



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr

Afghan Humanitarian Parolees and Unaccompanied Afghan Minors Eligible for ORR Benefits and Services

Policy Letter 22-01

October 14, 2021

This purpose of this policy letter (PL) is to inform ORR grantees that per the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, and effective September 30, 2021, Congress has authorized citizens or nationals of Afghanistan paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022, to receive mainstream benefits (e.g., TANF, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI), resettlement assistance, and other benefits available to refugees.¹ Additionally, a spouse or child² of any Afghan humanitarian parolee described above, who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2022, is entitled to the same benefits and assistance. The benefits and assistance will be available until March 31, 2023, or the end of an individual's parole term, whichever is later.

Under the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, Congress has also given ORR the authority to serve unaccompanied minors as defined by 6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2) under the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)). Unaccompanied Afghan Minors under the age of 18 are eligible to apply for ORR's URM program, under which they are eligible to receive URM services to the same extent, and for the same periods of time, as refugees in the URM program.

In regards to applicable ORR benefits and services, ORR interprets the eligibility date of an ORR-eligible Afghan humanitarian parolee as October 1, 2021, or the date the parolee "entered the community" in the United States (for example, the date on which the Afghan humanitarian parolee departs the military base), whichever is later.

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

Cindy Huang
Director
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¹ Refugees who are admitted to the United States under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 U.S.C. 1157).

² As defined in section 101(b) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)).