



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Region V
Health Care Financing
Administration

Refer to: SQC8

105 West Adams Street
15th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603

May 1995

CHICAGO REGIONAL STATE LETTER NO.: 34-95

SUBJECT: One-year Extension for Lawful Permanent Resident Aliens to Renew Green Cards--ACTION

The purpose of this letter is to inform Region V States that the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has been advised by the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that the period for replacement of green cards issued before 1979 has been extended until March 20, 1996.

INS published a regulation in the Federal Register on March 17 providing for this extension. The extension will allow applicants to receive the new counterfeit-resistant Form I-551 green card, which replaces the old Form I-151 issued prior to 1979. INS will continue to honor the old I-151 cards in order to avoid confusion over employment rights and entitlement benefits for those lawful permanent residents who either have not yet applied for the new card or are awaiting receipt of the document.

We are advising the States to encourage lawful permanent resident aliens seeking entitlement benefits to apply for the new I-551 green card as soon as possible. Individuals seeking to replace their green cards may be referred to the INS toll-free number (800) 755-0777 for information on how and where to apply for the new card.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this important matter. If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Donald K. Hart at (312)353-5928.

Sina Ann Mercado
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