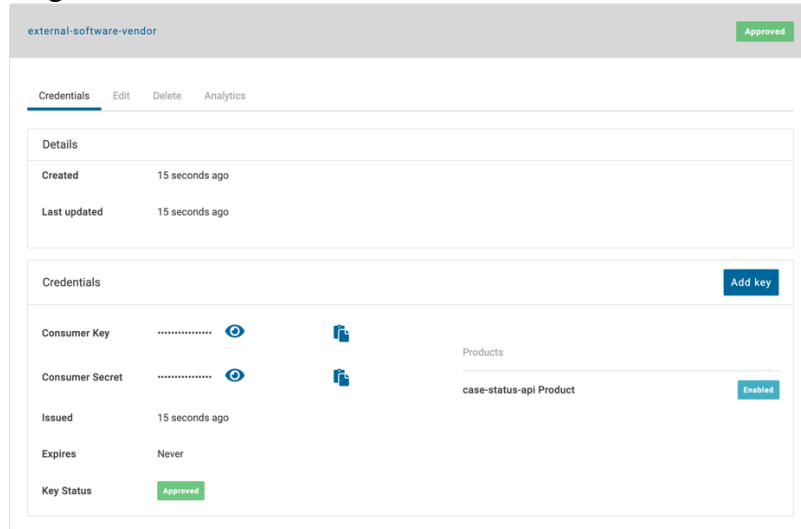
- Check the **API Documentation** for specific **integration** testing and sample **payloads**

8.0   RULES OF BEHAVIOR (ROB)

All customers of the Torch API Program will be required to follow the rules of behavior to consume USCIS API Products.

- Any access provided to your entity, will only be used by your entity ONLY
- You will leverage the API access to do LEGAL business practices ONLY
- Following the shared responsibility model, Security of your application is your responsibility. If any abuse is detected, access might revoke permanently

9.0   TECHNICAL SUPPORT MODEL

Technical support will be provided through USCIS Helpdesk.