

Caribbean Move Budget Checklist (USA)

Use this worksheet to price the whole move, not just the application fee. Tick each line once you have a written quote or an official published figure.

Status and application costs

- ☐ Government application and processing fees for your chosen route.
- ☐ Licensed agent, attorney or authorised representative fees where the route requires one.
- ☐ Due diligence / background check fees for each adult applicant.
- ☐ Investment, contribution or real-estate minimum (citizenship by investment routes).
- ☐ Dependant fees for each additional family member.
- ☐ Renewal or permanent-residency conversion fees in later years.

Document costs

- ☐ Certified copies of birth, marriage, divorce or death certificates (order spares).
- ☐ Apostille fees per document — state Secretary of State and US Department of State.
- ☐ FBI Identity History Summary plus any state-level police check.
- ☐ Medical examinations, required tests and vaccinations.
- ☐ Certified translations where the destination's official language is not English.
- ☐ Passport renewal or additional pages, and passport-standard photographs.

Moving and shipping

- ☐ Container or shared-container freight quote, port to port.
- ☐ Customs duty, VAT and port handling charges at destination.
- ☐ Vehicle import duty, inspection and registration (if shipping a car).
- ☐ Pet transport, import permit, rabies titre test and USDA-endorsed health certificate.
- ☐ Flights for the whole family, plus excess baggage.
- ☐ Storage in the US for anything you are not shipping.

Landing and first-year costs

- ☐ Rental deposit and advance rent, or property purchase costs and stamp duty.
- ☐ Utility connections, internet installation and mobile plans.
- ☐ Furniture and appliances suited to the climate.
- ☐ School fees, uniforms and enrolment charges.
- ☐ Private health insurance premiums for the first year.
- ☐ Vehicle purchase or long-term rental.
- ☐ Local bank account opening requirements and minimum balances.

Often forgotten

- ☐ Currency exchange spread and international transfer fees.
- ☐ US tax preparation for expatriate filings.
- ☐ Return trips to the US for family, work or property matters.
- ☐ Duplicate applications if a document expires before a decision is issued.
- ☐ A contingency reserve of at least three months of living costs.

Important note

Island Legacy Consultancy provides consultancy and preparation support only. We do not guarantee visa, residency or citizenship approval, and this checklist is general information rather than regulated immigration or legal advice. Requirements, costs and timelines change by country — always confirm current rules with the relevant authority or a regulated adviser.