

July 6, 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER**

This letter provides County Welfare Departments with information regarding eligibility for benefits of Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees and Non-Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee arrivals pursuant to the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act (AUSAA).



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

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

July 6, 2022

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: ELIGIBILITY OF HUMANITARIAN PAROLEES FROM UKRAINE

REFERENCE: [ADDITIONAL UKRAINIAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT \(AUSAA\) 2022, UNITING FOR UKRAINE, TITLE 8 UNITED STATES CODE 1622\(a\), TITLE 7 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS \(CFR\) §§ 273.4\(a\)\(6\)\(i\)\(C\), 273.4\(a\)\(6\)\(ii\)\(B\), 7 CFR 273.2\(f\)\(1\)\(ii\), AND 273.2\(f\)\(4\)\(i\), OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT \(ORR\) DOCUMENTATION GUIDE, ORR POLICY LETTERS \(PL\) 16-01, 22-13, DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER 22-12, MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES \(MPP\) SECTIONS 40-209, 42-433.13, 44-133.21, 49-005\(P\)\(3\)\(L\), 49-005\(Q\)\(1\)\(F\), 49-010.13, 82-832.1\(D\), 69-205 to 207, TANF-ACF-PI-2022-05, ACWDL DATED May 27, 2022 AND ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-40-22](#)

This letter provides guidance to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) in determining eligibility for federal benefits for specific Ukrainian populations and other non-Ukrainian individuals who arrived in the United States (U.S.) due to displacement from the war in Ukraine and related urgent humanitarian reasons ("Ukrainian arrivals"). This letter also includes guidance regarding state programs Ukrainian arrivals may be eligible for and supersedes [All County Information Notice \(ACIN\) 1-40-22](#) and [ACIN I-40-22 Erratum](#).

**Background**

On March 24, 2022, President Biden committed to resettling 100,000 Ukrainians displaced by the war. On April 21, 2022, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the [Uniting for Ukraine \(U4U\) Program](#), which provides a pathway for Ukrainian citizens and immediate family members (spouse and children) to enter the U.S. as humanitarian parolees for a period of up to two years. Those participating in U4U must have a U.S. government-vetted U.S.-based supporter who agrees to provide financial support for the duration of their stay. Supporters under the U4U Program are not "sponsors" as defined in 8 United States Code section 1183a filing enforceable affidavits of support (USCIS Form I-864) and sponsor deeming rules do not apply to U4U participants' public benefit applications.

On May 21, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Additional [Ukraine-Supplemental Appropriations Act \(AUSAA\), 2022](#), authorizing ORR to provide resettlement assistance and

other benefits to specific Ukrainian populations and non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine. These populations are eligible to receive ORR and mainstream federal benefits (e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Supplemental Security Income). This includes humanitarian parolees who arrived under the U4U Program if they resettled during the eligibility time frame indicated below.

### **Categories of Eligibility for Ukrainian Arrivals**

ORR's [PL 22-13](#), dated May 26, 2022, identifies the following categories of individuals arriving from Ukraine as eligible for resettlement assistance and other benefits:

- A. Citizens or nationals of Ukraine, including unaccompanied children and unaccompanied refugee minors, who the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit, known as Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs).
- B. Non-Ukrainian individuals, including unaccompanied children and unaccompanied refugee minors, who last habitually resided in Ukraine and who DHS has paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit, known as Non-Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (NUHP).
- C. A spouse or child of an individual described in section A. or B. who is paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2023.
- D. A parent, legal guardian, or primary caregiver of an unaccompanied refugee minor or an unaccompanied child described in section A. or B. who is paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2023.

### **Period of Eligibility for UHPs and NUHPs**

Per ORR PL 22-13, the initial date of ORR benefit eligibility for UHPs and NUHPs is May 21, 2022, or the individual's date of humanitarian parole, whichever is later. These individuals, and their designated family members, are eligible for ORR benefits and services until the end of the individual's parole term, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another ORR-eligible category or status.

