

Name:

The Laghari family

Read the Laghari family's story, and prepare to introduce them to your class.



Yogi Laghari was born in India. He has lived in Louisville, Kentucky for 14 years. He works in technology. His wife, Diya Laghari, has a PhD. She works on kidney transplant research.

They are considered “high skilled” immigrants. That means that not just anyone can do their jobs. Their work is needed. Their employer sponsors their visas to be in the U.S. They can only stay in the U.S. as long as they keep their jobs. If they quit or lose their jobs, they would have to leave.

They applied for green cards, because they want to stay in the U.S. permanently. The Lagharis have been waiting for a green card for nine years. There are 800,000 people on the wait list. That means they might have to wait up to 50 years. Yogi is 55 years old. He may die of old age before getting to the top of the wait list.

Diya and Yogi have two sons. Their younger son is 17. He is in high school in Louisville. He has lived in the U.S. since he was three. Their older son is 19. He is in college studying mechanical engineering. If Diya and Yogi get green cards, their sons will get green cards too. That means the whole family will be able to stay in the U.S. forever.



Fact sheet: Employment-based green cards

Read the facts on this fact sheet. Check off the facts that apply to the Laghari family's situation.

- One type of employment-based green card is for skilled workers.
- High skilled workers have jobs that not just anyone can do—usually in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Employers sponsor visas for high skilled workers. The workers can stay in the U.S. as long as they keep that job. If they quit or lose their jobs, they lose their visas. Then they have to leave the U.S.
- The U.S. gives out about 140,000 employment-based green cards every year.
- Right now, the wait list for employment-based green cards has about 800,000 people on it.
- The rules state that only 7% of these green cards can go to people from any one country.
- When a person receives a green card, their husband or wife and their children can receive green cards also. This counts toward the number of green cards that can be given out.
- Once children reach age 21, they are no longer allowed to receive visas or green cards through their parents' H1B visa.
- About 75% of the people on the wait list for employment-based green cards are from India.
- The wait time for Indian applicants to get a green card can be up to 50 years.

Sources: "Backlog for Skilled Immigrants Tops 1 Million: Over 200,000 Indians Could Die of Old Age While Awaiting Green Cards," cato.org, March 30, 2020.

"The Employment Green Card Backlog Tops 800,000, Most of Them Indian. A Solution is Elusive," The Washington Post, December 17, 2019.