



MEPD and TW Bulletin 23-03

Date: February 10, 2023

To: Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors
Regional Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2115

Subject: Updates to Afghan Eligibility for Federal Benefits

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins) at <http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins>.

Updates to Afghan Eligibility for Federal Benefits

Background

Recently passed federal legislation extends the eligibility period for parole for Afghan humanitarian parolees from December 16, 2022, to **September 30, 2023**.

Afghan nationals who worked with, or on behalf of the United States, along with their family members, may be granted one of the following immigration statuses when they relocate to the U.S:

- Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIVs);
- Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents (SI CPRs);
- Afghan Special Immigrant Parolees (SI/SQ Parole); or
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHPs or non-special immigrants).

Afghans admitted into the U.S with special immigrant status are eligible for the same benefits as immigrants who qualify as refugees under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Medicaid, without a waiting period if the person meets all other eligibility criteria.

Afghan humanitarian parolees who are paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021, through December 16, 2022, are immediately eligible to receive the same benefits available to immigrants who qualify as refugees until March 31, 2023, or the term of parole granted, whichever is later, if the person meets all other eligibility criteria. However, recently passed federal legislation extends the eligibility period for parole for Afghan humanitarian parolees from December 16, 2022, to **September 30, 2023**. This also includes the spouses or children of these humanitarian parolees' and the parents or legal guardians of unaccompanied minors paroled into the U.S. after **September 30, 2023**.

With the exception of the policy listed below, staff must continue to follow policy previously provided in [MEPD and TW Bulletin 22-17, 2. Updated Afghan Eligibility for Federal Benefits, released on November 1, 2022](#).

Current Policy

[All Programs](#)

Acceptable verification of immigration status for **Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents (SI CPRs)** (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Unmarried Child of Principal Applicant) includes any of the following:

- I-94;
- Passport with a DHS/CBP stamp noting the person has been admitted under IV category CQ1, CQ2 or CQ3;
- I-551, Permanent Resident Card, with an IV code for category CQ1, CQ2 or CQ3;
- DHS/CBP temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp.
- DHS/USCIS temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp.
- I-765, Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code C11; or
- I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with code C11.

New Policy

All Programs

In addition to the documents listed above, the following is also acceptable as verification of immigration status for **Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents (SI CPRs)** (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Unmarried Child of Principal Applicant)

- Passport with a Machine Readable Immigrant Visa (MRIV) with code CQ1, CQ2 or CQ3.

Automation

Until changes to TIERS are implemented, use Contingency Processing Method (CPM) #1004308, Afghan Evacuees & Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees, to enter immigration information for the Afghan population.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

The MEPDH is currently scheduled to be updated in the June 2023 revision.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the April 2023 revision.

Training

Training is not required.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the release of this bulletin.