

AFGHAN PLACEMENT & ASSISTANCE (APA) PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Introduction: APA is a new emergency program created in response to the evacuation efforts in Afghanistan. It allows for the provision of initial relocation support services for Afghan parolees admitted to the U.S. during the period of August 20, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

What is Humanitarian Parole?

Humanitarian parole is used to bring someone who is otherwise inadmissible into the United States for a temporary period of time due to an emergency. A person may apply for humanitarian parole when they have a compelling emergency and there is an urgent humanitarian reason to allow them to temporarily enter the United States.

When specifically considering Afghans, evacuees are receiving parole when they do not qualify as an SIV, or are unable to complete Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) processing. These Afghans have been processed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and paroled into the United States for two years for urgent humanitarian reasons, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. §1182(d)(5).

APA Program Services

Initial relocation support services under the APA will be broadly similar to the core services provided under Reception and Placement (R&P), including but not limited to:

- airport reception, as applicable
- safe and appropriate housing, as noted below
- adequate food supplies
- seasonal clothing, as needed
- pocket money for each adult
- material needs support
- assistance in accessing health services, as possible
- assistance with enrollment in services appropriate to their personal circumstances, as eligible
- assistance with enrollment in school for school-aged minors
- cultural orientation, and
- assistance with accessing legal services to apply for adjustment of status.
- assistance to apply for employment authorization (walk-ins)
- assistance in completing immunizations and vaccinations within 7 days of arrival (walk-ins)

Support services should be provided with appropriate language interpretation by an individual who is not associated with the parolee and promotes gender equality.

Additional Benefits for which Afghan Parolees are Eligible:

- Use of travel credits through Airbnb OpenHomes.
- At this time, Afghan parolees are not currently eligible for *most* public-benefit programs (RCA or TANF), medical assistance (RMA or Medicaid, with some exceptions), SNAP, and SSI. Nor are they currently eligible for the R&P Program or ORR-funded programs such as Matching Grant, Refugee Support Services, or Preferred Communities. Exceptions vary and may include:
 - Children are eligible for SNAP

- [Medicaid or CHIP](#) for children or pregnant women depending on the state. Review a more detailed chart of states [here](#) and a narrative background [here](#).
- Pregnant women and families with children under 5 are eligible for WIC
- Afghan parolees are eligible for an EAD. Those processed through the military bases will have their application expedited with USCIS.
- Afghan parolees processed through the military bases will have emergency medical coverage through ORR through September 30, 2021.

Allocation & Assurance of Cases

Allocated Cases

Cases that completed processing through a military base will be allocated directly to a resettlement affiliate. These cases will have completed an expedited EAD application before arriving, and the EAD card will be mailed to the assured resettlement office.

Walk-in Cases

Walk-in Afghan parolees, who did not complete all processing through a military base, will be able to request benefits through the program. **More information will be shared after PRM defines the process.** Walk-ins will need to complete the I-765 for their EAD, and which will not be expedited.