ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
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Afghan Populations Eligible for ASA-Funded ORR Services

Policy Letter 22-10 February 18, 2022

On September 30, 2021, Congress through the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, authorized the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide resettlement assistance and other benefits available to refugees to specific Afghan populations, in response to their emergency evacuation and resettlement. The purpose of this PL is to delineate the Afghan populations who are eligible not only for traditional ORR benefits and services but also for the benefits and services funded by this Act and the Additional Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (collectively referred to herein as "ASA").[1,2]

The following Afghan populations are eligible for traditional ORR benefits and services and ASA-funded benefits and services, for the timeframe indicated.

1. Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan (including unaccompanied minors) paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022. This group is eligible for benefits and services from their eligibility date until March 31, 2023, or until the end of the individual's parole term, whichever is later, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another ORR-eligible category or status.[3]
2. A spouse or child of any individual described above in number 1, who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2022. This group is eligible for benefits and services from their eligibility date until March 31, 2023, or the end of the individual's parole term, whichever is later, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another ORR-eligible category or status.
3. A parent or legal guardian of any individual described above in number 1, who is determined to be an unaccompanied child as defined by 6 U.S.C. § 279(g)(2), who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2022. This group is eligible for benefits and services from their eligibility date until March 31, 2023, or the end of the individual's parole term, whichever is later, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another ORR-eligible category or status.
4. Citizens and nationals of Afghanistan for whom refugee and entrant assistance activities are authorized (e.g., Special Immigrant Visa holders, Special Immigrants with Conditional Permanent Resident status, SI/SQ parolees, refugees, asylees), whose eligibility date is on or after July 31, 2021.[4]

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[1] ASA funding is specific and distinct from traditional ORR benefits and services, which are available to all ORR-eligible populations, including Afghan populations not eligible to be served under the ASA. See ORR PL 16-01 for additional information on other ORR-eligible Afghan populations.

[2] Eligibility documentation requirements for these populations are described within ORR PL 22-02.

[3] Afghan populations listed under bullets 1 through 3 are also known as "Afghan Humanitarian Parolees," Afghan nationals paroled by DHS on or after July 31, 2021 who ORR is authorized to serve under the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022.

[4] The eligibility date of ASA-eligible populations is October 1, 2021 (if the individual has already entered the community between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2021), or their date of entry into the community (for example, the date on which an Afghan parolee departs an Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome (OAR/OAW) Safe Haven), whichever is later. For a detailed discussion on dates of eligibility, see ORR PL 22-02.

This group is eligible for benefits and services for the traditional ORR eligibility timeframe defined under 45 CFR part 400.

If you have questions about eligibility for ORR's ASA-funded benefits and services, contact the Refugee Policy Unit at RefugeeEligibility@acf.hhs.gov.

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