### **Temporary Protected Status**

If a UHP or NUHP applies for and obtains Temporary Protected Status (TPS), the individual will remain eligible for ORR benefits and services until the end of the individual's parole term or after they have exhausted their RCA benefit period up to 12 months, whichever is first, due to their underlying receipt of humanitarian parole per INA section 212(d)(5). However, an individual with only TPS and no underlying humanitarian parole is not eligible for ORR benefits and services.

### **Acceptable Immigration Documents and SAVE Verification**

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For a Ukrainian citizen or national with UHP status, a foreign passport with one of the following DHS or Custom and Border Protection (CBP) admission stamps is acceptable documentation for federal benefits:

- Form I-94 noting humanitarian parole (per INA section 212(d)(5) or 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5))
- Foreign passport stamped “DT”
- Foreign passport stamped “Uniting for Ukraine” or “U4U”
- Foreign passport stamped Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee for “UHP”
- Form I-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code “C11”; or
- Form I-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with the code “C11”.

For NUHPs displaced from Ukraine, any of the above documents are acceptable, but must be accompanied by:

- Documentation of last habitual residence in Ukraine, which includes an original Ukrainian government-issued document, such as a current driver’s license or identification card. CWDs must use their discretion regarding expired documentation and whether it can be considered “current”. For instance, if a driver’s license expired since the onset of the war, it should qualify as acceptable documentation.

Regardless of the documentation presented to the eligibility worker, CWDs are required to comply with all program verification requirements, including submitting cases via SAVE. In cases involving unusual situations requiring additional verification, CWDs may submit inquiries to [SAVE.Help@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:SAVE.Help@uscis.dhs.gov).

### **RCA Eligibility**

To qualify for RCA, UHPs and NUHPs must meet all eligibility requirements under MPP Sections [MPP Sections 69-205](#) to [MPP Sections 69-207](#), except where it pertains to immigration status. The [ORR Documentation Guide](#) requires CWDs to determine eligibility for benefits by reviewing immigration documents and verifying the date of humanitarian parole and other specific program information for these applicants. For UHPs and NUHPs, CWDs must use the later of May 21, 2022, or the individual’s date of humanitarian parole, as the start date of eligibility.

As a reminder, RCA applicants are not required to provide SSNs per [MPP Section 69-205.22](#). CWDs may request RCA applicants to voluntarily provide their SSNs, but 1) must inform the refugee applicants that the disclosure is voluntary, and 2) explain how the CWD intends to use the SSN. CWDs are not to consider a sponsor’s income and resources for eligibility for RCA.

Lastly, per [ACWDL dated May 27, 2022](#), eligibility for RCA has been extended to twelve months from the date of eligibility. CWDs must discontinue RCA for eligible UHPs and NUHPs, at the expiration of their parole period. or after they have exhausted their benefit period up to 12 months, whichever is first. At termination of RCA, CWDs should inform the UHP and NUHP of other available state and county benefits and services and transition them to these programs, as applicable.

### **TANF/ CalWORKs Eligibility**

UHPs and other NUHPs under the AUSAA program are not subject to the five-year ban on means-tested federal public benefits and are eligible for federally funded CalWORKs benefits. Please see Attachment A for acceptable immigration documents that confirm the status of UHPs and other NUHPs for CalWORKs eligibility purposes. Per MPP Section [42-433.13](#), documentation to prove non-citizen eligible status includes the USCIS form I-94 noting INA section 212(d)(5)(A) or 8 U.S.C. §1182(d)(5).

If for some reason, families are not found eligible for federally funded CalWORKs assistance, these families should still be evaluated for state-funded CalWORKs assistance. Please refer to [ACIN-I-40-22](#) for further information regarding eligibility for state-funded CalWORKs. For UHPs and NUHPs that have previously applied and were approved for state-funded CalWORKs but are now eligible for federal TANF benefits, CWDs will need to transition the CalWORKs aid code from state-funded into the appropriate federally-funded aid code. Please reach out to the SAWS for technical support on how to transition and offer benefits to UHPs and NUHPs.

Property is evaluated at the time of application, SAR 7 submission, and annual redetermination. Per [ACL 21-56](#), the maximum resource limit is adjusted in accordance with the California Necessities Index (CNI) for the most recent year. The resource limit is \$15,317 for an Assistance Unit (AU) which includes at least one member aged 60 or older or a disabled member. The resource limit for all other AUs is \$10,211. For example, if a family receives \$12,000 and has this resource at the time of application, they would be ineligible for CalWORKs benefits. If they receive it after they have been approved for CalWORKs, they will have until the end of their data month (the fifth month of the semi-annual period of the designated cycle) to spend down the funds below the resource limit.

CWDs may accept Form I-765 as proof of verification that the client applied for an SSN if the applicant has consented on the form to disclose information to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for the purpose of obtaining an SSN. Per MPP Section [40-105](#), proof of SSN application should be submitted to the CWD within 30 days following the date of application for assistance and before aid is authorized. Once the SSN is received, the client shall provide it to the CWD. If the applicant cannot complete the application for SSN in 30 days because necessary documentation is not immediately available, the CWD shall determine if good cause exists as outlined in MPP Section [40-209](#). As a reminder, CWDs must assist applicants with obtaining verifications needed to establish eligibility when the applicant cannot obtain the verifications in accordance with MPP Section 40-157.213.

As a condition of CalWORKs eligibility, all AUs are subject to the provisions of the Child Support Enforcement Program except those otherwise exempt per MPP Section 82-504.1. The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) has released a [reservation/declaration](#) that Ukraine cannot meet its commitments to process child support cases for the foreseeable future due to the war. Given the unique circumstances many of the families have experienced, CWDs are reminded of the obligation to inform families of their rights to submit a good cause claim for non-cooperation when it is not in the best interest of the child.

Pursuant to the AUSAA, the income and resources of the noncitizen's sponsor and the income and resources of the sponsor's spouse who lives with the sponsor shall be exempt in determining CalWORKs eligibility and the amount of CalWORKs benefits for UHPs and NUHPs.

## **CalWORKs Housing Support Program and CalWORKs Homeless Assistance**

The [CalWORKs Housing Support Program \(HSP\)](#) is intended to foster housing stability for families in the CalWORKs program who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, including participants who have not yet received an eviction notice and for whom housing instability would be a barrier to self-sufficiency or child well-being. CalWORKs HSP can provide housing supports to obtain or maintain permanent housing, and can provide temporary shelter, help with moving costs, short to medium term rental subsidies and wraparound case management. Participation in WTW is not a condition of eligibility for CalWORKs HSP. For more information on the CalWORKs Housing Support Program, refer to [ACWDL dated December 13, 2021](#), or contact [housing@dss.ca.gov](mailto:housing@dss.ca.gov).

UHP and NUHP families may also be eligible for [CalWORKs Homeless Assistance \(HA\)](#) if the family qualifies or is apparently eligible for CalWORKs and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements for Homeless Assistance. HA can provide payments for temporary shelter for up to 16 days, as well as payments to secure or maintain housing, including a security deposit and last month's rent, or up to two months of rent arrearages. HA payments are limited to once every twelve months unless an exception described in MPP Section [44-211.54](#) applies. For more information on HA, refer to MPP Section [44-211.5](#), or contact [housing@dss.ca.gov](mailto:housing@dss.ca.gov).

It is allowable to use HSP and/or HA to supplement federal refugee resettlement funding for families that are eligible for CalWORKs, especially as California's housing market is limited and may require longer temporary hotel/motel/shelter stays and thus increased costs. CalWORKs HA and HSP costs for refugees and asylees would be claimed according to their CalWORKs case eligibility. Please refer to [CFL 16/17-08](#) for HSP claiming instructions. Please note that RCA recipients are not TANF/CalWORKs eligible; therefore, they are not eligible for CalWORKs HA or HSP.

