USCIS – Torch API Program

Developer Onboarding Guide

v1.0

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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 our 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/](https://api-int.uscis.gov/)
- **Production External**
  - [https://api.uscis.gov/](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/](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

![OAuth 2.0 credentials](image)

• 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.