



FACT SHEET

October 2016



CUBAN/HAITIAN ENTRANT PROGRAM

Background

Under Title V (Fascell-Stone Amendment) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (The Act), Cuban/Haitian nationals are provided immigration relief and given "entrant status" after they arrive in the United States (U.S.) and may be unable to return to their respective countries. The Act also establishes the Cuban-Haitian Entrant Program (CHEP), which is responsible for the provision of federal benefits and services for eligible Cuban and Haitian nationals.

Cuban/Haitian nationals who are neither refugees nor asylees may be eligible for Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)-funded assistance programs. They are the only population eligible for assistance and services while they are in removal proceedings, paroled, or awaiting an asylum determination. These clients retain eligibility for services even if the validity period of their parole status expires. However, these individuals must provide documentation that confirms their nationality and their immigration status in order to receive ORR-funded benefits and services.

Parole Status

Parole is a temporary status granted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) pursuant to the U.S. Attorney General's authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), Section 212(d)(5). Individuals may be granted parole for humanitarian reasons or for emergent or compelling reasons of "significant public benefit."

Documentation

Acceptable documentation for CHEP eligibility includes a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) I-94 Card (Arrival/Departure Card) showing a current parole stamp indicating status under the INA, Section 212(d)(5), Cuban or Haitian national, and the date of parole. Parolees are documented with a parole stamp on a Cuban passport and an I-94 Card showing their date of entry. Cuban or Haitian parolees who adjust their immigration status under applicable legislation would continue to be eligible for CHEP benefits even if the parole status expires.

Programs and Benefits

The CHEP is a federal program administered by both the USCIS under the DHS and the under ORR the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

USCIS Benefits

The USCIS coordinates the reception, processing, and community placement of Cuban and Haitian nationals paroled into the U.S. for the first 30 days or longer after arrival. Through agreements with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Church World Service, the USCIS provides resettlement assistance such as orientation, housing assistance, transportation, employment assistance, referral services and other assistance.

For more information on USCIS CHEP benefits, contact:

- [Church World Service](#), 800-297-1516 or
- [The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops](#), 202-541-3000.

Further information on the USCIS CHEP program is available at the following webpage:

www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/humanitarian-parole/cuban-haitian-entrant-program-chep.

ORR Benefits

The ORR also provides eligible Cuban/Haitian Entrants with medical assistance, cash assistance, and social services. Benefits and services are administered by the County Welfare Departments and supervised by the California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB). The RPB manages and coordinates the CHEP within federal regulations, funding availability, and the California State Plan for Refugee Assistance and Services.

Eligible Cuban/Haitian Entrants may receive assistance and services, such as Entrant Cash Assistance, for a period of up to eight months from the date of entry or release from DHS custody, and medical assistance programs. Cuban entrants who adjust their immigration status under the Cuban Adjustment Act may continue to be eligible for refugee services after their adjustment; however, recipients lose eligibility for CHEP benefits when they become U.S. citizens.

Additional information on the ORR CHEP program is available at the following webpage:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/spotlight>.