



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Afghan Humanitarian Parolees and Unaccompanied Afghan Minors Eligible for ORR Benefits and Services; ASA-Eligible Afghan Populations¹

Policy Letter 22-01

Initially Published October 14, 2021

Revised October 11, 2022²

Revised January 05, 2023³

This purpose of this policy letter (PL) is to inform ORR grantees that effective September 30, 2021, per the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, and as supported and extended by the Additional Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023,⁴ and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023,^{5,6} Congress has authorized select groups of Afghan citizens or nationals to receive mainstream benefits (e.g., TANF, Medicaid, SNAP), resettlement assistance, and other benefits available to refugees.⁷ These groups are as follows:⁸

1. Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023.⁹ This group includes unaccompanied minors as defined by 6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)). Unaccompanied Afghan Minors under the age of 18 are eligible to apply for ORR's Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)), under which they are eligible to receive URM services to the same extent as refugees in the URM program.

¹ October 11, 2022: "ASA Eligibility" added to title.

² October 11, 2022 revisions footnoted, except where eligibility dates were subsequently extended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 in the January 05, 2023 revision.

³ January 05, 2023 revisions footnoted.

⁴ October 11, 2022: Language updated to reflect additional congressional authorities.

⁵ October 11, 2022: For ORR eligibility and services purposes, these Acts will be collectively referred to herein as "ASA."

⁶ January 05, 2023: Language updated to reflect additional congressional authority.

⁷ Refugees who are admitted to the United States under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 U.S.C. 1157).

⁸ Afghan populations listed under numbers 1 through 3 are also known as "Afghan Humanitarian Parolees," Afghan nationals paroled by DHS on or after July 31, 2021 who ORR is authorized to serve under the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 and additional Congressional authorities listed.

⁹ January 05, 2023: Eligibility date extended to September 30, 2023 due to the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

2. A spouse or child of any individual described above in number 1, who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2023.¹⁰
3. A parent or legal guardian of any individual described above in number 1, who is determined to be an unaccompanied child as defined by 6 U.S.C. § 279(g)(2), who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2023.¹¹

These Afghan populations are eligible not only for traditional ORR benefits and services but also for ASA-funded benefits and services.^{12,13} Their eligibility period is from their eligibility date¹⁴ until March 31, 2023, or the end of the individual's parole term, whichever is later, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another ORR-eligible category or status.

The following Afghan populations are also eligible not only for traditional ORR benefits and services but also ASA-funded benefits and services, for the traditional ORR eligibility timeframe defined under 45 CFR part 400:¹⁵

4. Citizens and nationals of Afghanistan for whom refugee and entrant assistance activities are authorized (e.g., Special Immigrant Visa holders, Special Immigrants with Conditional Permanent Resident status, SI/SQ parolees, refugees, asylees), whose eligibility date is on or after July 31, 2021.

This PL supersedes ORR PL 22-10, *Afghan Populations Eligible for ASA-Funded ORR Services*.

If you have questions about the information in this PL, please contact the Refugee Policy Unit at RefugeePolicy@acf.hhs.gov.

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¹⁰ January 05, 2023: Eligibility date extended to September 30, 2023 due to the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

¹¹ January 05, 2023: Eligibility date extended to September 30, 2023 due to the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

¹² ASA funding is specific and distinct from traditional ORR benefits and services, which are available to all ORR-eligible populations, including Afghan populations not eligible to be served under the ASA. See, ORR PL 16-01 for additional information on other ORR-eligible Afghan populations.

¹³ Eligibility documentation requirements for these populations are described within ORR PL 22-02.

¹⁴ October 11, 2022: The ORR eligibility date of these populations is October 1, 2021 (if the individual entered the community between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2021), or their date of entry into the community (for example, the date on which an Afghan SIV holder or parolee departed an Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome (OAR/OAW) Safe Haven), whichever is later. For a detailed discussion on dates of eligibility, see ORR PL 22-02.

¹⁵ October 11, 2022: ASA-eligibility for this group is addressed here instead of within now-superseded PL 22-10.