

April 6, 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-29

The purpose of this All County Letter is to inform counties of the requirement to track the number of Afghan Refugee Cash Assistance participants, the amount of cash assistance each participant receives, and related administrative expenses.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

April 6, 2022

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-29

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CALWORKs PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: TRACKING AFGHAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FUNDS

REFERENCE: OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT (ORR) [POLICY LETTER 22-01](#); ORR [POLICY LETTER 22-03](#); [ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER DATED \(ACWDL\) DECEMBER 2, 2021](#); [ACWDL DATED AUGUST 30, 2021](#); [ACWDL DATED SEPTEMBER 3, 2021](#)

The letter informs County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of the requirement, effective October 1, 2021, to manually track data for Afghan Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) program beneficiaries.

Background

On July 31, 2021, the United States (U.S.) Operation Allies Refuge began evacuating Afghan citizens and nationals from Afghanistan who were at-risk due to political instability. The U.S. continues to support Afghans as they resettle through [Operation Allies Welcome](#), which began on August 29, 2021. Many Afghan arrivals have departed Safe Haven military bases and have resettled to new communities within California.

On September 30, 2021, Congress passed the [Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act \(ASA\)](#), authorizing citizens or nationals of Afghanistan (paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022), to be eligible to apply for public benefits, resettlement assistance, and other benefits to the same extent as refugees beginning October 1, 2021. In addition, the ASA appropriated funding to specifically support eligible Afghan citizens and nationals. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provided instructions to counties via All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) dated [August 30, 2021](#), ACWDL dated [September 3, 2021](#), and ACWDL dated [December 2, 2021](#), regarding federal benefit eligibility for Afghan citizens and nationals with the following immigration categories:

1. Refugee – as defined under Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)
2. Special Immigrant Visa Holder

3. Special Immigrant Parolee with SQ/SI Class of Admission
4. Special Immigrant Lawful Permanent Resident
5. Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Resident
6. Afghan Humanitarian Parolee (previously referred to as Humanitarian Parolee from Afghanistan)

On November 30, 2021, the Office of Refugee Resettlement awarded CDSS its first quarter ASA Cash and Medical Assistance (CMA) funding. This funding is designated to cover the direct RCA and related administrative costs for Afghan nationals and citizens as listed above for as long as the federal government continues to award ASA CMA funding to the CDSS.

Manual Data Tracking Requirement

Considering the ASA CMA funding is new, the current Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System cannot track the required data points separately related to ASA CMA costs because there are no aid codes in the system specific to this funding. CDSS anticipates this funding is temporary, and therefore, automation will not be necessary. Accordingly, CWDs should manually track data for citizens or nationals of Afghanistan who are receiving RCA benefits, as defined in ACWDL dated December 2, 2021. The following are the data elements CWDs must track for each participant:

1. Name
2. Date of Birth
3. Alien Number
4. RCA amount received per month
5. Associated administrative cost per month

Going forward, and at the end of each federal fiscal year, CDSS will request this data via future ACLs through a template that will be provided to CWDs.

Program Codes and Claiming Instructions

A forthcoming County Fiscal Letter will provide new program codes and claiming instructions for the ASA CMA funds.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Refugee Programs Bureau at (916) 654-4356 or at RPB@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

MARCELA RUIZ
Director, Office of Equity