ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr

Clarification Related to Afghan SQ/SI Parolees Eligibility for RCA/RMA

Dear Colleague Letter 21-16 August 5, 2021

Dear Colleague:

In light of the recent arrival of Afghan individuals with SQ/SI Parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Section 1059(a) NDAA 2006), ORR is issuing this Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) to remind the refugee resettlement network of certain ORR regulations.

According to 45 CFR § 400.51(a), for ORR-eligible populations who have been determined ineligible for cash assistance under the TANF program, the state[1] must determine eligibility for RCA in accordance with §§ 400.53 and 400.59 in the case of the public/private RCA program or §§ 400.53 and 400.66 in the case of a publicly-administered RCA program.

Additionally, according to 45 CFR § 400.94(d), if the appropriate state agency determines that ORR-eligible individuals are not eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP under its state plans, the state must determine the applicant's eligibility for refugee medical assistance (RMA).

ORR is pursuing a multi-prong approach to ensure our federal partners (TANF, Medicaid and SNAP) are aware of ORR PL 21-07 that announces Afghan individuals with SI/SQ parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Section 1059(a) NDAA 2006) are eligible for refugee resettlement program benefits. However, as this process may take longer than desired, states should ensure that Afghan parolees receive RCA and RMA in the interim, if they are found ineligible for TANF and Medicaid.

Thank you for your partnership in serving our newest arrivals.

Sincerely,

Cindy Huang
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement

[1] [1] "States" throughout this policy letter refers to states and replacement designees.