



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

August 20, 2021

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Work First Managers and Supervisors, Medicaid Managers and Supervisors, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), Work First Administrators, Managers and Supervisors

Subject: Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants and Special Immigrant (SI/SQ) Parole

Priority: Information Only

In July 2021, the U.S. government-initiated Operation Allies Refuge to quickly admit and resettle individuals from, and in, Afghanistan who have worked for, or on behalf of, the U.S. government. These individuals, who will be granted a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) or Special Immigrant (SI/SQ) Parole, or may be resettled through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, will be eligible for the benefits and services open to other ORR-eligible populations, including Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA).

Due to the urgent need to relocate Afghan individuals who have assisted the U.S. government overseas, individuals who receive SI/SQ Parole are eligible for these benefits. ORR has updated its guidance on eligibility documentation, designating an additional form of documentation showing eligibility for benefits for certain Iraqi and Afghan parolees.

The NC State Refugee Office's Refugee Assistance Program Manual outlines the statuses and documents that confer eligibility for RCA and RMA benefits and the documentation that is needed to show an individual is eligible. In addition to the acceptable documents already listed for Iraqi and Afghan special immigrants in the Refugee Assistance Program Manual, one additional document has been added:

| Applicant | Documentation |
|---|--|
| Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant) | I-94 noting SQ or SI Parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006) |

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Submit any questions regarding this information to
RefugeeAssistance.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov

Sincerely,



Carla West, Senior Director for Economic Security
Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services

CLW/cg

Attachment: (1)

Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holders or SQ/SI Parolees from Afghanistan and Iraq Fact Sheet

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