

DATE: **June 5, 2024**
October 13, 2022
September 1, 2022

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #22-09-01

SUBJECT: **Revised** Eligibility for Ukrainian Nationals with Humanitarian Parole and Acceptable Documentation of Immigration Status

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: ~~Robert Patrick~~ **Robert Hixson**
Acting Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) that Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) and non-Ukrainian individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine, arriving between February 24, 2022 and ~~September 30, 2023~~ **September 30, 2024**, may be determined 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) until the end of the individual's parole term, **including any additional period of re-parole**, and to identify the documentation that reflects the new immigration status.

To inform CAOs of the required weekly completion and submission of [Attachment A: Ukrainians Accessing Benefits Tracking Tool](#) spreadsheet to assist the Department of Human Services (DHS) in monitoring the impact of arriving Ukrainians and track individuals' enrollment into public benefits.

BACKGROUND

The Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 was passed May 21, 2022. The act **originally** authorized citizens and nationals of Ukraine paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2023 to receive federal benefits, resettlement assistance, and other benefits available to refugees until the end of the individual's parole term, **including any additional period of re-parole**, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another eligible category or status. **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. 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, including any additional period of re-parole. A spouse or child of any UHP or non-Ukrainian individual who last habitually resided in Ukraine 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, 2023~~ September 30, 2024, is also eligible for the same benefits and assistance until the end of the individual's parole term, including any additional period of re-parole, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another eligible category or status.

DISCUSSION

The policy change will be applied to all pending Ukrainian applicants for TANF, SNAP and MA. The CAO will use existing program eligibility rules to establish the effective start date of benefit eligibility.

TANF: UHPs and non-Ukrainian families who last resided in Ukraine who are granted parole between February 24, 2022 and May 21, 2022 may be eligible for TANF if they meet all other eligibility requirements with a TANF eligibility begin date as early as May 21, 2022. If they entered or will enter the United States after May 21, 2022, their TANF eligibility begin date is the date all TANF requirements are met. After the end of an individual's parole term, they may be eligible for TANF if they meet the definition of a qualified noncitizen provided in CAH 122 – Citizen Noncitizen.

UHPs and other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine who are paroled into the United States after ~~September 30, 2023~~ September 30, 2024 and are the spouse or child of a parolee described above, or who is the parent, legal guardian, or primary caregiver of a parolee described above who is determined to be an unaccompanied child, will also be eligible for TANF to the same extent as refugees.

UHPs who obtain Temporary Protected Status (TPS) are eligible to receive TANF benefits until the end of their parole term, including any additional period of re-parole. However, individuals with only TPS (and not granted parole) are not eligible for TANF or other federal benefits.

A sponsor's, or spouse's, income or resources will not apply or be deemed when determining TANF eligibility and the amount of benefits available to these individuals.

Applicants must be deemed ineligible for TANF before determining eligibility for RCA benefits provided by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

NOTE: Active pursuance of support will not be sought for ~~these~~ **UHP** households. In order to suppress a referral to the Domestic Relations Office:

- Caseworkers should complete the Absent Relative screen using standard procedural guidelines and then selecting Support Referral Code 03, Good Cause Waiver (Not Family Violence).
- Case narrative should include following statement: *“Active pursuance of support will not be sought for UHP households, Support Referral Code 03, Good Cause Waiver selected to suppress referral.”*

MA: UHPs and other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine who are granted parole between February 24, 2022 and ~~September 30, 2023~~ **September 30, 2024** may be eligible for federally-funded MA or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to the same extent as refugees, without a five-year waiting period if they meet all other MA eligibility requirements. The MA eligibility start date, including retroactive coverage, may begin as early as February 24, 2022.

UHPs and other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine who are paroled into the United States after ~~September 30, 2023~~ **September 30, 2024** and are the spouse or child of a parolee described above, or who is the parent, legal guardian, or primary caregiver of a parolee described above who is determined to be an unaccompanied child, will also be eligible for MA and CHIP to the same extent as refugees.

Applicants must be deemed ineligible for MA and CHIP before determining eligibility for RMA benefits provided by ORR. For RMA benefits, if an individual was paroled and entered the United States between February 24, 2022, and May 21, 2022, their date of MA eligibility is May 21, 2022. If they entered the United States after May 21, 2022, their date of MA eligibility is their date of humanitarian parole.

Ukrainian non-citizens and other individuals displaced from Ukraine are eligible to apply for TPS effective April 19, 2022 through October 19, 2023. If an individual is granted TPS or has a pending TPS application and has been granted employment authorization, they are considered lawfully present. 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 General Assistance-related MA or may be eligible for federally-funded MA to cover an Emergency Medical Condition (EMC). See [MAEH 322.32](#) for more information.

