



Central American Minors (CAM) Program Parole FAQ

I was denied refugee status with the CAM Program, but the denial letter states that I am conditionally approved for parole into the United States, what does that mean?

Individuals who applied for refugee status under the in-country refugee program in Guatemala, Honduras, or El Salvador, but were denied, are considered for parole in the United States with the CAM parole program. That means that final approval of parole cannot be granted until additional steps have been completed:

- Favorable results of security and background checks by USCIS.
- Receive favorable results in a medical examination with the International Office of Migration (IOM), at your expense.
- Coordinate travel with IOM to the United States at your expense.
- Travel within the validity of a parole authorization letter (Form I-512).

What is the estimated cost of travel and medical expenses?

You are responsible for the costs involved in obtaining parole. The medical exam with the International Office of Migration (IOM) is estimated to cost anywhere between \$75 and \$150 for adults and children. Travel costs for adults could cost approximately \$1,150; travel cost for a child could cost \$1,050; and an infant's travel costs could be \$350 (actual costs may vary).

Once I arrive to the United States, how long can I stay there?

Once you arrive to the United States, a Customs and Border Patrol Officer may authorize parole for up to two years. You would be issued a [Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record](#), which will be evidence of your parole status in the United States. Once you have obtained this document, it does not need to be renewed but will last for the duration of your stay in the U.S.

Can my parole be extended beyond the two years?

If you are granted parole through CAM, it is very important to always maintain a valid parole document. You must file an extension on your CAM parole **no later than** 90 days before your parole expires using [Form I-131, Application for Travel Document](#), with all required supporting documents. You must include the filing fee with Form I-131 or request a fee waiver using [Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver](#). The Department of Homeland Security will consider CAM parole extension requests for the duration of the CAM parole program. There is no planned end date for the program at this time.

Is parole a pathway to U.S. Citizenship?

No, parole is not an immigration status nor is it a pathway to citizenship in the U.S. Parole status only allows you to be lawfully present in the U.S. and to apply for work authorization. There are travel restrictions with parole status as well.



Will I be authorized to work in the U.S. with parole status?

Under CAM parole you are eligible to apply to work in the U.S. You must apply for a work permit after entering the U.S. and can do this by filling out Form [I-765 Application for Employment Authorization](#), with the required documentation and either the filing fee or the request for a fee waiver, [Form I-912](#). If your Form I-765 is approved, you will receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) valid through your parole period. If you want to continue to work in the U.S. after that expiration date, you must file Form I-765 again (with the filing fee or the fee waiver form) when you request an extension of CAM parole.

Can I travel outside of the U.S. with parole status?

If you travel outside the U.S. with parole status you may not be eligible to return, unless you apply for advance parole. If you plan to travel outside the U.S. during your parole period and would like to return to the U.S., you must fill out [Form I-131, Application for Travel Document](#), with the required filing fee or with [Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver](#). Travel authorization is only granted if there is an urgent humanitarian reason such as obtaining medical treatment, attending funeral services of a family member, or visiting an ailing relative. For more information on Advance Parole see [Instructions for Form I-131](#).

Am I eligible for public benefits under parole?

Sometimes, a person who is granted parole can receive public benefits and would only be considered to be eligible after five years of having been paroled into the U.S. and having a current parole period of more than one year. Eligibility is also dependent on the requirements of each specific program. Parolees are usually not eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It is up to each State to determine eligibility of parolees for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). If you have any questions regarding eligibility for public benefits, please contact your local [Resettlement Agency](#).

When will my parole period end?

Your parole period with the CAM program may initially be authorized for two years with the ability to extend the period. Your status will be terminated if:

- You leave the United States without permission for advance parole.
- You violate any laws in the United States.
- The Secretary of Homeland Security terminates the parole program.
- You do not apply for an extension on time (as explained above).

If your parole expires or is terminated and you do not depart the United States, you will begin to accrue unlawful presence, meaning you will be considered to be in the United States illegally. This may bar you from future immigration benefits and you may be placed in removal proceedings before a judge to be removed from the United States.



I need assistance in filling out and submitting the forms for my parole status, where can I find help?

- Contact your local [Resettlement Agency](#). They may be able to assist you in submitting these forms to the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) or providing referrals for where this can be done.
- Contact a local [Catholic Legal Immigration Network \(CLINIC\) Affiliate](#) for assistance in submitting forms for parole status and employment authorization.

If I move during this process, how do I update my new address?

If your application is still pending or if you were recently granted parole, you should update your address with USCIS by either calling 1-800-375-5283 or filling out the [online form](#) with USCIS.

If I am still living in Guatemala, Honduras, or El Salvador, where can I find more information about parole?

- El Salvador – Phone: 2501-3022; Email: ElSalvador.uscis@uscis.dhs.gov
- Guatemala – Phone: 502-2326-4000; Email: Guatemala.Inquiries@uscis.dhs.gov
- Honduras (the same contact information as El Salvador) – Phone: 011-503-2501-3022; Email: ElSalvador.uscis@uscis.dhs.gov

I am an anchor parent and my child or qualifying adult is in the process of being approved for parole with the CAM program. Who can I call with my questions about the process?

Please contact one of the IOM offices listed below:

- IOM Miami, Florida – Phone: (305) 592-2202
- IOM El Salvador – Phone: +503-2521-0581; Email: iomsvinfo@iom.int
- IOM Honduras – Phone: +504-2220-1104; Email: iomhninfo@iom.int
- IOM Guatemala – Phone: +502-2414-7409; Email: iomgtinfo@iom.int

**Phone numbers above are listed to call from the U.S. If you are calling from one of the countries listed, you do not need to dial the country code.*

For more information, please visit the [Central American Minors \(CAM\)](#) section of: www.uscis.gov/CAM or <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/humanitarian-parole>