

AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT · FORM I-864

The Sponsor's I-864 Worksheet

Work out your household size, check your income against the requirement, and understand what your signature commits you to.



THE INCOME REQUIREMENT

125 percent of the poverty guidelines

You must generally show income at or above 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for your household size (certain active-duty military sponsors of a spouse or child may use the 100 percent level). The exact dollar figures update annually on USCIS Form I-864P, so always check the current year's table; this worksheet deliberately prints none.

STEP 1 · COUNT YOUR HOUSEHOLD

Yourself (the sponsor)	1
Your dependents	_____
The immigrant(s) you are sponsoring	_____
Anyone you are already obligated to support	_____
Household size total	_____

STEP 2 · COMPARE YOUR INCOME

Current year's I-864P figure for that household size (125%)	_____
Your qualifying annual income	_____
Above the line?	yes ☐ no ☐

If income falls short: assets can sometimes be used to supplement income, a joint sponsor can file a separate I-864, or a household member can add income with Form I-864A (page 3).

WHO SIGNS WHAT

Primary sponsor, joint sponsor, household member

The petitioning relative who filed Form I-130 is the primary sponsor and must file an I-864. If the petitioner's income is not enough, two kinds of help exist, and they are different: a **joint sponsor** is a separate qualifying person who files their own I-864 (they must be a US citizen or permanent resident, at least 18, and domiciled in the US). A **household member** is a relative in the petitioner's household who adds their income using Form I-864A. Each sponsor accepts the same legal support obligation. Some categories are exempt from the I-864 requirement; that is fact-specific.

What you are really agreeing to

Most sponsors meet the requirement without trouble, but know what the signature commits you to. Under INA 213A, the obligation lasts until the immigrant becomes a US citizen, is credited with 40 qualifying quarters of work (about ten years), permanently leaves the US, or dies. It generally survives divorce. A sponsored immigrant, or a government agency that provided certain means-tested benefits, can enforce the I-864 contract. Signing, whether as petitioner or joint sponsor, means accepting a potentially long-term financial liability.

BEFORE YOU SIGN

- ☐ I have checked my income against the current year's I-864P table for my household size
- ☐ I understand how long the INA 213A obligation lasts and that it generally survives divorce
- ☐ If I need help qualifying, I know whether it should be a joint sponsor (separate I-864) or a household member (I-864A)
- ☐ If I am counting assets, I have documentation for them

YOUR NOTES

Questions before filing

Anything you are unsure how to count, document, or structure (household size edge cases and asset use are the usual ones).

Petitioning for a family member?

See how the I-130 and the affidavit of support fit together and how Ellis Porter can help:

lp.ellisporter.com/family-i130

Prepared by the Ellis Porter content team. This document is general information, not legal advice, and reading it does not create an attorney-client relationship. Income figures come from the current USCIS Form I-864P; the obligation terms are set by INA 213A.