
The US Gold Card Visa Guide

Everything You Need to Know Before Applying

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Sources: trumpcard.gov | uscis.gov | Executive Order 14351

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1. Executive Summary

The Trump Gold Card program launched in December 2025 under Executive Order 14351, signed September 19, 2025. Applications are live at trumpcard.gov.

At its core, the Gold Card is a new pathway to lawful permanent resident status (a green card) using existing EB-1A (Extraordinary Ability) or EB-2 NIW (National Interest Waiver) visa categories. Instead of meeting traditional evidence requirements, applicants make a \$1,000,000 non-refundable gift to the Department of Commerce.

CRITICAL: The \$1M payment is a GIFT, not an investment. The money does not come back to you. This is fundamentally different from the EB-5 program where your capital can be returned.

Five Facts Every Applicant Must Know:

- The program is LIVE. Applications accepted at trumpcard.gov since December 2025.
- Cost is \$1M gift + \$15,375 in government fees per person.
- Family members are NOT included free. Each pays their own \$1M + \$15K.
- The application form is I-140G (online only). Not I-526.
- The \$5M figure is the Platinum Card — a separate, not-yet-available product.

2. The Three Tiers

The Gold Card program has three distinct tiers. Understanding the differences is essential — many sources incorrectly conflate the Gold and Platinum tiers.

Tier 1: Gold Card (Individual) — \$1,000,000

- Non-refundable gift to Department of Commerce
- \$15,000 processing fee + \$375 additional fee = \$15,375 total government fees
- Grants lawful permanent resident status (green card)
- Uses EB-1A or EB-2 NIW visa categories
- Expedited processing promised (no specific timeline published)
- Application via Form I-140G at trumpcard.gov

Tier 2: Corporate Gold Card — \$2,000,000

- \$2M gift per employee sponsored
- \$15,000 processing fee per employee
- 5% transfer fee to move card between employees
- 1% annual maintenance fee
- Allows companies to sponsor employees for permanent residency

Tier 3: Platinum Card — \$5,000,000 (NOT YET AVAILABLE)

The Platinum Card is NOT yet available. It is on a waitlist only. It is NOT part of Executive Order 14351. It is a SEPARATE product.

- Non-immigrant visitor status (NOT a green card)
- Up to 270 days per year in the US
- No US tax obligation on non-US-sourced income
- Completely separate from the Gold Card program



Figure 1: Gold Card Program Three Tiers Comparison

3. True Cost Breakdown

The \$1M headline understates the true cost. Here is the complete breakdown for an individual applicant and a family of four.

Individual Gold Card — Per Person:

- \$1,000,000 — Non-refundable gift to Department of Commerce
- \$15,000 — DHS processing fee (paid via pay.gov)
- \$375 — Additional processing fee
- \$15,000-\$50,000 — Immigration attorney fees
- \$1,000-\$2,500 — Medical examination
- \$500-\$2,000 — Document translation & apostille
- \$5,000-\$15,000 — Financial audit / source of funds documentation
- \$500-\$1,000 — Passport fees and photos

Realistic Total (One Person)

\$1,037,000 - \$1,081,000+

Family of 4 (2 adults + 2 children):

- \$4,000,000 — Gifts (4 x \$1M)
- \$61,500 — Processing fees (4 x \$15,375)
- \$60,000-\$200,000 — Legal fees
- \$4,000-\$10,000 — Medical exams
- \$10,000-\$30,000 — Source of funds documentation

Realistic Total (Family of 4)