## **Eligibility for Other Housing and Homelessness Programs**

UHP and NUHP arrivals may be eligible for:

1. [Project Roomkey and Rehousing Strategy \(Project Roomkey\)](#). Project Roomkey is administered locally, so eligibility will vary by jurisdiction. Please contact your community's [Continuum of Care](#) or [CWD](#) for more information about your local program.
2. [Bringing Families Home \(BFH\) Program](#). A family may be eligible for BFH if they are receiving child welfare services, experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and if family reunification has been determined appropriate or a child is at risk of foster care placement and it has been determined that safe and stable housing will prevent removal. [ACWDL dated February 11, 2022](#) provides detailed information about BFH eligibility and core service components.
3. [Housing and Disability Advocacy Program \(HDAP\)](#). An individual may be eligible for HDAP if they are likely eligible for disability benefits and are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. [ACWDL dated September 13, 2021](#) provides detailed information about HDAP eligibility and core service components.
4. [Home Safe Program](#). A senior or an adult with disabilities may be eligible for Home Safe if they are an Adult Protective Services (APS) client or in the process of APS intake, experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to abuse, neglect, exploitation, or are unable to care for themselves, and voluntarily agree to participate in the program.

[ACWDL dated October 15, 2021](#) provides detailed information about Home Safe eligibility and core service components.

Please refer to [ACIN I-40-22](#) for more detailed information about eligibility of UHP and NUHP arrivals for these programs. Questions about these programs should be directed to the Housing and Homelessness Branch at [housing@dss.ca.gov](mailto:housing@dss.ca.gov) or (916) 651-5155.

### **CalFresh Eligibility**

Ukrainian nationals and citizens, or individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine who are granted parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, are eligible to receive CalFresh to the same extent as refugees under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. These individuals are not subject to a waiting period and are immediately eligible for benefits effective May 21, 2022, if they meet all other CalFresh financial and non-financial eligibility requirements. These individuals are exempt from sponsor deeming requirements. Given they continue to meet all other CalFresh eligibility requirements, these individuals are eligible so long as they remain in parole status or another eligible immigration status. For CalFresh eligibility based on type of non-citizen category please refer to Attachment B. Additionally, the spouses and children of such individuals, as well as parents, legal guardians, and primary caregivers of such individuals who were unaccompanied minors, are eligible for CalFresh benefits if they are granted parole after September 30, 2023, and they meet all other CalFresh income and eligibility requirements. Beginning May 21, 2022, these individuals are immediately eligible for federal CalFresh benefits, and therefore are not eligible for the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) so long as their parole status is in effect. If these individuals were granted eligibility for CFAP prior to May 21, 2022, CWDs must transition the case from state to federal benefits as soon as feasible.

These individuals may have previously applied for benefits and were denied due to prior policy. CDSS encourages CWDs as a best practice to re-connect with such applicants as these individuals may be newly eligible based on this updated policy.

CWDs may refer to [7 CFR 273.2\(f\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#) and [7 CFR 273.2\(f\)\(4\)\(i\)](#) for information on mandatory verification for noncitizens and for acceptable sources of verification.

As a reminder, federal regulations at [7 CFR 273.2\(f\)\(4\)\(i\)](#) state that CWDs cannot limit the household to any single type of document for CalFresh verification purposes. For CalFresh eligibility purposes, an SSN is mandatory for all applying household members. However, verification of an SSN card is not mandatory, only the enumeration. If a household member is unable to provide an SSN or does not have an SSN, the household member must provide proof that they have applied for an SSN, prior to certification or show good cause for failure to provide per [7 CFR 273.6\(c\)](#). The Form I-765 Application for Employment Authorization can be used as proof of verification that the individual has applied for an SSN and no other verification type must be imposed, if the applicant has consented on the I-765 form to disclosure of information to the SSA for the purpose of obtaining an SSN. Once the SSN is received, the household must provide the SSN to the CWD.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding CalFresh, contact [CalFreshPolicy@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CalFreshPolicy@dss.ca.gov).



**Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment Eligibility**

In accordance with the AUSAA, 2022 and ORR PL 22-13, UHPs and NUHPs who are aged, blind, or disabled and meet income and resource limits may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP), which is determined by the federal SSA. MPP Section [69-204.1](#) instructs CWDs to refer eligible clients to the SSA to apply for SSI/SSP as the primary resource. However, CWDs should issue RCA benefits, subject to meeting eligibility requirements, until the client's SSI/SSP benefits are approved. UHPs and NUHPs who are aged, blind or disabled are exempt from employment services.

