

Request for Applications Questions and Answers

State Refugee Office 2023-2024

1. We're working through our plans for the RSS RFPs and had some questions about Afghan Humanitarian Parolees and their eligibility for services under ASA funding. For most folks, their parole will be ending this fall. According to the ORR Policy Letter 22-02, Afghans would only be eligible for services if they have valid parole. Have you heard anything about this? Can we expect some changes to this ORR policy? Furthermore, we have many clients who are in the middle of processing for SIV status. Once approved, their documentation does not align with the documentation listed in the same ORR Policy Letter because they're being processed within the US as opposed to overseas. If going by that policy letter, they'd only be eligible for services once they receive their green card but not for ASA services, only RSS.

- a. Here is guidance ORR has sent out :

To be eligible for ORR benefits and services, AHPs must have entered the U.S. between July 31, 2021 – September 30, 2023 with parole. An exception exists for spouses and children of ORR eligible AHPs, and the parent or legal guardians of ORR-eligible Unaccompanied Afghan Minors. These individuals are eligible for ORR benefits and services even if they enter the U.S. with parole after September 30, 2023. The eligibility period for all AHPs lasts until the later of either:

- When parole expires (typically, two years from the date of parole/entry), or
- March 31, 2023

To determine when someone's eligibility period expires, check their Form I-94 for their date of parole. Most Afghan Humanitarian Parolees will remain eligible past March 31, 2023. Note that ORR cannot provide service to AHPs beyond the date their parole expires, unless they have attained another ORR-eligible status (such as asylum). ORR does not have the authority to extend a grace period of service to AHPs for whom parole has expired and eligibility has lapsed. ORR is in constant contact with DHS regarding the expiration of parole for AHPs, however. DHS is diligently working on a suitable pathway for AHPs who may be affected by the expiration of parole.

AND this:

Afghan Humanitarian Parolees are eligible for ORR benefits and services if they enter with parole between July 31, 2021 and December 16, 2022. Afghans Humanitarian Parolees who arrive outside of that time frame are not eligible for ORR benefits and services. The following groups are excepted from this rule if they enter on or after December 16, 2022:

- Spouses and children of ORR eligible Afghan Humanitarian Parolees
- Parent or Legal guardian of ORR eligible Unaccompanied Refugee Minor

Please see ORR's PL 22-01 for additional details. Afghan nationals who have another ORR-eligible status, such as refugee, SIV-holder, or asylee, etc., remain eligible for ORR services for the standard time frame.

2. If we applied for RSS funding only, would we be able to serve Afghans and Ukrainians in the same manner under RSS as if we were to apply for separate funding for each population?
 - a. Yes. The UHP and AHP populations are eligible for services under base RSS. The one caveat would be some immigration legal services are limited to the Afghan Legal Specific funding.
3. Under RSS-base we would not be able to serve clients with their SIV related applications, like initial SIV application and I-360s, also, affirmative asylum, and I-130 and Humanitarian Parole petitions. However, under RSS-base, we can do TPS (for both Afghans and Ukrainians), green card applications, citizenship, and other types of cases we normally do under RSS-base. Is this correct?

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- a. Yes.
4. The last items on the checklist – which must be signed in blue ink – include an Indirect Cost Plan. Ours was signed on 06/01/2020 and is in place until 06/01/2024. Therefore, it will not be a new “blue ink” signature. Is this okay?
 - a. Yes, just resubmit the letter.
5. On the Excel workbook the last sheet is “Annual Contractor Documents.” As a current contractor, we submitted these in December 2022. Is it appropriate to submit those files again, or do you need updates/new signatures?
 - a. Annual contractor documents will not be required if submitted already.
6. For the performance measures section this statement: “During the period of July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2025 in the designated service areas, the Contractor, ____, shall:” Are the numbers for the Service Code descriptions supposed to reflect clients intended to be served per contract year or the total number of clients anticipated to be served for two contract years? Since the numbers for the performance measure descriptions are aligned with the face sheet numbers then the question for that chart is the same..... client numbers for one contract year or combined number for two contract years?
 - a. Each year is treated differently as far as budget and performance measures.
7. We provide services in two geographic areas. Can we apply for two base contracts, one for the main office and one for the sub-office?
 - a. Yes.
8. Page 10 Part 7.0 Item # 1 that date is July 6, 2022 which is in the past. What should that date be?
 - a. The date should be March 10, 2023.
9. Page 14 paragraph that is bold and underlined (about RIS Schedule-C) Should that date be July 1, 2022 (not Oct. 1, 2022)?
 - a. No. Please do it from October.
10. Page 15 chart There are columns for 0-12 months and 13-60 months. Citizenship services include participants in the United States > 60 months. Should we use the “13-60” column to account for naturalization participants?
 - a. Yes. Please include in 13-60. The narrative can of course note that you anticipate to serve X that have been here over 5 years.
11. Is immigration legal representation for RSS clients sufficient for the contract OR if we must also provide one of the "core employment" services (pre-employment, job development, job placement, employment follow-up)?
 - a. It is not required to provide a core employment service as you described below in order to be considered for an RSS contract.
12. Does pre-employment include acquiring work permits so that the clients are eligible to work?
 - a. Work Permits (EADs) would fall under code 962 - Employment Authorization Assistance.
13. In looking at the new funding announcement, did not see YM-Afghan. Will that be included in the YM?
 - a. Yes.