

# Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

## Economic Services Administration | Community Services Division

**October 21, 2021**

**TO: Washington Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Contracted Service Providers**

**FROM: Sarah Peterson, ORIA Office Chief and State Refugee Coordinator**

**RE: Eligibility Update for Afghan Arrivals in Washington State**

As Washington prepares to welcome large numbers of Afghan arrivals in the coming months, ORIA wants to ensure that our providers have the information they need to best support newly arriving clients. As most of you know, things have been rapidly changing for this group and this has changed eligibility for many people who previously were not able to access federally-funded services and benefits. This document will answer some frequently asked questions and we will continue to keep you updated as things evolve and change with benefit and service eligibility.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

**Will all Afghan arrivals now be eligible for federally-funded public benefits and expanded services?**

**Yes**, on September 30, 2021, the federal government passed the [Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act to expand services for Afghan arrivals](#). This legislation authorizes citizens or nationals of Afghanistan and their spouses or children, as defined by [8 U.S.C. § 1101\(b\)](#), who are paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2022 to receive federal public assistance, resettlement assistance and other benefits available to refugees, until March 31, 2023 or the end of their parole term, whichever is later.

Initial resettlement services will be provided through local refugee resettlement agencies who will administer these services. Services will last for a minimum of 30 days and can be extended for up to 90 days. These services include securing and furnishing affordable housing and providing food and basic necessities. Resettlement case managers will assist families in applying for social security cards, accessing health screening and other necessary health services, obtaining appropriate benefits, social services and English language instruction, enrolling in employment services, registering children in school and accessing immigration legal services. They will also provide basic cultural orientation.

Following the initial resettlement period, most Afghan arrivals will be connected with ongoing services, many of which are funded by ORIA. As of October 1, 2021, all Afghan arrivals with the statuses listed below will be eligible for ORIA-funded services.

## **IMMIGRATION STATUS AND DOCUMENTATION**

### **What immigration statuses will Afghan arrivals be granted?**

Afghans arriving in Washington state will have multiple types of immigration statuses.

- **Refugees** – Some Afghans will arrive as refugees, although it is not anticipated that many Afghans will be arriving in the near future with this immigration status.
- **SIV-** Some will arrive with Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) status and will become lawful permanent residents. The Visa in their passport serves as a temporary I-551 (green card) for 1 year after arrival.
- **SI CPR** (Special Immigrants conditional permanent residents) – These are Afghan nationals who have assisted the U.S. troops and U.S. government overseas and are relocated to the United States. SI CPRs generally have foreign-issued passports with a Dept. of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Patrol admission stamp with a CQ1, CQ2, or CQ3 class of admission. However, some of these Afghan SI CPR arrivals may not have a physical immigrant visa or temporary Form I-551 stamp in their passport. USCIS is also issuing a Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) to these SI CPRs.
- **SI/SQ Parolees-** People who have submitted but have been unable to complete their applications for Special Immigrant Visa Status may be granted an SQ/SI parole immigration status with their SIV status pending.
- **Humanitarian Parolees-** The highest concentration of individuals will be granted humanitarian parole status on a case-by-case basis. Humanitarian parole is a temporary immigration status designated by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that allows an individual to enter the country due to an emergency humanitarian situation. The word parolee in this context bears no meaning to the way it is commonly used to refer to someone who was previously incarcerated. Afghan humanitarian parolees will be allowed to apply for asylum and will be granted employment authorization.

As of Sept. 30, 2021, all Afghan evacuees, including those with humanitarian parole status, are eligible to receive refugee resettlement services, entitlement benefits and all services to the same extent as refugees.

### **What kind of documentation will Afghan arrivals carry in order to determine eligibility for benefits and services?**

Individuals from Afghanistan may carry one or more of the following documents:

- **I-94 Arrival/Departure Record**
  - SI/SQ Parolees will have a stamp “Special Immigrant Status (SQ/SI PAROLE) listing a date and USCIS Officer. The Class of Admission is “DT” and the alien number may not be listed under Passport Number. The Alien Number may not be included on the I-94 and must be obtained through other documentation.

- **Afghan Passport**
  - SIV clients may carry an Afghan passport with temporary visa which serves as a temporary I-551 (green card).
  - Humanitarian Parolees may have an Afghan passport with a stamp that indicates their status as “Paroled”. ”- included under Purpose, may be “Operation Allies Refuge” “OAR” and “DT” (parole granted at a port of entry or District office). There will also be a date, location code and officer ID number.
- **Employment Authorization Document**  
SI/SQ Parolees EAD cards will have a C11 code
- **Independent Departures Form** – While this document does not verify immigration status, it can often be used to determine an individual’s Alien #.

