



# LIRS

## Afghan Parolee Support Program FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is Humanitarian Parole for Afghans?

Afghans who have been evacuated or have otherwise entered the U.S. and are ineligible for the SIV program will receive humanitarian parolee status. These Afghans have been processed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and paroled into the United States for two years for urgent humanitarian reasons, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. §1182(d)(5). Their parole status in the United States is conditioned upon their compliance with the conditions including completing certain immunizations and vaccinations including a Tuberculosis test and obtaining the COVID-19 vaccination and change of address.

After entering the U.S., a parolee can apply for another immigration status, including for asylum. If the application for another immigration status is not successful, the parolee may be required to leave the U.S. More information about humanitarian parole can be found [here](#).

### What is the Afghan Parolee Support Program?

The Afghan Parolee Support (APS) program is a brand-new emergency case management program stood up by the Department of State to provide resettlement (referred to as relocation) assistance to Afghan Parolees for a period of 90-days. PRM is set to release a Cooperative Agreement which outlines the program service requirements and timelines. LIRS will release a Core Service Timeline which outlines the program services. Below are the general program requirements:

- Participating programs will receive a per capita amount of \$2,275 which includes \$1,225 for direct assistance and \$1,050 for administrative costs.
- Initial relocation support services under APS will be broadly similar to the core services provided under R&P, including but not limited to:
  - airport reception, as applicable
  - safe and appropriate housing, as noted below
  - adequate food supplies
  - seasonal clothing, as needed
  - pocket money for each adult
  - material needs support
  - assistance in accessing health services, as possible
  - assistance with enrollment in services appropriate to meet other needs, as eligible
  - assistance with enrollment in school for school-aged minors
  - cultural orientation, and Know Your Rights
  - assistance with accessing legal services to apply for adjustment of status.



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- Asylum application, as needed
- EAD card application for walk-in cases
- Immunization and vaccinations for walk-in cases:
  - get vaccinated for MMR, polio, and one dose of the COVID vaccine, absent proof of prior vaccination
  - undergo tuberculosis testing and take appropriate isolation and treatment measures if the
  - tuberculosis test is positive; and report compliance with this requirement to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at [www.uscis.gov/vaccination-status](http://www.uscis.gov/vaccination-status).
- Support services should be provided with appropriate language interpretation by an individual who is not associated with the parolee and promotes gender equality.

## What other benefits are Afghan Parolees eligible for in addition to the APS program?

**LIRS Airbnb Housing Program:** LIRS has secured a partnership with Airbnb to provide temporary housing for APS clients. As you are able to secure permanent housing, please secure permanent housing first. If U.S. ties are not able to provide housing, you may request for these cases to be reallocated to another site (for allocated cases only).

**LIRS Emergency Assistance Funds:** For additional client needs which cannot be funded with the APS per capita funds, please utilize the LIRS Emergency Assistance fund. LIRS will provide more information on how to access this fund at a later time.

**Minimal Health Coverage:** ORR is working on securing private medical insurance for Afghan parolees through September 30, 2021. More information forthcoming.

**Public Assistance Benefits:** Afghan parolees will not be eligible for all of the traditional programs that refugees and SIVs are historically eligible for due to their humanitarian parole status. National Immigrant Law Center has a good resource on immigrant eligibility for benefit programs. Please see: <https://www.nilc.org/issues/economic-support/overview-immeligfedprograms/>. Below are the public assistance benefits APS clients should be eligible for within your state. As a reminder, for parolees, this is a pretty fluid situation, and regulations are changing quickly. Please consult with your State Refugee Coordinator to confirm Afghan parolee eligibility for state benefits and programs.

- Individuals paroled into the United States for a year, or more are considered “qualified immigrants” which means they are eligible for a number of federally funded public benefits including childcare, energy assistance, and if available, housing assistance. There’s a list of traditional assistance benefits (ie. TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, CHIP, and SSI) most qualified immigrants are ineligible for during their first five years in the country. However:



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- Children will be eligible for SNAP.
- In a number of states, children and pregnant women will be eligible for Medicaid. *For Medicaid/CHIP, there's a provision called the CHIPRA option which allows states to opt to provide Medicaid/CHIP to children (up to age 19 for CHIP, 21 for Medicaid) and pregnant women who are lawfully residing, and parolees are considered lawfully residing, so in those states that have elected the CHIPRA option, Medicaid should be available to eligible children and pregnant women. The list of states that have elected all or part of the option is at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/enrollment-strategies/medicaid-and-chip-coverage-lawfully-residing-children-pregnant-women>.*
- Some states have state-funded replacement programs for some individuals ineligible for TANF, SNAP, and/or Medicaid.
- Outside of LIRS assistance and the APS program, there is not currently a source of cash assistance unless states have a state-only program.
- Eligible for state/local assistance that can be provided under the American Rescue Plan and are generally eligible for state public benefits.
- HeadStart provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and families for children under 5.
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.
- Once work authorized with an Employment Authorization Document (EAD card), Afghan Parolees will be eligible for workforce services under WIOA Title I. Even before work authorization they should be eligible for adult education/English language assistance through WIOA Title II. And, once they're work-authorized if they get and lose employment, they could qualify for unemployment insurance.

