An asylee is an individual who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

**PROPOSED PUBLIC CHARGE CHANGES DO NOT IMPACT ASYLEES**

**Assistance Available**
To apply for services, asylees must show documentation that asylum was granted. Eligibility is based on resource and income limits and varies by program.

- **Refugee Cash Assistance** – Time limited to eight months effective the day granted asylum. For example, if an individual is granted asylum January 1, the asylee may get cash assistance from January 1 to August 31 only. It is advisable for asylees to apply for services immediately after being granted asylum.

- **Refugee Medical Assistance or Medi-Cal** – May include health assessments and physical examinations; preventive healthcare, including dental screenings, pap smears, and mammograms; immunizations; referrals of medical and mental health conditions to primary care providers for continuum of care; and culturally and linguistically appropriate health education materials and counseling.

- **Refugee Support Services** – May include employability services, such as job orientation and training and English classes; services addressing barriers to employment, such as social adjustment, interpretation and translation, and day care for children; and citizenship and naturalization. Except for citizenship and naturalization preparation services and referral and interpreter services, social services are available for up to five years.

- **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URM)** – Services available through the URM program include child welfare, foster care, and independent living services.

- **CalWORKs** – Family assistance (such as cash, child care, mental health services, transportation reimbursement, and job training) for individuals with children.

- **Calfresh** – Food assistance

- **Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment** – Available for individuals disabled, blind, or age 65 and older.

**How to Apply**
To apply for benefits and services, contact the nearest [county welfare department](http://www.benefitscal.org) or online at [www.benefitscal.org](http://www.benefitscal.org).

For more information, contact the Refugee Programs Bureau at [rpb@dss.ca.gov](mailto:rpb@dss.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4356. [www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Refugees](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Refugees)