

AMERICAN CITIZEN MANAGUA NEWSLETTER



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The United States Embassy in Managua is located at: Kilómetro 5 ½ (5.5) Carretera Sur, Managua, Nicaragua.

Main Embassy phone:
(505) 2252-7100

Consular Section:
(505) 2252-7104

Customer Service:
(505) 2252-7808

Email:
ACSManagua@state.gov

Consular Services are available Monday thru Friday except for official U.S. and Nicaragua Holidays.

Routine services such as passports and notariats require an appointment; you can schedule an appointment on-line:

<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=MNG&appcode=1>

For questions about visas Do NOT CALL ACS or make an appointment for ACS services. Instead, please call (505) 7877-7600 (Tigo Number), options available in English.

U.S. Embassy Managua    

Emergency Services



- Deaths, abductions, robberies, arrests, etc. will be attended promptly.
- Please call **(505) 2252-7104** and ask for the American Citizens Services Unit during Embassy office hours.
- If the Embassy is closed, please call **(505) 2252-7100** and ask to speak with the Embassy duty officer.

Happy 244th Birthday United States of America



The Honorable Kevin K. Sullivan, the U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua

Although

the **Covid-19** pandemic represents an unprecedented challenge for our society, it is important to continue to share in moments that bring us together, for this reason, the Embassy held a virtual celebration.



Our theme this year highlighted this women's rights movement in the United States, and celebrated the passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote 100 years ago.



July 4th is a meaningful day for Americans, as it commemorates the beginning of our country's remarkable journey as an independent nation.



What a better way to celebrate the cultural diversity of the United States than with a special guest performance from the Latin Grammy award winners all female mariachi band, **Flor de Toloache!**

If you haven't had a chance to enjoy the virtual **Independence Day Celebration** you can find the full video linked below.

<https://www.facebook.com/73006545785/videos/714291412479325>



Federal Benefits Services



As of **October 1, 2017**, the Social Security Administration created a regional office in Costa Rica for the Federal Benefits Unit. The **U.S. Embassy in Managua** no longer has a Federal Benefits Unit, therefore is not accepting appointments, calls or walk-ins regarding Social Security inquiries.

If you reside in **Nicaragua** and have questions regarding services provided by the Social Security Administration (**SSA**), you must contact the SSA Federal Benefits Unit (**FBU**) located in **Costa Rica**.

How to contact them?

Please send an email to **FBU.CostaRica@ssa.gov**

You must include the following:

- **Full name**
- **Two phone numbers**
- **Social Security number**
- **Short description of your inquiry**

For more information on their services please visit the link:
<http://cr.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/social-security/>



Regional Social Security Office for Nicaragua:

Federal Benefits Unit
American Embassy
Calle 120 Avenida 0, Pavas 1200
San José, Costa Rica

Federal Benefits continued...

Services related to Federal Benefits that are still performed at the U.S. Embassy, Nicaragua

- Proof of income for your **Nicaraguan residency**

You can make a notarized statement regarding your current source of income at the embassy. Note that it must be in **Spanish**. Keep in mind that you need to bring your **SSA** statements and your passport. Do not sign this statement until you are asked to do so by the Consular Officer during your appointment. This service costs **\$50 USD**. Please schedule an appointment at:

<https://ni.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/notaries-public/> for a notarial service.

- If you are processing a claim with the Social Security Administration (SSA) and you are required to send certified copies of your original birth certificate, passport or any other civil record, you may schedule a notarial appointment at the Embassy at:

<https://ni.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/notaries-public/>. Please bring your original documents with you. There is no fee for this service.



COVID-19

Home care for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases **Take care of yourself and your family**

All members of the household



Wash hands with soap and water regularly, especially:

- after coughing or sneezing
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after using the toilet
- before and after caring for the ill person
- when hands are visibly dirty



Avoid unnecessary exposure to the ill person and avoid sharing items, such as eating utensils, dishes, drink and towels.



When coughing or sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or use a disposable tissue and discard immediately after use.



