

June 15, 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

This letter provides County Welfare Departments with updated information regarding acceptable immigration documentation and benefit eligibility dates for Afghan arrivals.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

June 15, 2022

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: REVISED ACCEPTABLE IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTATION AND
BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY PERIOD UPDATES FOR AFGHAN
POPULATIONS

REFERENCE: [AFGHANISTAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022](#),
[OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT \(ORR\) POLICY LETTERS](#)
[\(PL\) 22-01](#), AND [PL 22-02](#), [DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER \(DCL\) 22-](#)
[12](#), AND [ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTERS \(ACWDL\)](#)
[DATED DECEMBER 2, 2021](#) AND [ACWDL DATED MAY 27, 2022](#)

This letter informs County Welfare Departments of expanded federal policy guidance defining which immigration documents and dates of eligibility are acceptable to continue determining Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) benefit eligibility for Afghan arrivals.

Additional Immigration Documents for AHP

On February 18, 2022, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) amended [PL 22-02](#), *Additional ORR-Eligible Statuses and Categories and Acceptable Documentation Requirements for Afghan Nationals*, adding new immigration documents that can be used in the determination of RRP benefits for Afghan arrivals, across the following eligible Afghan populations who traveled directly to an Operation Allies Welcome Safe Haven:

- Afghan Humanitarian Parolee (AHP), formerly designated as Humanitarian Parolee from Afghanistan (HPA)
- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holders
- Special Immigrant Parolees (SIP)
- Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents (SI CPR)

The following two immigration documents are now acceptable in the determination of eligibility of AHP for ORR RRP benefits:

- Application receipt notice for Form I-765, Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with code C11. This form is printed on plain paper and does not have a United States (U.S.) Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) form number

(See Attachment 1). If there is no other immigration document available, then the applicant may contact the International Organization for Migration to request a copy of their EAD receipt notice at afgovdocs@iom.int.

- Form I-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with code C11.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has updated the Acceptable Immigration Documentation for Afghan Nationals chart originally provided in [ACWDL dated December 2, 2021](#), and added the additional documents mentioned above (See Attachment 3).

New Eligibility Date for ORR Benefits and Services for Certain Afghan Populations

Per ORR PL 22-02, the date of entry into the U.S. qualifies as the date of eligibility for Afghan SIVs, SI CPRs, and SI/SQ Parolees for ORR benefits and services. This information is noted on the Form I-94 arrival/departure record or other federal travel documentation. However, effective November 10, 2021, for individuals in these categories who traveled directly to a Safe Haven, ORR will authorize the date of entry into the community (i.e., the date the individual departed the Safe Haven) as the eligibility date.

For the purpose of adjusting eligibility dates for Afghan individuals in the identified populations who traveled through Safe Havens and were enrolled in ORR services and benefits between July 31, 2021, and the effective date of this letter, CWDs may use the date of application instead of the date of arrival to the U.S., to calculate ORR benefit eligibility/time on aid.

For all initial Afghan SIVs, SI CPRs, and SI/SQ Parolees' applications for ORR benefits and services received on and after the effective date of this letter, CWDs should use the date of entry into the U.S. (for those not traveling through a Safe Haven) or date of entry into the community (for those traveling through a Safe Haven) as the date of eligibility.

In accordance with [ORR DCL 22-12, Expansion of the RCA and Refugee Medical Assistance Eligibility Period](#), dated March 28, 2022, the eligibility period for RCA has been expanded from eight (8) to twelve (12) months, and CWDs should ensure that eligible applicants are provided the extension of time on aid per guidance provided in ACWDL dated May 27, 2022. CWDs may reference [ACWDL dated December 2, 2021](#), for additional guidance on Afghan arrivals and should retain records on the date of entry for all Afghan arrivals in order to comply with federal reporting requirements.

Example: Ahmad, who is a SIV holder with no children, arrived in the U.S. on September 15, 2021, and traveled directly to a Safe Haven. Ahmad later left the Safe Haven and arrived to California on January 5, 2022 for resettlement. On January 15, 2022, Ahmad applied for RCA, and the CWD determined Ahmad was eligible for 8 months of RCA using September 15, 2021, the date of arrival in the United States (U.S.), as the date of eligibility,

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and a corresponding termination date of April 2022. RCA cash benefits were issued in February 2022 after Ahmad provided proof of enrollment into approved employment services, a condition of aid.

