

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: February 15, 2024

Agency: CAOs

Subject: 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

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.

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.

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 non-citizens and other individuals displaced from Ukraine, as well as Afghan non-citizens 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.

- 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.

Ukrainian and Afghan 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 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:

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

LIHEAP:

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