



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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

Eligibility Status of Certain Afghan Parolees

Dear Colleague Letter 21-18

August 26, 2021

Dear Colleague:

This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) is in response to the increase of Afghan individuals relocated to the United States. The majority of these individuals will fall into three groups:

- 1) Special Immigrant Visa (SIV),
- 2) Special Immigrant (SQ/SI) Parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Section 1059(a) NDAA 2006) previously explained in [ORR DCL 21-15](#), and
- 3) Parolees entering the United States without SQ/SI parole due to the urgent nature of their arrival

Afghan parolees without SQ/SI Parole are **NOT** eligible for ORR benefits and services. These individuals will not be eligible for ORR benefits and services until and unless they are issued a status/classification delineated within [ORR Policy Letter \(PL\) 16-01](#), *Documentation Requirements for the Refugee Resettlement Program*; the PL 16-01 [Documentation Guide](#), *Status and Documentation Requirements for the ORR Refugee Resettlement Program* (hereinafter Documentation Guide); or [ORR PL 21-07](#), *Amendment to ORR Policy Letter 16-01: Additional Form of Documentation for Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants*. These materials outline the statuses and documents that confer eligibility for Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) benefits and services and the documentation needed to show an individual is eligible. We will inform you as we learn more about any plans for transition of these individuals to a status or classification that provides eligibility for ORR benefits and services.

While ineligible for ORR benefits and services, these individuals may be eligible for resettlement-like services through the Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Please contact a [local refugee resettlement agency](#) for more information as appropriate. In addition, we will inform you about any other sources of assistance for this population as we learn of those options, including but not limited to, any changes to authorities to serve this population that Congress may provide.

If you encounter documentation for Afghan arrivals that does not indicate inclusion in any of the three groups listed previously, please contact ORR's Refugee Policy Unit at RefugeeEligibility@acf.hhs.gov to ascertain eligibility for the RRP.

Sincerely,

Cindy Huang
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement