



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201  
[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr)

## Parole Processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans

Dear Colleague Letter 23-13

January 6, 2023

Dear Colleague:

As indicated in ORR [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\) 23-07](#), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) implemented a new migration enforcement process for Venezuelan nationals in October 2022. On January 5, 2023, [DHS announced](#) new border enforcement measures for Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans, while incorporating these populations into the preexisting Venezuelan parole process. This DCL seeks to clarify the eligibility status of those paroled into the United States through this process.

### Parole Process for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans

Beginning January 6, 2023, U.S.-based supporters may initiate an online application process on behalf of eligible Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan nationals and their immediate family members, who are outside of the United States and lack U.S. entry documents. These individuals will be considered on a case-by-case basis for advanced authorization to travel to the United States for a temporary period of parole for up to two years

. To participate in this process, Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan nationals must:

- Have a supporter in the United States who will provide financial and other support;
- Undergo and clear robust security vetting;
- Meet other eligibility criteria; and
- Warrant a favorable exercise of discretion.

See the DHS U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [web site](#) for more information on the processes and country-specific eligibility requirements for these populations.

### Eligibility for ORR Benefits and Services

While this supporter-based parole process is similar to the USCIS Uniting for Ukraine program, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan parolees are not currently eligible for ORR-funded refugee benefits and services. As parolees, Nicaraguan and Venezuelans who arrive to the U.S. under this process are eligible to apply for work authorization and a Social Security number.

As delineated in [ORR Policy Letter 16-01](#), Cubans and Haitians paroled into the United States, who have not acquired any other status under the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for whom a final, non-appealable, and legally enforceable order of removal, deportation, or exclusion has not been entered, are eligible to receive benefits and services to the same extent as refugees. Therefore, Cubans and Haitians paroled under this new supporter-based parole process are eligible for ORR refugee benefits and services. As parolees, Cubans and Haitians who arrive to the U.S. under this process are also eligible to apply for work authorization and a Social Security number.

Cuban and Haitians who enter in a different manner may also be eligible for ORR refugee benefits and services. Please see ORR [Policy Letter 16-01's documentation guide](#) for further information.

For information about the USCIS parole process for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans, see <https://www.uscis.gov/CHNV>. For questions about this DCL and eligibility for ORR refugee benefits and services, contact ORR's Refugee Policy Unit at [RefugeeEligibility@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:RefugeeEligibility@acf.hhs.gov).

Thank you,

Robin Dunn Marcos  
Director  
Office of Refugee Resettlement