



# ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness & Response  
330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201 | [www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr)

## Fact Sheet: U.S. Repatriation Program

### Mission Statement

The U.S. Repatriation Program supports eligible U.S. citizens and their dependents repatriated from a foreign country by providing them with temporary assistance upon their arrival to the United States. Individuals eligible for temporary assistance may receive services in the form of a loan.

### General Background

The U.S. Repatriation Program (Program) was established in 1935 under Section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide temporary assistance to private U.S. citizens and their dependents identified by the Department of State (DOS) as having returned from a foreign country to the United States because of destitution, illness, war, threat of war, or a similar crisis, and are without available resources. Upon the repatriates' arrival in the United States, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR) is responsible for the provision of assistance.

### Programmatic Structure

The Program contains two different activities. The non-emergency activity is characterized by ongoing repatriations of individuals including mentally ill repatriates (42 U.S.C. § 1313 and 24 U.S.C. §§ 321-329). The emergency activity is contingent upon a mass evacuation and/or emergency repatriation (42 U.S.C. § 1313, and E.O. 12656). However, the core program policies and administrative procedures are the same for both emergency and non-emergency repatriation.

### Temporary Assistance

Temporary assistance is defined in Section 1113 of the Social Security Act as cash, medical care, temporary shelter, transportation, and other goods and services necessary for the health or welfare of individuals, including guidance, counseling, and other welfare services. Temporary assistance is available for up to 90 days from the repatriate's date of arrival to the United States. The service provider must periodically evaluate a repatriate's situation to assess a repatriate's available resources, including benefits and services. All temporary assistance is provided in accordance to 45 C.F.R 211 and 212.

### Emergency Repatriation

During a mass evacuation from overseas, HHS/ACF/OHSEPR is the lead federal agency responsible for the coordination and provision of temporary assistance within the United States to all eligible repatriates returned from a foreign country. OHSEPR is responsible for the national emergency repatriation planning, coordination, and implementation. States and territories, through ACF-established repatriation agreements, are responsible for the reception, provision of temporary assistance, and onward transportation of repatriates. OHSEPR works with other federal agencies (e.g. CDC, DoD, ASPR, DHS) and non-federal entities (e.g., Red Cross) to support the provision of temporary assistance as needed.

### Contact Information

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