Per ORR PL 22-02 and DCL 22-12, the CWD exercised its discretion and recalculated Ahmad's RCA eligibility using the date of application, January 15, 2022, to calculate time on aid for a 12-month eligibility period. The CWD will request a SAR-7 report in June 2022 and cash aid will terminate at the completion of twelve months in December 2022, subject to continued eligibility.

RCA New Eligibility Date Implementation

For Afghan SIVs, SI CPRs, and SI/SQ Parolees who traveled through Safe Havens and were enrolled in ORR services and benefits between July 31, 2021, and the effective date of this letter, CWDs must recalculate the RCA eligibility period using the date of application. Per ORR DCL 22-12, for those who applied on or prior to September 30, 2021, their RCA eligibility period remains at 8 months from the date of application for benefits. However, for those who applied on or between October 1 and the effective date of this letter, CWDs should use the date of application to calculate the individual's RCA eligibility period for up to 12 months of aid, subject to continued eligibility.

Along with the manual continuance of these cases, CWDs must notify all eligible recipients of the new eligibility dates and time extension if applicable. CWDs should not require these recipients to reapply for RCA benefits to continue accessing cash aid. Please see below for noticing requirements and language.

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 RPB@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

ELIANA KAIMOWITZ, Chief
Immigrant Integration Branch
Office of Equity

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Attachment 1

Receipt Number IOE		Case Type I765 - APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION
Received Date 09/08/2021	Priority Date	Applicant: A
Notice Date 09/08/2021	Page 1 of 2	

c/o IOM 1625 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW, SUITE 500 WASHINGTON DC 20036	Notice Type: Receipt Notice Fee Waived Class requested: C11
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We have received the application or petition ("your case") listed above. This notice only shows that your case was filed on the "Received Date" listed above. It does NOT grant you any immigration status or immigration benefit, and it is not evidence that your case is still pending. We will notify you in writing when we make a decision on your case or if we need additional information.

Please save this and any other notices about your case for your records. You should also keep copies of anything you send us, as well as proof of delivery. Have these records available when you contact us about your case.

If any of the information in your notice is incorrect or you have any questions about your case, you can connect with the USCIS Contact Center at www.uscis.gov/contactcenter or ask about your case online at www.uscis.gov/e-request. You will need your Alien Registration Number (A-Number) and/or the receipt number shown above.

You can receive updates on your case by visiting www.uscis.gov/casestatus to get the latest status or you can create an account at my.uscis.gov/account and receive email updates for your case.

Automatic 180 day Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Extension - This notice, by itself, does not grant any immigration status or benefit, nor is it evidence that this case is still pending. However, if:

- You have timely filed to renew your current Form I-765 EAD; and
- Your EAD renewal is under a category that is eligible for an automatic 180 day extension (see www.uscis.gov/I-765 for a list of categories); and
- The category on your current EAD matches the "Class Requested" listed on this Notice of Action (Note: If you are a Temporary Protected Status beneficiary or applicant, your EAD and this Notice must contain either the A12 or C19 class, but they do not need to match each other.) and
- You do not receive your renewal EAD before your current EAD expires;
- Then this Notice of Action automatically extends the validity of your EAD for up to 180 days from the expiration date printed on the face of the card. If all of the above conditions apply with respect to your EAD renewal application, you may present this Notice of Action with your expired EAD to your employer for employment eligibility verification (Form I-9) purposes. If your renewal application is denied, the automatic extension immediately terminates, and you may not provide this Notice of Action with your expired EAD for Form I-9 purposes. If your EAD is a combo card, the automatic extension does not apply to advance parole. For more information, please visit our website at www.uscis.gov/I-765.

Processing time - Processing times vary by form type.

