

## Continuation of ORR Services for Certain Afghans Who Have Filed for Re-Parole, Asylum, or Adjustment of Status

### Policy Letter 23-06

*Initially Published August 1, 2023*

*Revised October 19, 2023<sup>1</sup>*

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is issuing this policy letter (PL) to clarify that states and grantees may continue to provide ORR benefits and services to Afghan parolees who have a pending re-parole application, a pending asylum application, or a pending adjustment of status application with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This guidance applies even if an Afghan parolee's initial period of parole<sup>2</sup> expires while their applications are pending with USCIS.

### I. Background

In the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 and the Additional Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (hereinafter collectively referred to as "ASA"), Congress authorized ORR's parent agency, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), to provide resettlement assistance and other benefits available to refugees to specific Afghan populations. ORR issued guidance about eligible Afghan populations within [ORR PL 22-01](#) and [ORR PL 22-02](#). The ASA also authorized the provision of immigration-related legal assistance, which ORR addressed within [ORR PL 22-11](#).

On June 8, 2023, DHS announced a streamlined, fee-exempt re-parole process for certain Afghan nationals paroled into the United States.<sup>3</sup> The re-parole process allows eligible Afghan parolees to apply to USCIS for a new period of parole, also known as re-parole. DHS also announced that certain Afghan parolees with a pending asylum application or pending adjustment of status application will be considered on a case-by-case basis for an extension of parole<sup>4</sup> without the need to file a re-parole application.

ORR is aware of the possibility that Afghan parolees may reach the end of their initial period of parole as early as the end of July 2023 while their application for re-parole, asylum, or adjustment of status is pending.

### II. Eligible Afghan Parolees and Allowable Continued ORR Services

States and grantees may continue to provide ORR benefits and services to Afghan parolees whose initial period of parole expires while their applications for re-parole, asylum, or adjustment of status are pending.

Eligible Afghan parolees are those who:

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<sup>1</sup> October 19, 2023 revisions are footnoted within this document.

<sup>2</sup> Here, "initial period of parole" means the period beginning the date of an individual's parole until March 31, 2023, or until the end of the individual's parole period, whichever is later.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/06/08/dhs-announces-re-parole-process-afghan-nationals-united-states>

<sup>4</sup> October 19, 2023: terminology corrected

1. Are an ORR beneficiary, as of the day before their initial parole expiration date; and
2. Have submitted, as of the day before their initial parole expiration date:
  - a. a re-parole application prior to the expiration of their initial period of parole;
  - b. an asylum application prior to the expiration of their initial period of parole; or
  - c. an adjustment of status application prior to the expiration of their initial period of parole.

Eligible Afghan parolees can continue to receive services to the same extent as refugees and may also continue to receive immigration related legal assistance as defined in [ORR PL 22-11](#).

ORR wishes to clarify that this policy letter allows for the continuation of *existing* ORR benefits and services for which an Afghan parolee was enrolled prior to the expiration of their initial period of parole. The continuation may occur after their initial period of parole expired and while they wait for the adjudication of their application for re-parole, asylum, or adjustment of status. The continuation does not extend the parolee's time-eligible period for a specific benefit or service, however.<sup>5</sup> In addition, no new ORR benefits or services may be added for an Afghan parolee after their initial period of parole has expired, even if they have a pending re-parole, asylum, or adjustment of status application with USCIS. States and grantees, as is allowed under ORR PL 22-01 and ORR PL 22-02, may recommence enrollment of new ORR benefits and services to Afghans who are granted an eligible immigration status or category.

### III. Resources

If you have questions about this PL, contact [RefugeePolicy@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:RefugeePolicy@acf.hhs.gov). ORR also encourages you to use ORR's [Technical Assistance provider\(s\)](#) for additional resources on serving refugees, as well as Immigration Legal Services for Afghan Arrivals ([ILSAA](#)) for immigration-related legal assistance resources.

Sincerely,

Robin Dunn Marcos  
Director  
Office of Refugee Resettlement

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<sup>5</sup> October 19, 2023: clarification added