



CDSS

JOHN A. WAGNER  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

June 2, 2010

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 10-28

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS  
 ALL STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS  
 ALL MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATIONS  
 ALL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES  
 ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS  
 ALL COUNTY CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

SUBJECT: IRAQI AND AFGHAN SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS ELIGIBILITY FOR  
 REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM BENEFITS AND SERVICES

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY LETTERS NO. 09-39 and 08-35; 45 CODE OF  
 FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 400.152(b)

This letter is to provide updated information regarding the eligibility of Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants (SIs) and family members for Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) benefits and services funded by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). The RRP benefits and services are Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), and Refugee Social Services (RSS), Targeted Assistance (TA), and ORR discretionary grant services.

Effective December 19, 2009, Iraqi and Afghan SIs and their eligible family members became eligible to receive RSS, TA, and ORR discretionary grant services for up to 60 months from their date of entry into the U.S. or, if they applied for SI status while in the U.S., their date of adjustment to SI status. Previously, their eligibility period for all federal benefits and services was a maximum of eight months. The extension of RRP time-eligibility to 60 months for SIs is authorized by Section 8120 of Public Law 111-118, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, for which ORR issued instructions on March 23, 2010. A copy of the federal guidance to states regarding SI eligibility for the RRP can be found at the following link:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/policy/si10-02.htm>.

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The extended time-eligibility period applies to Iraqis and Afghans who entered the U.S. as SIs or who received an adjustment to SI status prior to December 19, 2009, including those who may have already received eight months of services. These individuals may receive services until they reach their 60<sup>th</sup> month in the country or from their date of adjustment, as appropriate.

Counties are encouraged to develop outreach strategies to inform and serve SIs and their eligible family members who were terminated from RSS, TA, and ORR discretionary services for reaching the eight-month time limit but who are eligible to receive additional months of services due to the rule change. However, Afghan and Iraqi SIs' receipt of RCA is not impacted by this change since time-eligibility for RCA benefits remains at eight months for all recipients.

Guidance to counties regarding the eligibility of Afghan and Iraqi SIs for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Program and Food Stamp Program benefits and services will be provided under separate cover.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Michael Villalovos, Policy Analyst, Refugee Programs Bureau, at (916) 654-4356.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

CHARR LEE METSKER  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division