\$4,135,000 - \$4,300,000+

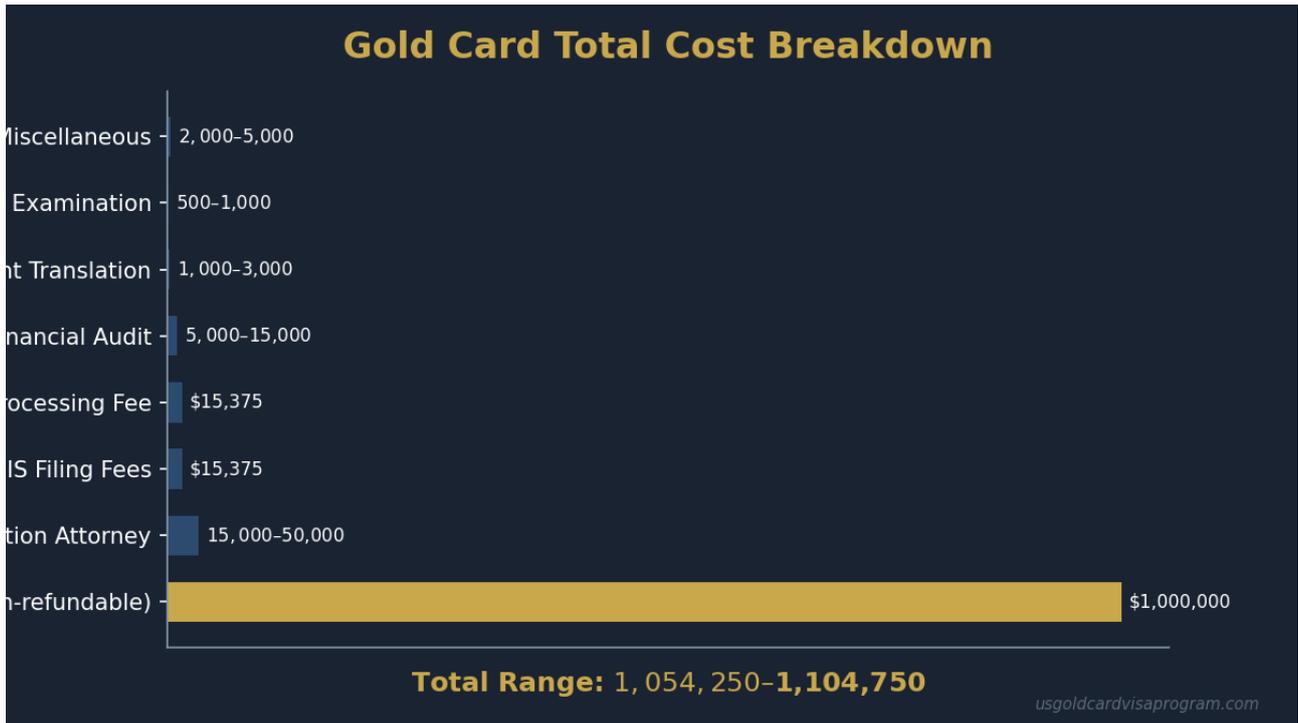


Figure 2: Gold Card Total Cost Breakdown

4. Gold Card vs. EB-5 vs. Global Visas

The Gold Card competes with the EB-5 investor visa and various global golden visa programs. Here is an honest comparison.

Gold Card vs. EB-5:

Category	Gold Card	EB-5
Payment type	Non-refundable gift	Investment (can be returned)
Cost	\$1M + \$15K fees	\$800K-\$1.05M investment
Money back?	No — gift is permanent	Yes, after conditions removed
Visa category	EB-1A or EB-2 NIW	EB-5 Immigrant Investor
Form	I-140G (online only)	I-526E
Job creation	Not required	10 full-time US jobs required
Processing	Expedited (timeline TBD)	18-36 months typical
Track record	Launched Dec 2025	Decades of precedent

Neither is universally 'better.' The Gold Card offers potential speed but costs more and the money doesn't come back. The EB-5 has a proven track record with capital preservation potential.



Figure 3: Gold Card vs. EB-5 Detailed Comparison

Global Golden Visa Landscape:

- Portugal Golden Visa: ~\$500K (investment, EU residency)
- Spain Golden Visa: ~\$500K (real estate, EU residency)
- Greece Golden Visa: ~\$250K-\$500K (real estate, EU residency)

- UAE Golden Visa: ~\$545K (investment, 10-year residency)
- US Gold Card: \$1M (gift, permanent residency)

The US Gold Card is the most expensive option and the only one where the payment is a non-refundable gift. However, it provides direct permanent residency in the United States.

5. How to Apply

The application process follows these 8 steps, based on the official trumpcard.gov process:

1. Register at trumpcard.gov (personal/family details)
2. Pay \$15,000 DHS processing fee via pay.gov
3. USCIS vetting begins (criminal, security, background)
4. USCIS notifies applicant to file Form I-140G online
5. I-140G requires: 20yr employment history, education, gov/military positions, all financial accounts incl crypto, source-of-funds docs
6. After approval, remit \$1M gift via ACH or wire to Dept of Commerce
7. Consular processing for visa issuance
8. Receive lawful permanent resident status

The \$15,375 processing fee is paid BEFORE vetting begins and is NON-REFUNDABLE. The \$1M gift is paid AFTER successful vetting — not upfront.



Figure 4: Gold Card Application Timeline

6. Source of Funds Requirements

Form I-140G requires extensive financial documentation. This is one of the most complex and time-consuming parts of the application. Start gathering documents BEFORE hiring an attorney — it will save you \$2,000-\$5,000 in legal fees.

What USCIS Requires You to Document:

- 20-year employment history — every job, every role, fully documented
- Complete education history — degrees, certifications, transcripts
- Government and military positions — current or past, must be disclosed
- All financial accounts — bank, brokerage, AND cryptocurrency wallets
- Source-of-funds documentation — employment income, business ownership, investments, inheritance, gifts
- Clean criminal and security background
- Valid passport with at least 6 months remaining

CRYPTO REQUIREMENT: All cryptocurrency holdings must be blockchain-traceable. Privacy coins and mixing services may disqualify your application.

