

Afghan New Arrivals and Access to Public Benefits

This document provides a summary of newly arrived Afghans' eligibility for federal public benefits. It specifically covers eligibility based on the immigration statuses named by the [U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement \(ORR\)](#) as the most common among newly arrived Afghans (additional requirements such as income thresholds may apply).

The information is provided to support local advocates and service providers who want to learn more about the benefits that Afghan new arrivals may be able to receive. The information is focused on federal public benefits programs, but additional options may exist in your state.

Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIV); and	Afghans entering with SIV status or SQ/SI Parole are eligible for the major federal means-tested public benefit programs <u>without</u> a five-year waiting period, as well as other federal public benefits.
Special Immigrant (SQ/SI) parole	They are also eligible for refugee cash, refugee medical and refugee resettlement services provided through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).
Afghans granted other forms of humanitarian parole during a specific period	Afghans granted humanitarian parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022 — and their spouses, children, parents/guardians of unaccompanied children who are granted parole after that date — are eligible for federal means-tested public benefit programs without a waiting period, as well as other federal public benefits, including those provided by ORR. Eligibility for this group continues until March 31, 2023, or the end of their parole term, whichever is later.

ASSISTING AFGHAN NEW ARRIVALS WITH ACCESS TO SERVICES

On September 30, Congress [passed a law](#) that allows Afghans granted parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022, to be eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. (Their spouses, children and parents/guardians of unaccompanied minors granted parole after that date are also eligible for these benefits). On August 3, 2021, ORR issued a [policy letter](#) updating the public on the documentation requirements for Afghans to be eligible for services offered by the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP). Individuals must have documents showing that they have been issued one of the specific statuses or classifications served by ORR to receive ORR benefits or services.

- For more Information on resettlement benefits or services offered by ORR in your area, contact your [State Refugee Coordinator](#).
- For more Information on documentation requirements, visit:
 - [ORR RPP Status and Documentation Requirements](#).

- [SAVE: Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Resident Status and Non-SI Parolees](#)
- [CMS: Health Care Coverage for Afghan Evacuees](#)

QUICK GUIDE TO FEDERAL BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY FOR AFGHAN NEW ARRIVALS

	Afghan granted Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) or (SQ/SI Parole)	Afghan granted Humanitarian Parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Eligible	Eligible
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	Eligible	Eligible
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Eligible	Eligible
Emergency Medicaid (includes labor and delivery)	Eligible	Eligible
Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Plans and Subsidies	Eligible	Eligible
Full-Scope Medicaid	Eligible	Eligible
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	Eligible	Eligible
Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	Eligible	Eligible
HUD Public Housing and Section 8 Programs	Eligible	Eligible

Refugee Resettlement Programs through ORR	Eligible	Eligible
Services offered through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)	Eligible	Eligible
Federal Student Aid and Pell Grants	Eligible	Eligible
REAL ID driver's license or identification card	Eligible	Eligible

For more information on eligibility for federal public benefits for other Afghan nationals immigrating to the US, please refer to [NILC's Overview of Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs Table](#). You can also check with a local advocate, legal aid, or social services office to identify any other resources that may be available.