



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
 Department of Human Services
 311 West Saratoga Street
 Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
 DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT,
 FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

FROM: LA SHERRA AYALA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 
DEBBIE RUPPERT, MDH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 

**RE: AFGHAN HUMANITARIAN PAROLEES (AHP)
 ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS**

**PROGRAMS IMPACTED: REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE (RCA)
 REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (RMA)
 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
 (SNAP) TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)
 MEDICAID (MA)**

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Effective September 30, 2021, Congress authorized Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHPs) as eligible to receive mainstream benefits (such as TCA, MA, and SNAP), refugee benefits funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) such as RCA and RMA, and any other services available to refugee populations. Per the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, and as extended by the Additional Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, and the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, this includes:

1. Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023¹, commonly called Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHPs).

¹ This supersedes previous federal guidance by extending the eligibility date of Afghans paroled into the U.S. from October 16, 2022, to September 30, 2023, due to the passage of the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

2. A spouse or child of any individual described above in sentence 1 who is paroled into the United States after December 16, 2022.
3. A parent or legal guardian of any individual described above in number 1, who is determined to be an unaccompanied child as defined by 6 U.S.C. § 279(g)(2), who is paroled into the United States after December 16, 2022.

The eligibility period for AHP customers’ benefits is from their date of eligibility/USCIS status date (date of entry into the U.S.) until March 31, 2023, or the end of the individual’s parole term, whichever is later,² unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another ORR-eligible category or status (such as by applying for and receiving asylum in the United States).

In accordance with the legislation described above, ORR revised [Policy Letter 22-01](#) on January 5, 2023, to provide further guidance on the provision of such benefits and services, as well as [Policy Letter 22-02](#) on documentation requirements for new Afghan populations. In addition to the acceptable documents listed for Afghan refugees, asylees, and Special Immigrants or SI Visa (SIV) holders, the chart below lists acceptable documents for Afghan customers:

Applicant	Documentation
Afghan Special Immigrant Parolee (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Form I-94 noting SI or SQ parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Sec 1059(a)) ● Form I-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code C11 ● Form I-766, EAD with code C11
Afghan Humanitarian Parolee (AHP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Form I-94 with COA codes – “OAR”, “OAW”, “PAR”, “DT”, “Paroled” or Humanitarian Parole (per INA section 212(d)(5)(A)) ● Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp with COA codes “OAR”, “OAW”, “PAR”, “DT”, “PAROLED” or Humanitarian Parole (per INA section 212(d)(5)(A)) ● Interim Notice Authorizing Parole (INAP), noting parole under INA 212(d)(5)(A) ● Form I-765 EAD receipt notice with code C11 ● Form I-766 EAD with the code C11
Afghan Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foreign passport with Machine Readable Immigrant Visa (MRIV) with code CQ1, CQ2, or

² Most Afghan nationals paroled under Operation Allies Welcome received a parole period of **2 years from their date of entry into the U.S. and** have received assistance to apply for and receive asylum to maintain eligibility and avoid any lapses in coverage. **AHPs who adjust to asylum or SI status remain eligible for federal benefits and exempt from the 5-year bar.** USCIS has created a process for AHPs to apply for re-parole for those whose parole periods may end before receiving another qualified status (such as asylees or Special Immigrants) or adjusting to Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR). Note that AHPs who adjust to LPR status under family reunification may be subject to the 5-year bar.

<p>(CPR) (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)</p>	<p>CQ3, or DHS/CBP admission stamp noting that the individual has been classified under IV (immigrant visa) category CQ1, CQ2, or CQ3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DHS Form I-551 (“green card”) with an immigrant visa code for categories CQ1, CQ2, or CQ3 ● DHS/CBP temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp ● DHS/USCIS temporary Form I-551 ADIT stamp ● Form I-765 EAD receipt notice with code C11 ● Form I-766 EAD with code C11
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REQUIRED ACTION:

- Case Managers are required to verify each applicant’s immigrant status utilizing SAVE and that clients have one of the eligible documents described above.
- Case Managers may select “Asylee/Parolee” as the immigration status for all eligible AHPs and SI Parolees on the Citizenship Information page in E&E.
 - When AHPs adjust to a new immigration status this should be entered in E&E with a new SAVE CaseCheck completed and immigration documents verified. Most AHPs will adjust to one of the following 3 immigration statuses:
 - Asylee (entered as “Asylee”, verified through USCIS asylum documents)
 - Afghan Special Immigrant (entered as “Refugee”, as verified through via Special Immigrant Visa or green card with SI or SQ code), or
 - Lawful Permanent Resident (entered as “Permanent Resident”, as verified by DHS Form I-551, “green card”).
 - AHPs who adjust to LPR status may be subject to the 5-year bar.
- Case Managers must enter the Date of Entry based on when the customer entered/was paroled into the United States based on their immigration documents.
 - When AHPs adjust to a new immigration status, the Date of Entry does not change from the original date, and this remains the Date of Eligibility.
- Case Managers must enter the USCIS Status Date for AHPs as their date of entry into the U.S. **or** October 1, 2021, whichever is later (per ORR guidance).
 - When AHPs adjust to a new immigrant status, the USCIS Status Date does not change from the original date, usually the date of entry into the U.S.
- Case Managers must enter the Citizenship Status “End Date” based on the parole period on the customer’s immigration documents (for AHPs resettled part of OAW this is usually a 2-year parole period starting from their date of entry into the U.S.):
 - When an AHP adjusts to a new status such as asylum or SI/refugee, the End Date is no longer applicable.
 - When an AHP is re-paroled (parole status is renewed), a new End Date should be entered in E&E.
- An AHP is no longer eligible for an exemption from the 5-year bar and may lose eligibility for benefits if the End Date of the Parolee Status is reached and a new qualified immigration status (such as asylum or SI/refugee) has not been documented. If this occurs, Case Managers should call the customer to confirm whether the parolee status has

been renewed or obtained new qualified immigration status.

- If the status was renewed, the Case Manager should enter the new immigration status end date.
- If the customer obtained an asylee or SI/refugee status, E&E should be updated accordingly.
- If the parolee status expired and the customer has not obtained a new qualified immigration status, the Case Manager should close the case following standard case closure procedures.
- This guidance does not extend to other parole groups or programs unless explicitly stated in other FIA Action Transmittals, Policy Manuals, or other guidance.
- All other guidelines for refugee populations remain in place, including referrals to local Resettlement Agency (RA) affiliates within MORA's PPP jurisdictions:
 - Baltimore Metropolitan Area (Baltimore City as well as Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties):
 - International Rescue Committee (Baltimore)
 - Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (Arbutus)
 - Suburban Washington Area (Montgomery and Prince George's Counties):
 - ECDC African Community Center DC Metro (Silver Spring)
 - International Rescue Committee (Silver Spring)
 - Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (Greenbelt)
 - Frederick County
 - Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (Frederick)
- Additional information for customers and staff is available on the [MORA website](#), including resources on MORA-funded benefits and providers, and contact information for MORA, the Maryland RAs described above, and other organizations that support refugee and humanitarian immigrant populations.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#) found on Knowledge Base or via email at fia.policy@maryland.gov.

For MA policy questions: Direct Non-MAGI and MAGI policy questions to the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Eligibility Services at mdh.oesinquiries@maryland.gov.

Contact the [Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees](#) for additional information about refugee policies.

cc: DHS Executive Staff
MDH Executive Staff
Constituent Services
DHS Help Desk
FIA Management Staff
Office of Administrative Hearings