



## Benefits Eligibility Determination for Afghan Arrivals

Updated: July 2024




Legal Status	Definition	ORR Benefits Eligibility	ORR Eligibility Date	R&P Program Eligibility	Mainstream Benefits Eligibility
Refugee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persons who are unable to return to their home due to persecution, or fear of persecution, due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.</li> <li>Refugees apply for status outside of the U.S. and enter the U.S. as a Refugee.</li> </ul>	✓	Date of U.S. Arrival	✓	✓
Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SIV Program was established to provide visas to Iraqi and Afghan nationals who</li> <li>Worked as translators and interpreters: for the U.S. military; or, under Chief of Mission authority at the U.S. Embassy Baghdad or U.S. Embassy Kabul.</li> <li>Were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government in Iraq or Afghanistan; or</li> <li>Were employed by the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan as an interpreter/translator.</li> <li>SIV (R&amp;P) recipients apply for status outside of the U.S. and enter the U.S. in SIV status.</li> <li>SIV recipients are eligible for the same resettlement assistance and other benefits as Refugees</li> </ul>	✓	Date of U.S. Arrival	✓	✓
Asylee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persons who are unable to return to their home due to persecution, or fear of persecution, due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.</li> <li>An Asylee is already in the U.S. and has been granted asylum either by an officer at USCIS or an immigration judge at EOIR.</li> <li>An Asylee may also include those who have received follow-to-join Asylee status. Follow-to-join Asylees obtain their status through a qualifying relative who received their Asylee status in the U.S. first and then filed on behalf of their family who were outside of the U.S.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The ORR eligibility date for asylees who originally arrived under Humanitarian Parole and are later granted asylum remains their Date of U.S. Arrival; their ORR eligibility period does not restart with the grant of asylum.</p>	✓	Date of Final Grant of Asylum	✗	✓

For more information please review [ORR Policy Letter 22-01](#), [ORR Policy Letter 22-02](#), and [ORR's Benefits for Afghan Humanitarian Parolees Fact Sheet](#)



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<p><b>Afghan Humanitarian Parolee (AHP)</b> <i>(arrived between 7/31/2021 and 9/30/2023)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan who were granted humanitarian parole by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in response to the rapid evacuation and relocation of Afghans under Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome.</li> <li>• Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan who presented at the U.S./Mexico border and were paroled by either CBP or ICE under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).</li> <li>• <u>Arrived in the U.S. between 7/31//2021 – 9/30/2023</u></li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> States and grantees may continue to provide ORR benefits and services to Afghan Parolees whose initial period of parole expires while their application for re-parole, asylum, or adjustment of status are pending.</p> <p><b>Eligible Afghan parolees are those who:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are an ORR beneficiary, as of the day before their initial parole expiration date; and</li> <li>• Have submitted, as of the day before their initial parole expiration date:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A re-parole application prior to the expiration of the initial period of parole.</li> <li>○ An asylum application prior to the expiration of the initial period of parole; or</li> <li>○ An adjustment of status application prior to the expiration of the initial period of parole.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> For Afghans who resided on a Safe Haven during OAW, their date of ORR eligibility is 10/1/2021 or the date they departed the safe haven (entered the community), whichever is later. For Afghans who did not reside on a safe haven during OAW their date of ORR eligibility is their date of U.S. arrival.</p>		<p>Date of Entry into the community (see note)</p>		

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<b>Afghan Humanitarian Parolee (AHP)</b> <i>(arrived after 9/30/2023)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan who were granted humanitarian parole by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).</li> <li>• Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan who presented at the U.S./Mexico border and were paroled by either CBP or ICE under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)</li> <li>• <u>Arrived in the U.S. after 9/30/2023</u></li> </ul> <p><b><i>Exception:</i></b> <i>If an Afghan was paroled into the U.S. after 9/30/2023, but they are the spouse, child, or parent/legal guardian of an AHP who arrived prior to 9/30/2023, they are also eligible for ORR and mainstream services. