



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

October 14, 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:** Afghan Humanitarian Parolees and Unaccompanied Afghan Minors Eligible for ORR Benefits and Services

**Priority:** Information Only

This purpose of this letter is to inform you that per the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, and effective September 30, 2021, Congress has authorized citizens or nationals of Afghanistan paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022, to receive mainstream benefits (e.g., TANF, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI), resettlement assistance, and other benefits available to refugees.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, a spouse or child<sup>2</sup> of any Afghan humanitarian parolee described above, who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2022, is entitled to the same benefits and assistance. The benefits and assistance will be available until March 31, 2023, or the end of an individual's parole term, whichever is later.

Under the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, Congress has also given ORR the authority to serve unaccompanied minors as defined by 6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2) under the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)). Unaccompanied Afghan Minors under the age of 18 are eligible to apply for ORR's URM program, under which they are eligible to receive URM services to the same extent, and for the same periods of time, as refugees in the URM program.

Regarding applicable ORR benefits and services, ORR states that they interpret the eligibility date of an ORR-eligible Afghan humanitarian parolee as October 1, 2021, or the date the parolee "entered the community" in the United States (for example, the date on which the Afghan humanitarian parolee departs the military base), whichever is later. ORR has detailed this information in [ORR PL 22-01](#).

Furthermore, [ORR Policy Letter \(PL\) 16-01](#), *Documentation Requirements for the Refugee Resettlement Program*, introduced a documentation guide, [Status and Documentation Requirements for the ORR Refugee](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Refugees who are admitted to the United States under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 U.S.C. 1157).

<sup>2</sup> As defined in section 101(b) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)).

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

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[Resettlement Program](#) (hereinafter Documentation Guide), that outlined the statuses and categories that confer eligibility for ORR’s Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) benefits and the documentation that is needed to show an individual is eligible. ORR has issued additional guidance in [ORR PL 22-02](#) (details outlined below) augments [ORR PL 16-01](#) by adding information on acceptable documentation that would qualify an Afghan individual for RRP benefits. ORR rescinds [ORR PL 21-07](#).

In addition to existing services for Afghan Special Immigrant Visa recipients, refugees, and asylees, Congress has authorized ORR to serve the following categories of Afghan individuals in response to their urgent evacuation and resettlement:

1. Afghan individuals who receive SI/SQ Parole
2. Afghan individuals who receive Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Residence
3. Afghan humanitarian parolees<sup>34</sup> who are admitted to the United States due to urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit

ORR has added the following eligible applicants and additional documents to the acceptable documents already listed for Afghan Special Immigrants in the Documentation Guide:

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)
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

<sup>3</sup> On September 30, 2021, Congress authorized ORR to serve Afghan humanitarian parolees through the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> The term “Afghan Humanitarian Parolee” includes all Afghan nationals paroled by DHS, including unaccompanied minors.

Afghan Humanitarian Parolee	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" <b>Or</b> Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting "DT"
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In addition, ORR will also accept the following documents as proof of eligibility for Afghan Special Immigrants:

APPLICANT	DOCUMENTATION
Afghan Special Immigrant (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	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

All other elements of [ORR PL 16-01](#), including its attached Documentation Guide, as amended by the Frequently Asked Questions document, remain unchanged and in effect.

If you encounter documentation for Afghan arrivals that does not indicate inclusion in any of the three groups listed previously, please contact [RefugeeAssistance.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:RefugeeAssistance.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



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

CLW/sp

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