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 [RefugeePolicy@dss.ca.gov](mailto:RefugeePolicy@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

ELIANA KAIMOWITZ, Chief  
Immigrant Integration Branch  
Office of Equity



**Attachment A**

<b>Immigration Status or Category of Applicant</b>	<b>Acceptable Documentation</b>
Ukrainian citizen or national who received humanitarian parole (known as a Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee, or UHP)	<p>Form I-94 noting humanitarian parole (per INA section 212(d)(5) or 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5))</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting “DT”</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Uniting for Ukraine or “U4U”</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee or “UHP”</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Form I-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code C11</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Form I-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with the code C11</p>
A non-Ukrainian individual who last habitually resided in Ukraine and received humanitarian parole	<p>Any one of the forms or stamps listed above for UHPs And Documentation of last habitual residence in Ukraine.</p> <p>Acceptable documentation indicating last habitual residency in Ukraine includes an original Ukrainian government-issued document, such as a current driver’s license or identification card.</p>

Attachment B

**Benefits Eligibility for Refugees, Asylees, UHPs, NUHPs, and others**

<b>Categories<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>ORR Services (Refugee Cash Assistance)</b>	<b>CalWORKs</b>	<b>SSI/SSP<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>California Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)</b>	<b>CalFresh</b>	<b>California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)</b>
<a href="#"><u>Refugee</u></a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
<a href="#"><u>Asylee</u></a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
UHP and NUHP <sup>3</sup> under 212 (d)(5) who Entered on 02/24/22 to 09/30/23 (Both less and more than 1 year)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
<a href="#"><u>Humanitarian Parolee under 212 (d)(5)</u></a> Entered prior to 02/24/22 or after 09/30/23 ( <b>less than 1 year</b> )	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	No	No
<a href="#"><u>Humanitarian Parolee under 212 (d)(5)</u></a> Entered prior to 02/24/22 or after 09/30/23 ( <b>1 year or longer</b> )	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe <sup>4</sup>	Maybe <sup>5</sup>
<b>Non-immigrant Visa Holder – e.g. visitor, student, worker, or other temporary visas</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>1</sup> List is not comprehensive of all non-citizen categories.

<sup>2</sup> SSI/SSP is a federally administered program and all final eligibility determinations are made by the Social Security Administration.

<sup>3</sup> NUHPs are non-Ukrainians habitual residents of Ukraine who are displaced from Ukraine and paroled in to the U.S. between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> May be federally funded if the non-citizen meets an additional requirement per Title 7 Code of Federal Regulation Section [273.4\(a\)\(6\)\(ii\)](#) and [\(iii\)](#).

<sup>5</sup> Eligible for state funded benefits if ineligible for federally funded benefits solely due to immigration status. If eligible for federally funded benefits, then individuals in this category do not qualify for state funded benefits.

Categories <sup>1</sup>	ORR Services (Refugee Cash Assistance)	CalWORKs	SSI/SSP <sup>2</sup>	California Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)	CalFresh	California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)
<b>Pregnant Non-citizen Mothers in 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester (1st Trimester effective July 1, 2022)</b>	No	Yes State- funded <sup>6</sup>	Maybe	Maybe <sup>7</sup>	Maybe <sup>8</sup>	Maybe <sup>9</sup>
<b><u><a href="#">TPS without Humanitarian Parole</a></u></b>	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b><u><a href="#">Asylum Applicant</a></u></b>	No	No	No	Maybe (possible PRUCOL) <sup>10</sup>	No	No

<sup>6</sup> May be federally funded if they meet certain exception criteria.

<sup>7</sup> Must meet immigration status requirements.

<sup>8</sup> Must meet non-citizen eligibility.

<sup>9</sup> Must meet non-citizen eligibility.

<sup>10</sup> Those who have applied for asylum and do not have removal orders may be considered PRUCOL and be eligible for CAPI per [ACIN I-79-16](#).