

## MISSOURI SERVICE CENTER TO BECOME NATIONAL BENEFITS CENTER

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May 6, 2003

BCIS has recently approved a proposal to convert the Missouri Service Center (which currently adjudicates all V classification and K-2/K-3 classification requests) will become the "National Benefits Center" (NBC) at some point in the near future. Although this change is not yet official and will require some Congressional action to complete this change, it is a virtual certainty.

Under the terms of the proposed change, the NBC will handle preliminary processing of all family-based I-485 applications (Adjustment of Status) and will phase in all N-400 applications (US Citizenship) at a later date. Under this scenario, every family-based immigrant visa petition will be filed at the NBC through the Chicago lockbox that is currently used for K/V visa petitions. The lockbox will collect the petition fee, scan the documents and electronically transfer those documents to the NBC for processing. Once each case has cleared initial processing and basic eligibility for the visa class has been determined, each case will be forwarded to the applicable district BCIS office for scheduling of the interview.