*Unfortunately, these individuals are NOT ELIGIBLE for the Department of State's Reception & Placement program and programs funded by the Office of the Refugee Resettlement (ORR).*

## When to expect the first arrivals?

Some affiliates have begun seeing some Afghan parolees arriving to your sites seeking support. LIRS expects the first few to arrive on or before September 1, 2021.

**There will be two types of cases: Allocated Parolees and Walk-In Parolees.**

- **Allocated Parolees** will be allocated to your office and travel will be arranged for these families to your site. You will be notified of these cases in advance of them arriving. Please note that there may be a short turnaround from allocation to arrival.



- **Walk-In Parolees** will be cases who determined at the U.S. port of entry to not continue onward to a military base to complete their allocation process. Please note these individuals did not complete their EAD card application. Additionally, these clients did not receive their required immunizations and must receive them within 7 days of arrival to the U.S. to maintain compliance with USCIS.

## How to prepare for the first arrivals?

- **Community Support Services & Coordination:** Because this population is not eligible for traditional ORR programs and benefits. Please designate someone at your local agency who can organize these resources and volunteer inquiries.
- **Community Sponsorship Pairing with Clients:** LIRS would like to see that 75% of clients must be assigned with a community sponsor group/volunteer. Please begin prepping your community groups to provide support. If you need assistance establishing a community sponsorship program, please reach out to LIRS at [postarrivalsupport@lirs.org](mailto:postarrivalsupport@lirs.org).
- **Create a resource one-pager:** Localized welcome packet of resources and referrals for Afghan Parolees could be helpful to provide directly to clients. This can also be helpful for volunteers too and can help your staff when delegating tasks to volunteers.
- **Basic Needs:** LIRS has learned that Afghans leaving Kabul will have little to no baggage with them. Hygiene items, clothing, shoes, and baby items are going to be critical. LIRS recommends having welcome boxes prepared and ready to be given out to families as they arrive.
- **Medical Needs:** ORR is confirming the availability of private medical insurance for Afghan parolees through September 30, 2021. For urgent medical needs, LIRS asks you to locate some free and low-cost medical providers. These may look in the form of a free clinic or community health clinic for low-income families. If there is an urgent medical emergency, these clients should be taken to the nearest emergency room and treated at a hospital. If a medical bill needs to be paid, please request funds utilizing LIRS's emergency assistance funds. More information forthcoming.
- **Housing:** Please set up your Airbnb accounts ASAP. All resources are on LIRSConnect here: [LIRS Airbnb Temporary Housing Program](#).
- **Employment Services:** APS clients are *not eligible* for ORR-funded employment programs. Agencies should use local and community workforce programs. APS programs will be expected to do some form of employment services. LIRS is working on securing additional funding for employment services for this population.
- **Out-Migration:** If you are in a heavy Afghan resettlement location, please be prepared for out-migrated cases to arrive to your local area. LIRS is working on establishing a post-arrival transfer process for these cases, but if a case is turned away due to US tie not providing housing, that case may still determine to travel to your area seeking services.



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## What additional services must be provided to Walk-In Parolees?

- **Application for Employment Authorization Document.** Please complete the EAD application with these individuals if they did not have one applied for at a military base or otherwise.
- **Assist these clients with completion of required immunizations and vaccinations within 7 days of being granted parole.** Those include:
  - vaccinations for MMR, polio, and one dose of the COVID vaccine, absent proof of prior vaccination;
  - Tuberculosis (TB) testing and take appropriate isolation and treatment measures if the tuberculosis test is positive; and report compliance with this requirement to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at [www.uscis.gov/vaccination-status](http://www.uscis.gov/vaccination-status).
  - If your client did not go to the government-run locations where these services are provided, your agency must assist with arranging the vaccinations and testing.

## Will our agency's APS program be monitored by LIRS and/or PRM?

Yes. Each agency participating in the APS program who has arrived 50 and more APS clients will be subject to a monitoring visit by LIRS and PRM. LIRS is planning to conduct monitoring visits before the close of the program on March 31, 2021. Once PRM has released the Cooperative Agreement, LIRS will provide more details on the monitoring activities.