Acceptable Source of Funds Categories:

- Employment income — pay stubs, tax returns, employment letters
- Business ownership — financial statements, valuations, tax filings
- Investment returns — brokerage statements, capital gains records
- Inheritance — probate documents, estate records, court orders
- Gifts received — gift letters, donor's source of funds documentation, tax filings
- Real estate — property records, sale documents, appraisals

Acceptable Sources of Funds				
EMPLOYMENT INCOME	BUSINESS INCOME	INVESTMENT RETURNS	INHERITANCE & GIFTS	OTHER
Salary / Bonuses	Business Profits	Stock / Bond Gains	Family Inheritance	Legal Settlement
Stock Options	Business Sale	Real Estate Sale	Trust Distributions	Insurance Proceeds
Executive Comp	Dividends	Fund Distributions	Documented Gifts	Pension / Retirement
	Royalties	Crypto (with docs)		

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Figure 5: Acceptable Source of Funds

7. Key Risks & Legal Challenges

The Gold Card program faces several risks that applicants should consider:

Legal Challenges:

- Multiple lawsuits have been filed challenging the program's legal authority
- Executive orders can be modified or revoked by future administrations
- The program's legal basis (EO 14351) has not been tested in court at scale

Financial Risks:

- The \$1M gift is non-refundable under any circumstances — even if your application is denied after the gift stage
- The \$15,375 processing fee is non-refundable — even if vetting fails
- No guarantee of processing timeline despite 'expedited' promise
- If the program is struck down by courts, the path forward for approved applicants is unclear

Practical Risks:

- New program with no historical precedent for processing or outcomes
- Vetting process requirements may change without notice
- Limited attorney experience with this specific program
- Platinum Card is not yet available — do not pay for waitlist scams

Our Recommendation

Consult with a qualified immigration attorney who has experience with EB-1A and EB-2 NIW applications before committing any funds. Do not rely on this guide or any website as your sole source of information for a \$1M+ decision.

8. Finding an Immigration Attorney

For a \$1M+ application, professional legal representation is essential. Here's what to look for:

Required Qualifications:

- Licensed to practice immigration law in the United States
- Experience with EB-1A or EB-2 NIW petitions specifically
- Familiarity with the Gold Card program (I-140G)
- AILA (American Immigration Lawyers Association) member

Fee Ranges:

- Initial consultation: \$0-\$500 (many offer free initial calls)
- Full representation: \$15,000-\$50,000 depending on complexity
- Source of funds documentation assistance: \$5,000-\$15,000 additional

Red Flags — Walk Away If:

- They guarantee approval
- They ask for the \$1M gift to be paid through them (it goes directly to DOC via pay.gov)
- They claim family members are 'included free'
- They reference Form I-526 instead of I-140G for Gold Card
- They conflate Gold Card (\$1M) with Platinum Card (\$5M)
- They offer to put you on a 'Platinum Card waitlist' for a fee

9. Tax Implications

Receiving a Gold Card means becoming a US lawful permanent resident. This has significant tax consequences.

Gold Card Holders (Permanent Residents):

- Taxed on WORLDWIDE income — all income, regardless of where earned
- Must file annual US tax returns (Form 1040)
- Subject to FATCA reporting requirements
- FBAR (FinCEN 114) required if foreign accounts exceed \$10,000
- May be subject to estate tax on worldwide assets
- May benefit from tax treaties between US and home country

Platinum Card Holders (When Available):

- Non-immigrant visitor status — different tax treatment
- Generally NOT taxed on non-US-sourced income
- Only US-sourced income subject to US taxation
- Less complex tax obligations than permanent residents

CRITICAL: Consult an international tax advisor BEFORE applying. Many applicants underestimate the tax impact of US permanent residency.

	NON-RESIDENT (Before Gold Card)	US RESIDENT (After Gold Card)
Income Tax	US-source income only	WORLDWIDE income
FBAR / FATCA	Not required	Required
State Tax	No obligation	Where you reside
Gift / Estate Tax	Limited exposure	Fully applies
Capital Gains	US property only	ALL assets globally

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Figure 6: Tax Obligations Before and After Gold Card

10. Disclaimer & Sources

Legal Disclaimer

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Nothing in this guide constitutes legal, tax, immigration, or financial advice. The information provided is for general informational purposes only. Immigration law is complex and changes frequently. The Gold Card program is new and its legal framework is still being tested.

Always consult a qualified immigration attorney licensed to practice in the United States before making any decisions about your immigration application. Always consult a qualified tax advisor about the implications of US permanent residency.

Official Sources

- Trump Gold Card Program: trumpcard.gov
- USCIS Gold Card Page: uscis.gov/forms/explore-my-options/trump-gold-card
- Executive Order 14351: federalregister.gov/documents/2025/09/19/executive-order-14351
- Form I-140G Instructions: Available at trumpcard.gov

About This Guide

This guide was last verified against official sources on 2026-02-27. We verify all facts against trumpcard.gov, uscis.gov, and Executive Order 14351 on a regular basis. If you find any errors, please contact us at usgoldcardvisaprogram.com.

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The most accurate Gold Card resource on the internet.