Monitor everyone's health for symptoms such as fever and cough if breathing difficulties appear, call your health care facility immediately.

Debunking COVID-19 Myths



Here are some of the substances and products that have been touted as ways to prevent infection with the COVID-19 virus or treat COVID-19 and what the science says:

Pneumonia and flu vaccines. There is currently no vaccine to prevent the COVID-19 virus. Vaccines against pneumonia, such as the pneumococcal vaccine, don't provide protection against the COVID-19 virus. The flu shot also won't protect you against the COVID-19 virus.

Saline nasal wash. There is no evidence that rinsing your nose with saline protects against infection with the COVID-19 virus.

High temperatures. Exposure to the sun or to temperatures higher than 77 F (25 C) doesn't prevent the COVID-19 virus or cure COVID-19. You can get the COVID-19 virus in sunny, hot and humid weather.

Low temperatures. Cold weather and snow also can't kill the COVID-19 virus.

Antibiotics. Antibiotics kill bacteria, not viruses. However, people hospitalized due to COVID-19 might be given antibiotics because they also have developed a bacterial infection.

Alcohol and chlorine spray. Spraying alcohol or chlorine on your body won't kill viruses that have entered your body. These substances also can harm your eyes, mouth and clothes.

Drinking alcohol. Drinking alcohol doesn't protect you from the COVID-19 virus.

Garlic. There's no evidence that eating garlic protects against infection with the COVID-19 virus.

Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection lamp. Ultraviolet light can be used as a disinfectant on surfaces. But don't use a UV lamp to sterilize your hands or other areas of your body. UV radiation can cause skin irritation.

Disinfectants. When applied to surfaces, disinfectants can help kill germs such as the COVID-19 virus. However, don't use disinfectants on your body. Disinfectants can irritate the skin and be toxic if swallowed or injected into the body.

Supplements. Many people take vitamin C, vitamin D, zinc, green tea or echinacea to boost their immune systems. While these supplements might affect your immune function, research hasn't shown that they can prevent you from getting sick. The supplement colloidal silver, which has been marketed as a COVID-19 treatment, isn't considered safe or effective for treating any disease.



YOU CAN VOTE FROM **ABROAD!**



Vote from Abroad.org

If you have any questions, please contact Embassy Managua's Voting Assistance Officer at (505) 2252-7161 during business hours, or at VoteManagua@state.gov. You can also contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program directly if you encounter issues with local election officials. Email Vote@FVAP.gov or call toll free by phone from many countries around the world.



VOTING IS EASY **REQUEST** YOUR BALLOT NOW



*How to Vote From
Anywhere*

**WHEN YOU'RE
AN AMERICAN
OVERSEAS**



STEP
1

REGISTER
AND REQUEST
YOUR ABSENTEE
BALLOT WITH THE
FEDERAL POST
CARD APPLICATION
(FPCA).

STEP
2

FILL OUT AND
SEND IN
YOUR BALLOT
WHEN IT
ARRIVES.

FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES



On **May 21, 1919**, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 19th amendment, and two weeks later, the Senate followed. When Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment on **August 18, 1920**, the amendment was officially adopted.

Interesting facts...

In **1913** **Alice Paul** organized **NAWSA's** first women's suffrage parade in **Washington, D.C.** The police failed to provide the suffragists with adequate protection, and spectators attacked the marchers. Paul formed a rival suffrage organization, the National Woman's Party, in **1916**.



Millions of women enjoyed the right to vote before the 19th Amendment was ratified. Women had full voting rights in 15 states and the Alaska territory, and limited suffrage, including voting in presidential elections, in another **12 states before 1920**. Their influence helped build momentum for the 19th Amendment.

Some **10 million** women **voted in 1920**, a turnout rate of **36%**, compared to **68%** for men. Female voter turnout rates have gradually increased, and have exceeded male turnout rates since **1980**, when **61.9%** of women voted compared to **61.5%** of men. **In 2016**, **63.3%** of women voted compared to **59.3%** of men.

