



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201  
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## **Additional ORR-Eligible Statuses and Categories and Acceptable Documentation Requirements for Afghan Nationals**

Policy Letter 22-02

Initially Published October 14, 2021

Revised February 18, 2022<sup>1</sup>

**ORR Policy Letter (PL) 16-01**, *Documentation Requirements for the Refugee Resettlement Program*, announced a documentation guide, *Status and Documentation Requirements for the ORR Refugee Resettlement Program* (“Documentation Guide”), that outlined the statuses and categories that confer eligibility for ORR’s Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) benefits and the documentation that is needed to show an individual is eligible.

On September 30, 2021, Congress, through the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (“ASA”), authorized ORR to provide resettlement assistance and other benefits available to refugees to specific Afghan populations, in response to their emergency evacuation and resettlement.<sup>2</sup> As such, this PL augments ORR PL 16-01 by adding information on acceptable documentation that would qualify an Afghan individual for RRP benefits.

The revisions contained herein provide updates regarding the eligibility of Afghan nationals and additional guidance on accessing documentation for this population. ORR rescinds ORR PL 21-07.

### **I. New categories of ORR-eligible Afghan populations<sup>3</sup>**

In addition to Afghan refugees, asylees, and Special Immigrant Visa holders delineated in ORR PL 16-01, the following list contains new categories of ORR-eligible Afghan populations.

1. Afghan individuals with SI/SQ Parole
2. Afghan individuals with Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Residence
3. Afghan humanitarian parolees<sup>4</sup> (AHP) admitted to the United States on or after July 31, 2021, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit

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<sup>1</sup> February 18, 2022 revisions are footnoted.

<sup>2</sup> Added on February 18, 2022: Congress also authorized ORR to serve these Afghan individuals with ASA-funded benefits and services. For more information regarding eligibility for ASA-funded benefits and services, see ORR PL 22-10.

<sup>3</sup> Letter restructured on February 18, 2022 to include section headings.

<sup>4</sup> Parole date added and source of ORR authorization added on February 18, 2022: The term “Afghan Humanitarian Parolee” describes all Afghan nationals (including unaccompanied minors) paroled by DHS on or after July 31, 2021 who ORR is authorized to serve under the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022.

## II. Acceptable documents for new categories of ORR-eligible Afghan populations

In addition to the eligible applicants and acceptable documents listed for Afghan refugees, asylees, and Special Immigrant Visa holders within ORR PL 16-01's Documentation Guide, the chart lists the newly eligible applicants and corresponding acceptable documents.

Applicant	Documentation
Afghan Special Immigrant Parolee (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	Form I-94 noting SI or SQ parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006) <sup>5</sup>
Afghan Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Resident (CPR) (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting that the individual has been classified under IV (immigrant visa) category CQ1, CQ2, or CQ3 <b>Or</b> DHS Form I-551 ("green card") with an IV (immigrant visa) code for category CQ1, CQ2, or CQ3 <b>Or</b> DHS/CBP temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp <b>Or</b> DHS/USCIS temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp
Afghan Humanitarian Parolee	Form I-94 noting humanitarian parole (per INA section 212(d)(5)(A)) <b>Or</b> Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Operation Allies Refuge or "OAR" <b>Or</b> Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Operation Allies Welcome or "OAW" <b>Or</b>

<sup>5</sup> Footnote added February 18, 2022: If an Afghan national has a passport, the Form I-94 arrival/departure record should be contained within the passport or be retrievable on Custom and Border Patrol's (CBP) website at: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94>. If an Afghan national does not have a passport, the Form I-94 may be obtained by searching CBP's website at: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94>. The individual should enter their complete name and A-number or wristband number in the passport number search field. When searching by A-number, add the letter 'A' at the beginning of the line of numbers.

Alternatively, the Afghan individual may elect to retrieve a copy of their I-94 through the CBP One Mobile App. This method is most useful in situations where there is no biographic information available for the individual. For more information on the CBP One Mobile App, visit: <https://www.cbp.gov/about/mobile-apps-directory/cbpone>.

When having difficulty finding Form I-94 arrival/departure records, an individual can contact CBP by emailing [TCC@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:TCC@cbp.dhs.gov) or by visiting a local CBP Deferred Inspection site.

	Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting “DT” <b>Or</b> Form I-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code C11 <sup>6, 7</sup> <b>Or</b> I-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with the code C11 <sup>8</sup>
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In addition, ORR will also accept the following documents as proof of eligibility for Afghan Special Immigrants:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Documentation</b>
Afghan Special Immigrant (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	DHS/CBP temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp <b>Or</b> DHS/USCIS temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp

### III. Date of eligibility for certain Afghan populations<sup>9</sup>

#### A. Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIVs), Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents (SI CPRs), and Afghan SI/SQ Parolees

The date of eligibility for SIVs, SI CPRs, and Afghan SI/SQ Parolees for ORR benefits and services is the date of entry into the United States, as noted on the Form I-94 arrival/departure record or other federal travel documentation. However, effective November 10, 2021, for individuals in these categories who traveled directly to an Operations Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome (OAR/OAW) Safe Haven (“Safe Haven”),<sup>10</sup> ORR will authorize the date of entry into the community (in other words, the date the individual departed the Safe Haven) as the eligibility date.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Additional acceptable document added February 18, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Added February 18, 2022: Contact IOM for Form I-765 receipt notice at [afgovdocs@iom.int](mailto:afgovdocs@iom.int).

<sup>8</sup> Additional acceptable document added February 18, 2022.

<sup>9</sup> This section added February 18, 2022.

<sup>10</sup> Clarification added February 18, 2022: Safe Haven is the term the U.S. government and other relevant stakeholders have used for U.S. military bases in the continental United States that housed Afghans evacuated under OAR/OAW as they awaited resettlement to their ultimate state of residence.

<sup>11</sup> Added February 18, 2022: Date of entry into the community may be established through various documents, including but not limited to, travel documentation, assurance information, etc. In verifying documentation for the date of eligibility, eligibility workers should follow these steps:

1. Contact the national resettlement agency for assurance and travel documentation.
2. Seek evidence of travel from the Safe Haven (e.g., plane ticket, bus ticket).
3. Contact RPU at [RefugeeEligibility@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:RefugeeEligibility@acf.hhs.gov) with applicant biographic information (Name, DOB, passport number, A-number, etc.) to enable RPU to search the Hummingbird database for departure information. (The Hummingbird database contains case information for Afghan arrivals who have immigrated to the U.S. under OAR/OAW.)

## B. Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP)

The date of eligibility for the AHP population for ORR benefits and services is October 1, 2021 or their date of entry into the community (the date on which the AHP departed a Safe Haven), whichever is later.

Therefore, if an AHP was paroled and entered into a community in the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2021 or departed a Safe Haven prior to October 1, 2021, their date of eligibility is October 1, 2021. If an AHP departed a Safe Haven or entered into a community in the U.S. after October 1, 2021, use the eligibility date from the travel documentation that they may have.<sup>12</sup>

The AHP population is eligible for ORR benefits and services until March 31, 2023 or the end of the individual's parole term, whichever is later, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another ORR-eligible category or status.

## IV. Implementation of eligibility dates<sup>13</sup>

ORR encourages stakeholders to provide maximum benefits to individuals based on their date of entry into the community. That said, ORR recognizes that re-determining and updating eligibility dates for clients who have already been enrolled into ORR services and benefits may cause a significant burden for grantees, particularly those who have seen a high number of Afghan arrivals. As such, ORR will allow stakeholders to determine the best course of action for adjusting eligibility dates based on stakeholders' particular circumstances.

All other elements of ORR PL 16-01, including its attached Documentation Guide, as amended by the Frequently Asked Questions document, remain unchanged and in effect.

If you have questions about the information contained in this PL, contact ORR's Refugee Policy Unit at [RefugeeEligibility@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:RefugeeEligibility@acf.hhs.gov).

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Director  
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<sup>12</sup> Added February 18, 2022: See footnote 11. If eligibility workers are unable to obtain sufficient documentation to establish an eligibility date after going through the steps in footnote 11, eligibility workers may accept verbal/written attestations by the Afghan arrival to provide immediate services to the applicant. Case notes should be updated to reflect this occurrence, and appropriate documentation must be subsequently obtained within 60 days or as soon as available – whichever is sooner.

<sup>13</sup> This section added February 18, 2022.