**Policy Clarification**

**Cash Assistance – All - PCA-20622-122**

**Medical Assistance – All – PMA-20622-322**

**SNAP – All – PFS-20622-522**

**LIHEAP – All – PLA-20622-622**

**Submitted: 08/13/2021 Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: How to Identify the New Population of Afghan Special Immigrants, Individuals and Families of Individuals who Assisted the U.S. Overseas**

**Questions:** **1. What documentation can Afghan Special Immigrants provide to the County Assistance Office (CAO) to verify citizenship status?**

**2. Are Afghan Special Immigrants eligible for Medical Assistance (MA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Low- Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Response By: Division of Health Services** |  **Date:**  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

1. The new population of Afghan special immigrants may provide different documentation and have a different qualifying Class of Admission (COA) code than other Iraqi and Afghan immigrants.

 This new population will have one of the following to verify their immigration status:

* Foreign passport with a Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection stamp admitting them with an SQ1, SQ2, or SQ3 COA.

**NOTE:** Some of the new Afghan special immigrant LPR arrivals may not have a physical immigrant visa in their passport and may not have a temporary Form I-551 stamp.

* Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card.
* Form I-94, Arrival Departure Record, with a separate, printed page on Customs and Border Protection letterhead with their information and the following notation, signed and dated by a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officer:

Special Immigrant Status (SQ/SI) Parolee

Sec 602(b)(1) AAPA / Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_ USCIS officer: \_\_\_\_\_\_

* Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document, with a C11 parolee category. The SAVE response will be returned as Parolee with an SQ4 or SQ5 COA.

2. Yes, as with other Iraqi and Afghan special immigrants, these individuals meet the immigration status requirement for Refugee Resettlement Program benefits and are eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees without a five year wait limit, such as MA, SNAP, TANF, and LIHEAP.

**NOTE:** This population of individuals may have cases involving something unusual and a SAVE response may be returned that will require additional verification. Please be sure to submit the additional verification to receive an accurate SAVE response.

**NOTE:** See [MAEH 322 Appendix A, Section B](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/ma/322_Citizen_Noncitizen/322_Appendix_A.htm) for examples of documentation that may be provided by Iraqi and Afghani persons granted Special Immigrant status.