The American Citizen Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy is looking for **Citizen Liaison** volunteers for underserved regions of Nicaragua

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our Citizen Liaison Network please contact us at ACSmanagua@state.gov. At this time, we are specifically recruiting **CLVs** from the following departments:

Bluefield, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Masaya, Carazo, Leon, Ometepe Island and Jinotega.

The Citizen Liaison Network is a mechanism for the U.S. Embassy to make information available to citizens in case of emergencies of various types. Our CLVs serve as points of contact between the Embassy and U.S. citizens in their area. The “no double standard” policy requires that all Americans, whether U.S. government employees or not and whether in the United States or overseas, have access to the same information.



IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY APPLYING FOR YOUR NICARAGUAN RESIDENCY... READ THIS

The Ministry of Interior (*Ministerio de Gobernación*) has brought to our attention that they are in the process of completing all pending residency requests from all nationalities.

However, they haven't been able to contact many applicants because at the time of the application they provided contact information that might no longer be valid. If this applies to you, please contact the Ministry of Migration and Immigration (*Ministerio de Migración y Extranjería*) as soon as possible, with your updated contact information by sending an e-mail in spanish to: solicitudes@migob.gob.ni



Important information on how to apply or renew your Nicaraguan residency can be found at: <https://www.migob.gob.ni/migracion/tramites/>

Please note that the Nicaraguan Government is offering extension of stay for non-resident foreigners. You can read their requirements at: <https://www.migob.gob.ni/migracion/tramites/prorroga-de-estancia-para-extranjeros-no-residentes/>

VISA SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

What do Presidential Proclamations 10014 and 10052 refer to?

Under Presidential Proclamation **10014**, signed on **April 22** and extended by **PP 10052** on June 22, the Department of State will not issue immigrant visas, with certain exceptions, through December **31, 2020**. Exceptions include lawful permanent residents; immigrants seeking to enter as healthcare professionals; spouses, children, and prospective adoptive children of U.S. citizens; and certain Special Immigrant Visa applicants. Please read Presidential Proclamation **10052** for detailed information.

U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and those holding valid immigrant visas on the effective date of the Proclamation are not subject to the proclamation. No valid visas will be revoked under this Proclamation.

Additionally, please be aware that due to the impact of COVID-19, all routine immigrant visa appointments have been cancelled until further notice. If normal operations resume while this Presidential Proclamation remains in effect, it will not be possible for a visa appointment to be scheduled unless you are applying for a category of visa that is excepted under the proclamation.

Can my immigrant visa be extended?

Immigrant visas cannot be extended. However, if you are unable to travel within the validity period of your visa due to circumstances beyond your control, you can request visa reissuance.

If you were issued a **IR-1, CR-1, IR-2 or CR-2** visa as the spouse or child of a U.S. citizen that has now expired and you wish to move to the United States urgently, please contact the Immigrant Visa Unit to check whether it is possible for your visa to be reissued on an emergency basis. Please provide the full names of the visa applicant(s) and the petitioner, plus the case number (typically MNG followed by ten digits).

If you were issued with a different category of immigrant visa (not an **IR-1, IR-2, CR-1 or CR-2** visa), please monitor our website for the latest updates. After normal visa operations have resumed and your unused visa has expired, please contact the Immigrant Visa Unit at that time to request visa reissuance. We will send you information about how to submit your passport, visa package (if applicable) and a letter explaining why you were unable to travel and requesting visa reissuance. Please note that regardless of the visa category you may be required to undergo a new medical examination and pay a new visa fee before the visa can be reissued.

Will my fiancé(e) visa case expire?/Can I continue with the application process?

The Department of State suspended routine visa services worldwide in **March 2020** due to the **COVID-19** pandemic. As global conditions evolve, U.S. Embassies and Consulates are beginning a phased resumption of routine visa services. The resumption of routine visa services will occur on a post-by-post basis, in coordination with the Department's Diplomacy Strong framework for safely returning our workforce to Department facilities. **U.S. Embassies** and Consulates have continued to provide emergency and mission-critical visa services since March and will continue to do so as they are able. As post-specific conditions improve, our missions will begin providing additional services, culminating eventually in a complete resumption of routine visa services.

