

YOUR JOURNEY TO U.S. RESIDENCY:

**Navigating the EB-5 Visa Process
with Norman Hodge Group**



WELCOME

Welcome, and thank you for choosing the Norman Hodge Group as your trusted partner in navigating the journey to U.S. residency through the EB-5 visa program. We understand that immigration is more than just a process - it's a significant step towards achieving your dreams and aspirations. With this in mind, our goal is to make your path towards residency as smooth and straightforward as possible.

While the EB-5 visa program presents an exciting opportunity for foreign nationals seeking to invest and live in the United States, it also involves navigating a complex array of requirements, paperwork, and timelines. Here at the Norman Hodge Group, we're committed to demystifying this process, providing clear, step-by-step guidance, and expert support throughout your journey.

In this guide, we'll walk you through the entire EB-5 visa process, introducing you to our team of professionals and explaining how they'll support and guide you at each step. We'll also discuss potential pitfalls and how we aim to avoid or overcome these challenges to ensure your path towards U.S. residency remains clear and attainable.

Our Role in Your Journey

At the Norman Hodge Group, our role extends beyond just guiding you through the visa process. We take pride in offering personal assistance to our clients during their relocation to the U.S., ensuring a smooth transition into your new life.

Our relocation services include assisting you in finding and purchasing a new home that fits your needs and lifestyle. Recognizing that each client's needs are unique, we provide personalized assistance, taking into account your specific preferences and requirements.

The EB-5 visa process can indeed be complex, but our assembled team of experts, including immigration attorneys, investment advisors, financial experts, and case managers, are here to guide you every step of the way. They work synergistically to provide a smooth, successful process from the moment you start your application to the moment you settle into your new home in the U.S.

Once again, welcome to the Norman Hodge Group. We look forward to partnering with you on your journey towards U.S. residency through the EB-5 visa program and beyond, helping you create a fulfilling life in your new country.

Best Regards,
Norman Hodge Group

UNDERSTANDING THE



The EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program is an exciting opportunity that allows foreign investors to obtain U.S. residency by investing in a new commercial enterprise. Created by the U.S. Congress in 1990, the program encourages foreign investment and job creation in the United States.

To be eligible for the EB-5 visa, you must invest \$1.8 million in a new commercial enterprise or \$900,000 in a targeted employment area (TEA) – either a rural area or an area with high unemployment. The investment should lead to the creation of at least 10 full-time jobs for qualifying U.S. workers within two years of the investor's admission to the United States as a Conditional Permanent Resident.



THE PROFESSIONALS YOU NEED

Navigating the EB-5 visa process requires a team of dedicated professionals who can offer guidance and support throughout. Here are some of the key professionals who form part of our team:

- 1. Immigration Attorneys:** Our legal experts will guide you through the visa process, ensuring all forms are properly filled and submitted. They also stay updated with any changes in the immigration laws and procedures, ensuring your application is up-to-date.
- 2. Investment Advisors:** Finding the right commercial enterprise for your investment is crucial. Our investment advisors can help identify suitable business ventures, helping you make a decision that meets the EB-5 criteria and aligns with your personal and financial goals.
- 3. Financial Advisors:** Our financial experts guide you through the process of making your investment. They ensure that your funds are properly managed and comply with the "at risk" investment requirement of the EB-5 visa program.
- 4. Relocation Specialists:** From finding a suitable home to understanding local customs, our relocation specialists assist with your move to the United States, ensuring you comfortably settle into your new home.
- 5. Case Managers:** Our case managers track the progress of your application, provide regular updates, and are on hand to answer any questions or address any concerns you might have during the process.

Remember, the Norman Hodge Group has assembled this team of professionals to provide you with comprehensive support throughout your journey towards U.S. residency. Each team member brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in their respective field, helping ensure your path to obtaining an EB-5 visa is smooth and successful.

In the next section, we'll walk you through each step of the EB-5 visa process, showing how our team of professionals will assist you along the way.