NOTE: If a Ukrainian non-citizen has other lawful presence besides TPS, they may be eligible for General Assistance related state-funded MA and/or may be eligible for federally-funded benefits under the same circumstances listed above.

Ukrainian non-citizens 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 EMA eligibility requirements. See [Ops Memo 22-07-02](#) for more information on EMA procedures.

~~Parolees and refugees~~ **Non-citizens** who are not eligible for MA, CHIP, or RMA may be eligible for Pennie coverage with financial assistance.

NOTE: UHPs will likely arrive in the United States with little or no income or resources. If an applicant attests to zero income, and it is not questionable, the CAO should process the application based on the claim of zero income.

SNAP: Ukrainian nationals, citizens, or those who last habitually lived in Ukraine who are granted parole between February 24, 2022 and ~~September 30, 2023~~ **September 30, 2024**, 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 are exempt from sponsor deeming requirements. These individuals are eligible for SNAP so long as they remain in parole status or another eligible immigration status and continue to meet all other SNAP eligibility requirements.

Additionally, the spouses and children of such individuals, as well as parents, legal guardians, and primary caretakers of such individuals who were unaccompanied minors, are eligible for SNAP benefits even if they are granted parole after ~~September 30, 2023~~ **September 30, 2024**, if they meet all other SNAP income and eligibility requirements.

NOTE: Ukrainian parolees who previously applied and were denied for SNAP under regular rules for parolees may reapply for SNAP to be determined eligible under these provisions from the date of reapplication.

LIHEAP: UHPs and non-Ukrainian individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine may be eligible for LIHEAP if they meet all other LIHEAP eligibility requirements. After the end of an individual's parole term, these individuals may be eligible for LIHEAP if they meet the definition of a qualified noncitizen, as defined in LIHEAP Handbook 622.2.

PROCEDURE

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services designates these individuals as "Humanitarian Parole".

DHS is adding the following qualified non-citizen applicants and verification documents to the Refugee Status and Documentation table in Appendix C of the Supplemental Handbook Chapter 730, [Appendix C](#).

Applicant	Documentation
Ukrainian citizen or national who received humanitarian parole (known as a Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee, or UHP)	Form I-94 noting humanitarian parole (per Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 212(d)(5) or 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)) Or Foreign passport with DHS/Customs and Border Protection (CBP) admission stamp noting “DT” Or Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Uniting for Ukraine or “U4U” Or Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting UHP or “UHP” Or Form I-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code C11 Or Form I-766 EAD with the code C11
A non-Ukrainian individual who last habitually resided in Ukraine and received humanitarian parole	Any one of the forms or stamps listed above for UHPs And Documentation of last habitual residence in Ukraine. Acceptable documentation indicating last habitual residency in Ukraine includes an original Ukrainian government-issued document, such as a current driver’s license or identification card. For documentation outside of these examples, contact the Refugee Resettlement Program at RA-PWREFUGEEPROGRAM@pa.gov .

UHPs and other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine may qualify for assistance programs as of May 21, 2022, or the individual’s date of humanitarian parole, whichever is later.

Many UHPs and non-Ukrainian individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine will enter the country with the aid of a sponsor through the Uniting for Ukraine Program. As a reminder, The CAO will not deem the sponsor’s resources to determine the individual’s eligibility for RCA or RMA. The CAO will consider only those resources made available to the refugee. The CAO will not consider any resources remaining in the applicant’s country of origin in determining resource eligibility.

If UHP or non-Ukrainian individuals who last resided in Ukraine does not meet the humanitarian parolee criteria in the table above, the CAO will follow regular policy for each benefit program for individuals paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the INA.

TRACKING

DHS is monitoring the impact of arriving Ukrainians. Attached is the Ukrainians Accessing Benefits Tracking Tool spreadsheet to track individuals' enrollment into public benefits. On a weekly basis, record all applicable information for newly approved applicants on the spreadsheet as well as any notes or information you would like to provide and save the file once data entry is completed. The file name shall be County Name/UkrainianBenefits/MMDDYYYY. If there are no newly approved applicants reported in a week, a spreadsheet does not need to be completed. Instead, a brief email should be sent to the Refugee Resettlement Program resource account reporting no newly approved applicants for the identified week.

Example: Lehigh UkrainianBenefits 06152022

CAO staff will submit completed spreadsheets to the Refugee Resettlement Program's resource account at RA-PWREFUGEEPROGRAM@pa.gov by the close of business every Friday.

Questions about the tracking spread sheet should be submitted to the same resource account address above.

NEXT STEPS

1. Review this Operational Memorandum and Attachment with appropriate staff.
2. Direct questions regarding this Operations Memorandum to your Area Manager.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: [Ukrainians Accessing Benefits Tracking Tool](#)