We are unable to provide a specific date for when the U.S. Embassy in Managua will resume **K-1** visa services, or when will we return to processing at pre-Covid workload levels. Please monitor this website for information regarding operating status and any further updates.

We are only able to process visas for spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens (**IR-1, CR-1, IR-2 or CR-2**). Therefore we are unable to proceed with fiancé(e) visa applications (**K-1**) at this time. We are taking the issue of fiancé(e) visas seriously and we will resume routine visa services as soon as possible but are unable to provide a specific date at this time.

If you have been advised that your case file has been forwarded to the Embassy in Managua, you may refer to our website for an overview of the application procedure, and begin compiling the necessary supporting documents. You may book a medical appointment and proceed with the application process after normal operations have resumed. Please visit our website for updates about visa services.

Other questions

If you have any further questions about visas, please see our website, including the Frequently Asked Question (**FAQs**), for detailed information. Please note that we will be unable to respond if your question is addressed on our website.

If you have general questions about coronavirus (**COVID-19**), check our website for a list of useful resources.

If you have question about flights, please contact your airline.

Registering with the U.S. Embassy is easy with **STEP**



SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

A service of the bureau of consular affairs U.S.
Department of State

The Embassy encourages all U.S. citizens to enroll their trip to Nicaragua or their residency in Nicaragua through the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)**.

Why is it important to register with STEP:

- STEP allows you to enter information so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency.
- It also allows U.S. citizens residing in Nicaragua to get routine and emergency information from the Embassy.
- To enroll, click on the following address or type it in your browser
[https:// step.state.gov/step](https://step.state.gov/step).
- You can also download Smart Traveler Program App for your Smartphone under the name Smart Traveler. Go to itunes for Apple phones or Google Play for Android Phones.



FRAUD ALERT: BEWARE

THE **EMBASSY** WARNS OF VISA AND OTHER FRAUD IN PARKING AREAS OUTSIDE OF THE **EMBASSY**

The U.S Embassy in Managua urges the public to beware of fraud schemes when applying for consular services. The Consular Section of the Embassy is receiving increasing reports of applicants for visas and U.S. citizens' services paying unnecessary or inflated fees for documents, photos, and vehicle guarding in the public parking lots in the vicinity of the Embassy. The current road construction on Carretera Sur has created a greater distance between the Embassy and available parking, which has led to an increased presence of vendors falsely alleging they represent the Embassy and attempting to lure applicants into paying often exorbitant fees for unnecessary services, such as additional barcode stickers or passport photos. **Please note that the public parking areas in the vicinity of the Embassy are not owned by the Embassy and the Embassy does not have any jurisdiction to patrol or monitor those premises.** The Embassy reminds all customer that the only sources for accurate information about consular related services are our website, <http://ni.usembassy.gov/>, or, if visa-related our call center at support-nicaragua@ustraveldocs.com or **7877-7600**. These sources provide information on all needed documents for the various consular services. Because the U.S. Embassy does not have authority to police the parking lot areas, we strongly recommend contacting the Nicaraguan police if you believe you have been a victim of fraud.

**FRAUD
SCAM
DANGER
THEFT**

The Coronavirus **Stimulus** Checks



Many Americans have been hit hard by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. To help ease this financial burden, the government is making economic impact payments, also known as stimulus payments, available to more than 90% of adult Americans.

Below are the common questions about the stimulus checks and how it affects U.S. citizens who live overseas.

1. What does the coronavirus stimulus check mean for U.S. expats?

The stimulus check expats will get is technically a 2020 tax credit in advance.

It's part of the coronavirus stimulus package, which is designed to help get the economy back on its feet while we navigate the **COVID-19** pandemic.