STEP-BY-STEP: THE EB-5 VISA PROCESS

Obtaining an EB-5 visa involves a multi-step process, and the Norman Hodge Group is committed to assisting you at every stage. Here is an overview of the process and how our team of professionals will guide you:

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Determine Eligibility:

Your journey starts with determining whether the EB-5 visa program is the right choice for you. This step is crucial as it lays the groundwork for the entire process. Our team will conduct a thorough assessment of your financial situation to ensure that you can meet the investment requirements of the program. This involves not only having the necessary funds available but also being able to prove that those funds were obtained legally.

We will also discuss your immigration goals in depth. The EB-5 visa program is designed for those who wish to obtain permanent residence in the United States, so it's important to consider whether this aligns with your long-term plans. If you have family members you would like to bring with you, we will discuss how the program can accommodate this.

Furthermore, a key requirement of the EB-5 visa program is a willingness to invest in a U.S. enterprise and create jobs for U.S. workers. Our team will help you understand what this commitment entails and evaluate whether it aligns with your personal and financial goals.

By conducting this comprehensive eligibility assessment, we can ensure that you embark on the EB-5 journey with confidence and a clear understanding of what to expect.

A close-up photograph showing a person's hand placing a wooden block with the word "ELIGIBILITY" printed on it into a wooden structure made of other blocks. The blocks are light-colored wood, and the word is in bold, black, uppercase letters. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hand and the block.

ELIGIBILITY

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Choose an Investment:

The decision to choose the right investment is pivotal within the EB-5 process, as it will not only impact your visa application but also shape your financial future. Therefore, making an informed decision is crucial, and our investment advisors are here to facilitate that.

When choosing an investment, you have two primary routes: invest in a new commercial enterprise on your own (direct investment) or invest through a regional center, a third-party intermediary that manages investor funds and the immigration-approval process.

If you opt for a direct investment, you'll need to have an active role in the management of the business, and the business must directly create at least 10 full-time jobs. This might be an excellent option if you want to start your own business in the U.S. or if you want to have hands-on involvement in the business where you're investing.

The other option, regional center investment, allows you to take on a more passive role. The job creation requirement can be fulfilled through indirect or induced jobs, which are calculated based on economic models. Many investors find this route more convenient, as the regional center handles much of the administrative work.

Our investment advisors will discuss these options with you, considering factors like your risk tolerance, financial objectives, and personal goals. Once a decision is made, we'll help ensure that your chosen investment complies with the EB-5 requirements and guide you through the investment process.



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INVEST THE FUNDS:

After identifying a suitable investment, the next critical step in the EB-5 process is to actually invest the funds. At a minimum, the EB-5 program requires an investment of \$1.8 million, or \$900,000 if the investment is made in a Targeted Employment Area (TEA) — typically a rural or high-unemployment area. This part of the process is of high importance, and our team is here to guide you every step of the way.

The first aspect of this step is to ensure the safe and legal transfer of your investment funds. This requires compliance with both U.S. and international financial regulations, something our experienced financial advisors specialize in. They'll guide you on how to make the transfer, ensure that all transactions comply with relevant laws, and help you document the transaction for later stages of the visa application process.

Secondly, we'll assist you in documenting that your investment is "at risk" for the purpose of generating a return. This is a USCIS requirement to demonstrate that your investment comes with the possibility of gain or loss. Whether it's the purchase of tangible assets, payment of business expenses, or transfer of funds to an escrow account, we'll help you demonstrate that your funds are indeed at risk.

Lastly, you must also demonstrate that your funds were obtained through legal means. This is another area where our team's expertise comes in handy. We'll guide you on how to compile and present documentation such as business records, salary records, tax records, investment portfolios, property sales, or any other legal means through which you obtained your funds.

As this process is complex and rigorous, having expert guidance can provide you with the reassurance and confidence that all requirements are being properly met. This ensures not only that you're in compliance with the EB-5 program requirements, but also sets you up for success in the following stages of the visa application process.



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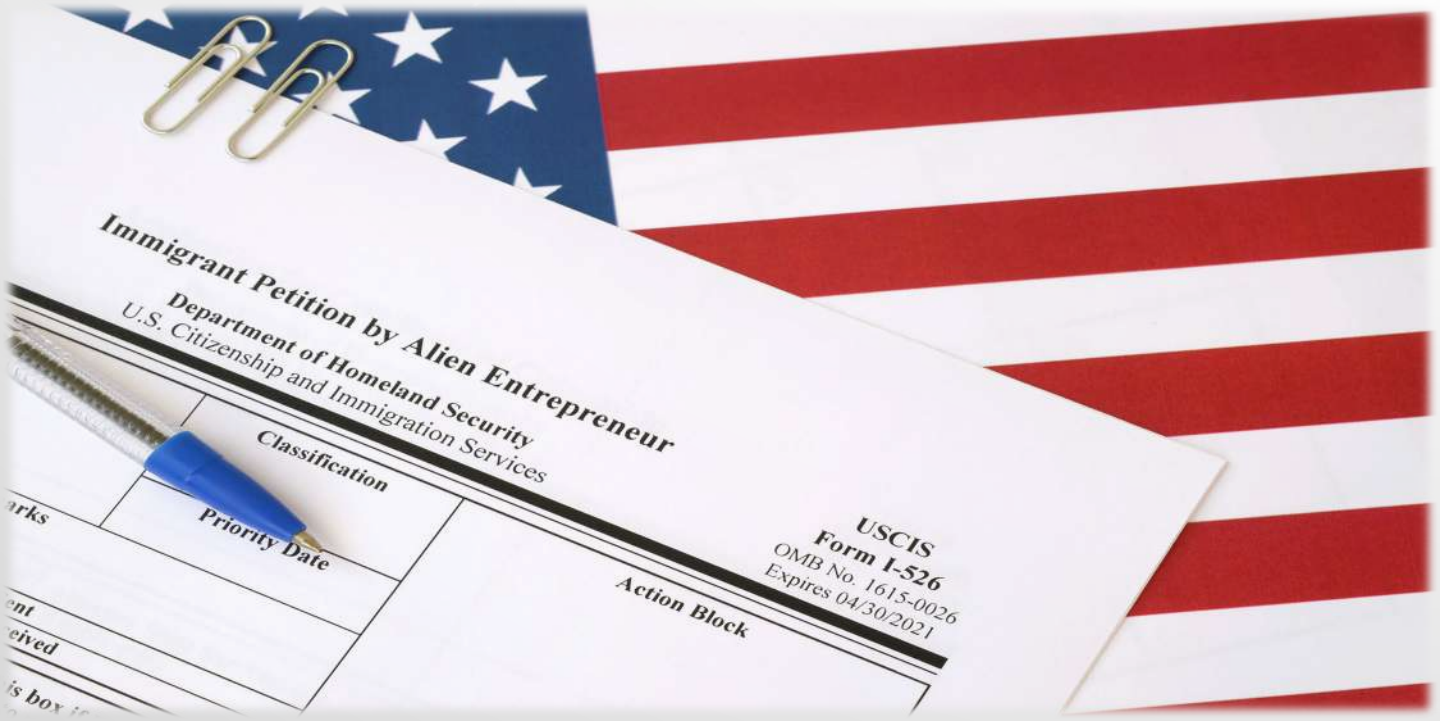
FILE THE I-526 PETITION:

Once your investment is made and properly documented, it's time to prepare and submit the I-526 Petition, officially known as the Immigrant Petition by Alien Investor. This is your first major interaction with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the EB-5 process and serves as the formal request to recognize you as an eligible investor under the EB-5 visa program.

Preparing the I-526 petition involves compiling extensive documentation to demonstrate your eligibility. Our experienced immigration attorneys are well-versed in the intricate requirements of this step. They will guide you in preparing and organizing the necessary documentation, which includes evidence of the lawful source of your investment funds, proof that the funds have been invested in a qualifying project, and a comprehensive business plan that demonstrates the job creation requirements will be met.

In addition to the legal and investment details, the I-526 petition also involves complex financial and economic analyses. Our team will work alongside economic experts to ensure your petition adequately demonstrates that your investment will lead to the required job creation.

