

## For States: New Afghan SIV code of admission and SNAP eligibility

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 2 attachments (354 KB)

ORR-DCL-21-15 - SQ SI Parole - 8.3.2021.pdf; ORR-PL-21-07 -SI SQ Parole - 8.3.2021.pdf;

Dear ROs,

Please share the message below with your State agencies.

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Due to the recent evacuation of Afghan interpreters from Afghanistan, we want to bring to your awareness that USCIS has created a new code for Afghan nationals who qualify for special immigrant visas (SIV). Afghan SIVs receiving the new "SQ4" and "SQ5" (Special Immigrant Status (SQ/SI) Parole) codes, are SIVs for the purposes of SNAP eligibility and should be treated in the same manner as those receiving codes "SQ" and "SI." As a reminder, Afghan SIVs are to be treated in the same way as refugees when determining SNAP eligibility and benefit levels. Provided that other eligibility requirements are met, refugees and SIVs are eligible for SNAP benefits indefinitely without a waiting period.

The information below, taken from page 7 of the SNAP Guidance on Non-Citizen Eligibility provides additional information on SNAP eligibility for Afghan SIVs.

*Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants are eligible for SNAP. Special immigrant status under Section 101(a)(27) of the INA may be granted to Iraqi and Afghan nationals who have worked on behalf of the United States government. Individuals and family members granted Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant visas (SIV) are considered qualified aliens and are eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other federal public benefits the same as refugees admitted under Section 207 of the INA. This means that, provided that other eligibility requirements are met, refugees and SIVs are eligible for SNAP benefits indefinitely without a waiting period.*

*Iraqi and Afghan special immigrants enter the U.S. either as LPRs with the special immigrant visa or later adjust to special immigrant status after entering the U.S. Potential eligibility for SNAP can begin when the individual was granted special immigrant status, either from the date of entry to the U.S. as an Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant, or the date of adjustment to special immigrant status within the U.S.*

The attached letters from the Office of Refugee Resettlement also provide additional information about the coding and treatment of Afghan SIVs.

Please reach out to your Regional Office with questions.

Jess Luna

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Chief, Program Design Branch

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

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