2. Do I qualify for a stimulus check if I live overseas?

A. Yes, expats qualify for the stimulus checks. You qualify if you fall within the income threshold, have a social security number, and file taxes even if you live overseas.

3. Do I need to sign up for it or sign off on it?

A. No, you don't need to sign up for it or sign off on it to get your check.

4. What if I don't have an SSN but filed a U.S. return. Do I get to take advantage of the stimulus payout?

A. No. To receive a stimulus check, you must have a social security number (SSN).



5. Will I get a stimulus check if I filed a joint return with my NRA spouse with an IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)?

A. No. Couples filing jointly where one spouse is a nonresident alien will not receive a stimulus payment. If filing jointly, both spouses must have valid SSNs to receive a stimulus payment unless one of them is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. If one spouse is, or was at any point in the tax year, a member of the Armed Forces, they may be eligible to get a stimulus payment.

While taxpayers with SSNs aren't eligible to receive a stimulus payment if they file jointly with their nonresident alien spouse, those filers may be able to receive the payment on their 2020 return if they choose to file separately from their spouse.

6. How much will my expat stimulus check be for?

A. Your 2020 expat stimulus check amount will depend on your 2019 income. If you haven't filed your 2019 taxes yet, it will be based on your 2018 income. The payments are based on income thresholds, which you can see in the table below.

If the last tax year's income was under the low threshold, you'll get **\$1,200 per adult and \$500 per child under the age of 17.**

7. Will I have to pay back the amount I get?

A. The current understanding is no, you will not have to pay back any amount, even if you experience a pay hike in 2020.

8. What if I'm a U.S. expat and I haven't filed taxes in a few years while I've lived abroad?

A. If you live overseas and haven't filed your 2019 taxes, you still may still be eligible for a stimulus payment based on your 2018 return. However, if you haven't filed your 2018 or 2019 return, you will need to either file those shortly or wait until next year when you file your 2020 return.

9. Will this affect my tax return this year?

A. No, it will not affect this year's tax return.

10. Will I owe tax on this check in 2020?

A. The current understanding is no, this is considered a 2020 tax credit, not income, so you will not need to pay taxes on it in 2020.

11. How will I get my stimulus check if I'm an American living overseas?

A. There are two ways overseas Americans can get their stimulus payment: direct deposit or through the mail.

You'll get your check via direct deposit if you either:

1. Received your 2018 or 2019 tax refund through direct deposit.
2. Have submitted your U.S. bank account information to the IRS through the U.S. Treasury's new direct deposit portal by going to <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment> or by clicking here.

You need to have an account with a U.S. bank in order to get direct deposit.

We recommend you either elect direct deposit in your 2019 tax return or update your address if you:

- Don't know what address is on file.
- Don't feel great about getting mail reliably or quickly in your area.
- Have moved to a different address
- Want your check sent somewhere other than the address they have on file.

If you need to change/update your address, you currently need to file Form 8822 which can be found on <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822.pdf> or by clicking here and send it to the address in the form.

12. If I live abroad, when will I get my stimulus check if I qualify?

If you are a U.S. citizen living abroad, you should get your check via direct deposit shortly. The U.S. Treasury has already begun the process of rolling them out. If you're getting your check through international mail, it may take longer.

For payments via direct deposit:

- The first stimulus payments were sent out by the IRS the week of April 13, and the IRS will continue issuing payments on a weekly basis going forward.

For payments to be mailed:

- **Checks:** The IRS issued checks from late April to mid-May, starting with households with the lowest Adjusted Gross Income. The IRS issued approximately five million checks each week.
- **Debit cards:** The IRS began mailing prepaid debit cards mid-May instead of checks for some taxpayers who don't have direct deposit information on file with the IRS. Along with the nearly four million cards, the IRS included instructions on how to activate the cards.

If you haven't received your payment yet, you can check the IRS Get My Payment site at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment> or by clicking here to answer the question, "when will I receive my stimulus payment?"

For a more detailed information regarding the coronavirus tax relief, please access <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus-tax-relief-and-economic-impact-paymentst> or by clicking here.