Once the I-526 petition is complete, we will file it with USCIS on your behalf. Given the importance of this document, we ensure it is prepared meticulously and accurately, presenting a compelling case for your eligibility under the EB-5 program.



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WAIT FOR I-526 APPROVAL:

After your I-526 petition is filed, the waiting period begins. The duration of this waiting period can vary widely, from several months to a few years, depending on various factors such as the current USCIS processing times, the complexity of your case, and the overall demand for EB-5 visas.

During this waiting period, it's important to be patient but also to stay engaged. The Norman Hodge Group keeps you updated on your case's progress, ensuring you stay informed.

It's possible that USCIS may issue a Request for Evidence (RFE) during this time, asking for additional documentation or clarification on certain points. This is a normal part of the process. Our team of immigration attorneys is well equipped to handle RFEs efficiently and effectively, compiling the requested information and submitting it promptly.

While the wait can be stressful, it's important to remember that it's a normal part of the immigration process. Our team will be with you every step of the way, providing updates and offering support to help make the waiting period more manageable.



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APPLY FOR A VISA:

Once your I-526 petition is approved by USCIS, the next step is to apply for the actual EB-5 visa. This is an exciting milestone in your journey towards U.S. residency.

If you are living outside the United States, you'll need to go through consular processing at a U.S. embassy or consulate in your home country. This process involves filling out the DS-260 form, an application for an Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration, and submitting it to the Department of State. You'll also need to undergo a medical examination and prepare for a visa interview.

If you are already in the U.S. on a valid non-immigrant visa, you may be eligible to adjust your status to that of a conditional permanent resident without leaving the country. This involves filing an I-485 application with USCIS.

Regardless of the path you take, our immigration attorneys will guide you through this stage of the process. They'll help you understand the requirements, prepare the necessary paperwork, and coach you for the visa interview. Their experience and expertise can help you avoid common mistakes and ensure that you present the strongest possible case for your visa approval.



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MOVE TO THE U.S.:

Once your visa application is approved, it's finally time to make the exciting move to the United States. This is a significant step and involves more than just packing your bags. You'll be setting up a new life in a new country, and we at the Norman Hodge Group are dedicated to making your transition as smooth as possible.

At this stage, our real estate professionals become particularly active, with a specific focus on the South Florida market - mainly Miami and Fort Lauderdale. Florida is known for its fantastic weather, cultural diversity, and vibrant lifestyle, making it an excellent choice for new residents.

Our realtors have an intimate understanding of the South Florida real estate market, whether you're looking for a luxury condo with ocean views in Miami, a suburban home in one of Fort Lauderdale's family-friendly neighborhoods, or a peaceful retreat in the Florida Keys.

They will guide you through every step of the home-buying process in this unique market. They'll help you understand local real estate trends, arrange property viewings, negotiate deals, and manage the paperwork involved in purchasing a home.

But our services extend beyond just finding a home. We'll assist with other aspects of relocation as well, including setting up bank accounts, enrolling children in schools, obtaining driver's licenses, and more - all while helping you adjust to the wonderful culture and lifestyle that South Florida offers.

Moving to a new country is a significant life change, and the Norman Hodge Group is committed to making the transition as smooth and enjoyable as possible. We're not just providing a service; we're welcoming you to your new home in sunny South Florida.



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FILE THE I-829 PETITION:

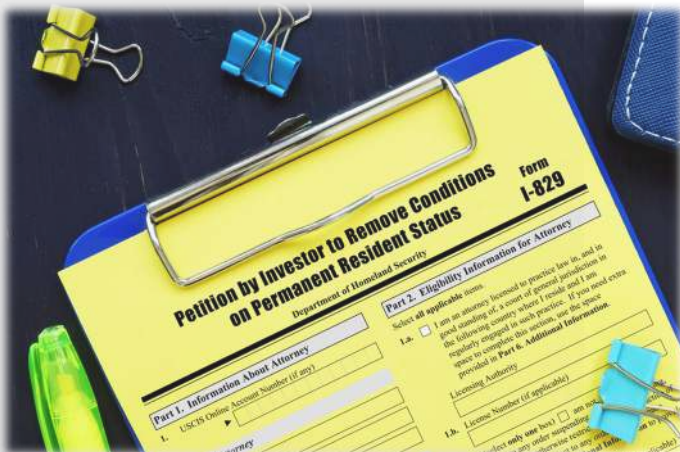
Two years after receiving your conditional Green Card, it's time to take the final step in the EB-5 process: filing the I-829 Petition to Remove Conditions on Permanent Resident Status. This is the document that, if approved, will make your U.S. residency permanent.

