

# Help is available to you.



Use the letter you received to apply for benefits and services.

You have received this letter because the Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) determined that you qualify to apply for benefits and services to the same extent as a refugee.

- If you have an **Interim Assistance Letter**, you can access benefits for 120 days.
- If you have an **Eligibility Letter**, the letter never expires.



Your Benefits Start Date is **bolded and underlined** in the middle of your letter. You can apply for benefits beginning on this date.

*\* Remember to keep your letter in a safe place! You will need your original letter to apply for benefits and services.*

## Benefits and Services

For more information on the refugee benefits and services for which you may be eligible, visit:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees>.



### FOOD

- **Supplemental Nutritional Assistance**

**Program (SNAP):** Assistance program used like cash to pay for food at most grocery stores.



### HEALTH & MEDICAL INSURANCE

- **Medicaid:** Health coverage for people with low income and limited resources.
- **Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA):** Time-limited medical help for refugees and other special populations who are not eligible for Medicaid. *\*RMA is only available for up to 12 months following your Benefits Start Date.*
- **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP):** Health insurance for children under 18 years old with low income and who are uninsured.



### EDUCATION & JOB TRAINING

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** Grants, loans, and work-study to help pay for education.
- **Job Corps:** Career training program for youth 16 to 24 years old with employment authorization.
- **Refugee Support Services:** Services include English language training, vocational training, and job placement and retention.
- Other specialized programs to support economic mobility and self-sufficiency.



### FOSTER CARE

• **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URM):** Foster care for unaccompanied refugee minors and other special youth populations in the United States.



### MONEY

- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** Cash and work opportunities for families and children under 18 years old.
- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI):** Cash assistance to meet basic needs (food, shelter, and clothing) for people who are blind, aged, or have a disability and have little or no income and resources.
- **Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA):** Time-limited cash assistance for refugees and other special populations who are not eligible for SSI or TANF. *\*RCA is only available for up to 12 months following your Benefits Start Date.*



### REFUGEE HEALTH SERVICES

- **Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Medical and Mental Health Services:** Screenings, diagnosis, treatment, and preventative care.
- **Refugee Health Promotion (RHP):** Health education classes, medical and mental health navigation, groups, and peer support meetings.
- **Support for Trauma Affected Refugees (STAR):** Case management services for individuals who have symptoms of trauma.



### HOUSING

- **Public Housing Program:** Affordable housing for families and individuals with low income.
- **Housing Choice Voucher Program:** Housing voucher program to help families and individuals with low income pay rent.

# Take the Following Steps to Access Benefits and Services:



## Apply for Benefits

Apply for benefits with your letter.



### Approved

Ask how and when you should start receiving benefits.



### Not Approved

Ask why you were not approved.

Need a Social Security Number (SSN)?

Another Reason?



## Request an Explanation Document

If unable to access benefits, request an explanation document from the benefit-issuing agency explaining why you need an SSN.



## Contact OTIP's Aspire Program

at 1-800-307-4712 or [aspire@uscrimail.org](mailto:aspire@uscrimail.org) for assistance.



## Apply for a Nonwork SSN

Use your Eligibility or Interim Assistance Letter AND your explanation document from the benefit-issuing agency to apply for a nonwork SSN.



### Not Approved

Document the reason.



### Approved

Use your SSN to apply for benefits.



## How to Apply for Benefits

Apply online or find a benefit-issuing agency near you.



Visit <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/fact-sheet/benefits-and-services> or scan the QR code for information on benefit-issuing agencies in your state.



### When you go to a benefit-issuing agency, bring with you:

- Your Eligibility or Interim Assistance Letter.
- Proof of household income for all working household members.\*  
Proof of income\*\* may include:



Recent pay stubs



Employment offer letter



Bank statements showing regular income



W-2 form

\* A household member is any person you live with or share expenses with, related or unrelated.

\*\* If you don't have proof of income, benefit-issuing agencies may accept a written, signed letter from you or your employer stating your income and employment.

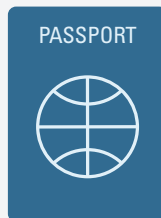
## Your original Eligibility or Interim Assistance Letter should be enough evidence for age and date of birth.

When applying for public benefits or a nonwork SSN, additional documents are not required, but to avoid delays, it can help to bring any identifying documents you have, such as:

- Photo identification (ID), such as a state-issued ID, unexpired passport, or school-issued ID.
- Documents from the Office of Refugee Resettlement, such as the Verification of Release (VOR) for unaccompanied children.



REQUIRED



OPTIONAL



## What if the Benefit-Issuing Agency Requires Me to Have a Social Security Number to Access Benefits?

In this case, you should request an official explanation document from the benefit-issuing agency explaining the need for the SSN. The document must:



With this explanation document, you can apply for a nonwork SSN.

- Be dated and on agency letterhead
- Include your name
- Include the nonwork reason an SSN is required
- State the **ONLY** reason you are being denied is because you do not have a nonwork SSN, but otherwise meet all requirements
- Include the relevant statute or regulation requiring the SSN as a condition to receive the benefit or service
- Include the name and telephone number of an official to contact so the information provided may be verified



## How to Apply for a Social Security Number

Certain states require a nonwork SSN to access many of these benefits and services.

Call 1-800-772-1213 to find the Social Security office nearest to you and to request interpretation services.



When you go to the Social Security office, bring your Eligibility or Interim Assistance Letter and the letter from the benefit-issuing agency indicating that you need an SSN to access benefits.



You should receive the card with your nonwork SSN within two weeks of applying. Once you receive it, you can visit your local benefit-issuing agency to reapply for benefits and services.



## Need Help Accessing Benefits or Services?

Call OTIP's Aspire Program at 1-800-307-4712 or email [aspire@uscrimail.org](mailto:aspire@uscrimail.org).

