

Revised - Policy Clarifications

Cash Assistance – All – PCA-21642-122

Medical Assistance – All – PMA-21642-322

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance – All -

PFS-21642-522

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance – All –

PLC-21642-622

Supplemental – Other – PO-21642-730

Submitted: **May 30, 2024**
February 15, 2024

Agency: CAOs

Subject: **Revised** Eligibility for Benefits for Parolees from Afghanistan or Ukraine

Question: Are Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHPs) and/or Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) arriving beyond the eligibility dates stated in [OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #21-11-01](#) and [OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #22-09-01](#) eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medical Assistance (MA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)?

Response By: BEP and BOP

Date: February 15, 2024

For AHPs: No. New arrivals after September 30, 2023, are not eligible. However, certain relatives of AHPs and UHPs arriving after September 30, 2023, may be eligible

for federal benefits, as well as AHPs who have been re-paroled that were originally paroled between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023.

The following relatives of AHPs who meet these criteria are eligible for benefits:

- Spouses **or** children of eligible Afghan parolees who entered the United States with parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023.
- Parent(s) **or** legal guardian(s) of an eligible unaccompanied child who entered the United States with parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023.

~~The following relatives of UHPs who meet these criteria are eligible for benefits:~~

- ~~• Spouses **or** children of eligible Ukrainian parolees who entered the United States with parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023.~~
- ~~• Parent(s) **or** legal guardian(s) of an eligible unaccompanied child who entered the United States with parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023.~~

For UHPs: [OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #22-09-01](#) is being updated. On April 24, 2024, HR 815, Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, was signed into law (Pub. L. 118-50). This law extends the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 to provide citizens and nationals of Ukraine paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2024 eligibility to receive federal benefits, resettlement assistance, and other benefits available to refugees until the end of the individual's parole term, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another eligible category or status.

A spouse or child of eligible UHPs, as described above, or a parent, legal guardian, or primary caregiver of an unaccompanied refugee minor or an unaccompanied child, who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2024, is also eligible for the same benefits and assistance until the end of the individual's parole term, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another eligible category or status.

Individuals who do not meet the requirements above should be reviewed for benefit eligibility in the following manner:

RCA and RMA:

These individuals are not eligible for RCA and RMA.

TANF:

AHPs and UHPs are not eligible unless they meet another eligible immigration status and continue to meet all other TANF eligibility requirements.

Medical Assistance:

- Ukrainian noncitizens and other individuals displaced from Ukraine, as well as Afghan noncitizens are eligible to apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) effective April 19, 2022, through October 19, 2023 - and has now been extended through April 19, 2025, for Ukrainians, and through May 20, 2025 for Afghans (with an automatic extension through November 20, 2024, of certain Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) of existing beneficiaries of Afghanistan TPS). If an individual is granted TPS or has a pending TPS application and has been granted employment authorization, they are considered lawfully present.
- Additionally, noncitizens are considered lawfully present if they have been paroled into the United States pursuant to Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)) for less than one year, except for a noncitizen paroled for prosecution, for deferred inspection or pending removal proceedings.
- Noncitizens are lawfully present if they have been granted employment authorization under Section 8 CFR 274a.12(c)(9),(10),(16),(18),(20),(22), or (24).
- Lawfully present individuals may be eligible for General Assistance (GA) related state-funded MA and/or may be eligible for federally-funded benefits under the following circumstances:
 - If they are a child under age 21 or pregnant through their postpartum period, they may be eligible for federally funded MA.
 - If they are a non-pregnant adult age 21 or over, they may be eligible for GA-related, state funded MA or they may be eligible for federally funded MA to cover an emergency medical condition (EMC). See [MAEH 322.32](#) for more information.

AHPs who have been re-paroled that were originally paroled between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023 are eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to the same extent as refugees, without a five-year waiting period, if they meet other eligibility requirements. These Afghan parolees are considered "qualified noncitizens" for purposes of Medicaid and CHIP eligibility since they are eligible for the same benefits as refugees. Federal law states that Afghans paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023, regardless of whether they are Special Immigrant (SI) or non-SI parolees (sometimes referred as a "humanitarian parole" or "OAR parole"), shall be eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, until March 31, 2023, **or the end of their parole term, whichever is later.**

Ukrainian and Afghan noncitizens who do not qualify for full MA benefits based on their immigration status may be eligible for Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) which

pays for services necessary to treat an EMC if they meet all other eligibility requirements. See [Ops Memo 22-07-02](#) for more information on EMA procedures.

Parolees and refugees who are not eligible for MA, CHIP, or RMA may be eligible for Marketplace coverage through Pennie with financial assistance.

SNAP:

AHP individuals are not eligible for SNAP unless they meet another eligible immigration status and continue to meet all other SNAP eligibility requirements.

However, AHPs who were granted parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023, and have been re-paroled may be eligible for SNAP if they meet all other SNAP eligibility requirements. These individuals are not subject to a waiting period and are immediately eligible for benefits. These individuals may receive SNAP benefits for a limited period, either through March 31, 2023, or until the end of their parole term, whichever is later. The end of their parole term includes the parole period that was extended when the household was re-paroled.

LIHEAP:

These individuals may be eligible for LIHEAP if they meet the definition of a qualified noncitizen, as defined in LIHEAP Handbook 622.2.