*Note: Some of the documentation may have missing or incorrect information. DSHS is working to determine how to advise people to get accurate immigration documentation, while working to try and determine avenues for people without accurate documentation to gain access to benefits. If you are assisting someone with errors on their documentation, please have them e-mail [OperationAlliesRefuge@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:OperationAlliesRefuge@cbp.dhs.gov) for assistance from Customs and Border Protection within the Department of Homeland Security.*

*For ORIA-funded services, if you are unable to collect adequate documentation to verify the eligibility of an Afghan arrival, please contact your Program Manager for an Exception to Policy. We do not want the systemic issues with immigration documentation to delay enrollment for services.*

*There is an expanded table of immigration documentation types at the end of this document.*

## **ARRIVALS IN WASHINGTON**

### **How many Afghan individuals and families will arrive in Washington?**

Through [Operation Allies Refuge](#), from July 29 – Sept. 30, 2021, Washington welcomed approximately 332 people from Afghanistan. Washington will continue to receive individuals and families from Afghanistan through this program.

As of mid-September 2021, the U.S. Department of State has approved local refugee resettlement agencies in Washington to welcome 1,679 people out of the initial 37,000 people processed. The federal government anticipates needing to resettle more than 70,000 people through Operation Allies Refugee nationally. Washington state is expected to be in the top five states to welcome Afghan arrivals.

### **How will Afghan individuals and families arrive and resettle in Washington?**

Afghans will be traveling from one of the eight Safe Haven military bases across the country. Some may travel independently. The majority individuals will be resettled through one of our local refugee resettlement agencies. Washington is home to five of the nine national resettlement agencies with offices located in Benton-Franklin, Clark, King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane and Whatcom counties.

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The table below has been updated to reflect the expanded eligibility for benefits and services.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Afghan SIV or Afghan SI/SQ Parolees</b>	<b>Afghan Humanitarian Parolees</b>
<b>Refugee Resettlement Agency support</b>	Eligible Reception and Placement	Eligible Afghan Parolee Assistance
<b>Washington cash and food programs</b>	Eligible	Eligible
<b>Apple Health (Medicaid)</b>	Eligible	Eligible
<b>ORIA-Funded Programs for New Arrivals</b>		
<b>Refugee Health Screening &amp; Refugee Health Promotion</b>	Eligible	Eligible
<b>LEP Pathway Employment and ESL</b>	Eligible	Eligible
<b>CLEVER</b>	Eligible	Eligible
<b>ORIA BFET</b>	Eligible	Eligible
<b>PRIME</b>	Eligible	Eligible
<b>Refugee School Impact, Refugee Youth Mentoring &amp; Unaccompanied Refugee Minor</b>	Eligible	Eligible
<b>Refugee Elders</b>	Eligible	Eligible

**Document Guide for Afghan Arrivals<sup>1</sup>**

Applicant	Documentation
Afghan Special Immigrant Parolee (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	Form I-94 noting SI or SQ Parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006) <b>Or</b> DHS/CBP temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp <b>Or</b> DHS/USCIS temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp
Afghan Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Resident (CPR) (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting that the individual has been classified under IV (immigrant visa) Category CQ1, CQ2 or CQ3 <b>Or</b> DHS Form I-551 (“green card”) with an IV (immigrant visa) code for category CQ1, CQ2 or CQ3 <b>Or</b> DHS/CBP temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp <b>Or</b> DHS/USCIS temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp
Afghan Humanitarian Parolee  <i>Note: The eligibility date of Afghan Humanitarian Parolees for ORR benefits and services is October 1, 2021, (if the individual has already entered the community) or their date of entry into the community. For example, the date on which the Afghan Humanitarian Parolee departs the military base, whichever is later).</i>	Form I-94 noting Humanitarian Parole (per INA section 212(d)(5)(A)) <b>Or</b> Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Operation Allies Refuge or “OAR” <b>Or</b> Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Operation Allies Welcome or “OAW”

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/ORR-PL-22-02-Additional-ORR-Eligibility-Categories-and-Documentation-Requirements-for-Afghan-Nationals.pdf>

	<p><b>Or</b> Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting “DT”</p>
<p>Afghan Special Immigrant (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)</p>	<p>Documentation and coding for Afghan SIV arrivals can be found on the <a href="#">ORR website</a>. In addition to the documents listed in the section for Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants, ORR will also accept:</p> <p>DHS/CBP temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp</p> <p><b>Or</b> DHS/USCIS temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp</p>