



Mission Statement

The United States (U.S.) Repatriation Program is committed to helping eligible U.S. citizens and their dependents repatriated from overseas by providing them with temporary assistance upon their arrival to the United States. This assistance is not an entitlement but a service loan repayable to the U.S. Government.

General Background

The U.S. Repatriation Program (Program) was established in 1935 under Section 1113 of the Social Security Act (Assistance for U.S. Citizens Returned from Foreign Countries), to provide temporary assistance to U.S. citizens and their dependents who have been identified by the Department of State (DOS) as having returned, or been brought from a foreign country, to the U.S. because of destitution, illness, war, threat of war, or a similar crisis, and are without available resources. Upon arrival in the U.S., services for repatriates are the responsibility of the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Programmatic Structure

The Program contains four different activities. Two of these are characterized by ongoing caseloads with individual repatriations including mentally ill repatriates (42 U.S.C. § 1313 and 24 U.S.C. §§ 321-329). The other two activities are contingency components related to emergency repatriations of over five hundred individuals or group repatriations of up to 500 individuals evacuated during an event (42 U.S.C. § 1313, and E.O. 12656). Operationally, these activities involve different kinds of preparation, resources and execution. However, the core program policies and administrative procedures are essentially the same for each.

Services Provided

Temporary assistance, which is defined as cash payment, medical care (including counseling), temporary shelter, transportation, and other goods and services necessary for the health or welfare of individuals, is provided to eligible individuals in the form of a service loan. Temporary assistance is available to eligible individuals for up-to 90 days. In order to be eligible for this Program, it must be established that necessary services or assistance are unavailable to the requesting individuals via any alternative resources. In making such determination, periodic assessments of an individual's available resources, including identification of services or assistance the individual is receiving and/or is able to receive are taken into consideration. Temporary assistance is not retroactive but effective on the date of eligibility and provided within the U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Temporary assistance may be furnished beyond the 90 day period if ORR finds that the circumstances involved necessitate or justify the furnishing of a service extension. In order to qualify for an extension of services, repatriates and/or representatives must submit their requests prior to the end of their 90 days eligibility period. All temporary assistance is provided in accordance to 45 C.F.R 211 and 212.

During Emergency or Group Repatriations

In the event of a massive evacuation from overseas, ACF/ORR is the lead Federal agency responsible for the coordination and provision of temporary services within the CONUSA to all non-combatant evacuees returned from a foreign country. While ACF/ORR is responsible for the National Emergency Repatriation planning, coordination and implementation, states and territories, through ACF established repatriation agreements, carry out the operational responsibility for the reception, temporary care, and onward transportation of the non-combatant evacuees. Whenever necessary and through interagency assignments, ACF/ORR works with other Federal agencies (e.g. DOD, ASPR, DHS, FEMA) to assist with the provision of temporary services.

Contact Information

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