Filing the I-829 petition involves demonstrating that you have met all the conditions of your EB-5 visa. This includes proving that your full investment has been made and sustained, and that it has led to the creation or preservation of at least ten full-time jobs for qualifying U.S. workers.

Our immigration attorneys will guide you in preparing and submitting this critical petition. They'll help you compile the necessary documentation, such as business financial statements, payroll records, and job descriptions, to prove your compliance with the job creation requirement.

Our financial advisors will also assist in providing evidence that your investment has been sustained. This can include financial statements, bank records, invoices, receipts, contracts, business licenses, and more.

Our team will ensure your petition is meticulously prepared and filed in a timely manner. Once it is approved, your conditional resident status will be removed, making you a full, permanent U.S. resident.



POTENTIAL PITFALLS AND SOLUTIONS:

Potential Pitfalls and Solutions: While the EB-5 visa process can provide a smooth pathway to U.S. residency, it's important to be aware of potential challenges that might arise. However, with the right preparation and guidance, these obstacles can be navigated successfully.

One of the common pitfalls is failing to provide adequate documentation of the lawful source of funds. It's crucial to have a clear paper trail showing where your investment funds came from. Our financial experts and immigration attorneys will work with you closely to ensure that your documentation meets the rigorous standards of USCIS.

Another challenge could be meeting the job creation requirement. The EB-5 program stipulates that each investment must create or preserve at least ten full-time jobs for qualifying U.S. workers. This is where our team of economic experts comes in, helping to ensure that your chosen investment project fulfills this criterion.

One more potential pitfall is the complexity of U.S. immigration law. With regulations and procedures frequently changing, it's critical to have experienced immigration attorneys to guide you through the process and to stay abreast of the latest developments. Our attorneys bring their extensive experience and up-to-date knowledge to your service, ensuring that your path to U.S. residency remains clear and navigable.

Lastly, the wait time for I-526 petition approval can be a source of anxiety. Our team helps manage this stress by keeping you informed of your case's progress and by promptly addressing any inquiries or concerns from USCIS.

Remember, these potential pitfalls are part of the process, and with the support of the Norman Hodge Group and our team of professionals, they can be turned into stepping stones on your path to U.S. residency.



WELCOME TO YOUR NEW LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES:

Once your I-829 petition is approved, it's time to celebrate – you are now a full-fledged U.S. permanent resident! This marks the successful completion of your EB-5 journey, but it's just the beginning of your exciting new life in the United States.

The Norman Hodge Group, together with our experienced team of professionals, is honored to have been part of your journey. We take pride in our role, not just as facilitators of your EB-5 visa process, but as partners in your dream of creating a new life in the United States. We understand the significant commitment you've made, and we're thrilled to welcome you to your new home in the U.S., particularly in the vibrant communities of South Florida.

As you settle into your new surroundings and embark on this exciting chapter, remember that the Norman Hodge Group and our dedicated team of professionals remain a resource for you. Whether you need assistance with future real estate investments, adjusting to life in the U.S., or if you have any further questions or concerns, our team is just a call away.

Once again, congratulations! Welcome to your new life in the U.S., and welcome to the Norman Hodge Group family.



Congratulations

THANK YOU

Thank you for using this guide as your roadmap to navigate the EB-5 visa process. We hope it was informative and helpful, and we look forward to the possibility of working with you on your journey to U.S. residency. To learn more about how the Norman Hodge Group can assist you in achieving your dream, contact us today.



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