

**Opening Statement on the 2013 Diversity Visa Program**  
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- The 2013 Diversity Visa Program opened for registrations on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, and will close at noon Eastern Daylight Time, November 5, 2011. There will again be 50,000 total visas available in fiscal year 2013.
- We are pleased to welcome South Sudan as a participating country for DV-2013 program, along with Poland. Because of its high rates of immigration to the United States, Bangladesh no longer qualifies and will not be a participating country in 2013.
- The DV program remains incredibly popular in Africa. In DV-2010, consular officers issued nearly half of all DVs to native-born Africans; and for DV-2012, approximately six million entries came from individuals born in this region.
- Once again in 2013, all entries must be submitted electronically using the Electronic DV entry form that can be found on our website at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov).
- We will use an online process to notify entrants of their selection, and to provide information about the application and interview process. Starting May 1, 2012, DV-2013 entrants can use the confirmation number provided when they register to check online through Entrant Status Check at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) to see if their entry was selected. All DV-2013 entrants should make sure to save their confirmation numbers until at least June 30, 2013, as Embassies cannot provide a list of selectees.
- Those who are selected for further processing will not be mailed an interview notification letter. Selectees will be notified of their interview date, time, and location by logging onto the Entrant Status Check function on [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). In order to combat fraud, we are going to keep this as an entirely electronic registration, notification, and interview scheduling process. An entrant who retains his or her confirmation number retains control of the entire application from beginning to end, in terms of the information that goes online, checking to see if he or she has been selected or not, receiving further instructions, and then receiving confirmation of his or her visa interview details.

- The instructions on [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) for the DV-2013 Program contain a very strong, very carefully worded anti-fraud message to would-be applicants urging them to take charge of their own registration, make sure that they retain their confirmation number, and ensure that the confirmation number doesn't fall into the hands of anyone else. Keep your confirmation number safe. If you lose it, we are not able to retrieve or replace it for you.
- We also reiterate throughout the DV registration instructions that if entrants do not enter the program themselves, actually execute their own application, or at least personally supervise whoever fills their application out for them, they are vulnerable to becoming victims of fraud.
- There are no fees associated with entering the lottery. The only place that individuals will be asked to pay money is at the U.S. embassy or consulate when the DV applicant who has been selected appears for his or her visa interview. We encourage people not to send money or pay money in advance to any third party promising to help them win a Diversity Visa.
- Entrants who submit incorrect information online during the DV registration process may be disqualified from the program. This is why legitimate entrants should make sure that they personally submit, or at least supervise, the submission of their own application form to make sure that all the information about themselves and their family is accurate.