

## Department of State Announces Electronic Filing Procedure for 2011 Diversity Visa "Lottery"

**September 30, 2009** - The State Department has released information on how to apply for immigrant visas under the Diversity Visa (DV) "Lottery" Program for fiscal year 2011. Applicants for the 2011 DV "Lottery" must apply electronically through the website <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov>. The registration period begins at noon (EST) on October 2, 2009 and continues until noon (EST) on November 30, 2009. Only one application per person may be submitted during the registration period. Multiple applications will disqualify the applicant. Applicants will be selected strictly in random order from among all those who submit requests during the registration period. Applicants selected in the "Lottery" will be notified by mail between May and July 2010. In addition, applicants will be able to check the status of their DV-2011 entries online beginning July 1, 2010.

As in previous years, there are strict guidelines as to the entry procedure. As part of the electronic filing process, applicants must submit with the application a digital photograph of the applicant, of his/her spouse, and of each child under 21 years of age. There are specific requirements for the digital photographs. Applications without the required digital photographs will be disqualified.

Only individuals from designated countries may apply under the "Lottery." Furthermore, each applicant must have at least a high school education (or its equivalent) or, within the past five years, have two years of work experience in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience.

Additional information regarding procedures and requirements for the "Lottery" are available on the internet at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types\\_1318.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1318.html).