- Visit www.uscis.gov/processingtimes to see the current processing times by form type and field office or service center.
- If you do not receive an initial decision or update within our current processing time, you can try our online tools available at www.uscis.gov/tools or ask about your case online at www.uscis.gov/e-request.
- When we make a decision on your case or if we need something from you, we will notify you by mail and update our systems.

You can receive updates on your case.

- Visit the Case Status Online website at www.uscis.gov/casestatus. Provide your receipt number and get the latest update on your case.
- Create an account at my.uscis.gov/account and receive email updates on your case.

Biometrics - We require biometrics (fingerprints, a photo, and a signature) for some types of cases. If we need biometrics from you, we will send you a SEPARATE appointment notice with a specific date, time and place for you to go to a USCIS Application Support Center (ASC) for biometrics processing. You must wait for that separate appointment notice and take it (NOT this receipt notice) to your ASC appointment along with your photo identification. Acceptable kinds of photo identification are:

- A passport or national photo ID issued by your country,
- A driver's license,
- A military photo ID, or
- A state-issued photo ID card.

Please see the additional information on the back. You will be notified separately about any other cases you filed.

Attachment 2

Acceptable Immigration Documentation for Afghan Nationals

Applicant	Documentation
Afghan Special Immigrant (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	DHS/CBP temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp Or DHS/USCIS temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp
Afghan Special Immigrant Parolee (SIP) (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	Form I-94 noting SI or SQ Parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006)
Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Resident (CPR) (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting that the individual has been classified under IV (immigrant visa) Category CQ1, CQ2 or CQ3 Or DHS Form I-551 ("green card") with an IV (immigrant visa) code for category CQ1, CQ2 or CQ3 Or DHS/CBP temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp Or DHS/USCIS temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp

Applicant	Documentation
Afghan Humanitarian Parolee (aka: Non-SI Parolee)	<p data-bbox="849 380 1365 447">Form I-94 noting Humanitarian Parole (per INA section 212(d)(5)(A))</p> <p data-bbox="849 485 886 512">Or</p> <p data-bbox="849 554 1398 657">Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Operation Allies Refuge or "OAR"</p> <p data-bbox="849 695 886 722">Or</p> <p data-bbox="849 764 1398 867">Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Operation Allies Welcome or "OAW"</p> <p data-bbox="849 905 886 932">Or</p> <p data-bbox="849 974 1287 1041">Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting "DT"</p> <p data-bbox="849 1079 886 1106">Or</p> <p data-bbox="849 1148 1409 1251">Form I-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code C11</p> <p data-bbox="849 1289 886 1316">Or</p> <p data-bbox="849 1358 1284 1425">I-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with code C11</p>

Attachment 3

**Eligibility for Existing Afghan SIV, SI CPR, and SI/SQ Parolee RCA Recipients
(Between July 31, 2021 and the Effective Date of this Letter)**

Category	Traveled to Safe Havens?	Eligibility Date for ORR-Funded Benefits (RCA, RSS, SOR)	RCA Eligibility Period Recalculation	RCA Termination Date
Arrived to U.S. between July 31 to September 30, 2021	No	Date the individual entered the U.S.	No	Eight months from the date entered the U.S.
Arrived to U.S. on or after October 1, 2021	No	Date the individual entered the U.S.	Yes, change time on aid from 8 to 12 months	12 months from the date entered the U.S.
Applied for benefits between July 31 to September 30, 2021	Yes	Date the individual applied for benefits	Yes, change date of eligibility to date of application	Eight months from date of application
Applied for benefits between October 1 and Effective Date of this Letter	Yes	Date the individual applied for benefits	Yes, change date of eligibility to date of application	12 months from the date of application

**Eligibility for SIV, SI CPR, and SI/SQ Parolee RCA Applicants
(After the Effective Date of this Letter)**

Category	Eligibility Date for ORR-Funded Benefits (RCA, RSS, SOR)	RCA Eligibility Period Recalculation	RCA Termination Date
Did Not Travel through Safe Haven	Date the individual entered the U.S.	No	12 months from the date entered the U.S.
Traveled through Safe Haven	Date the individual entered the community	No	12 months from the date entered the community.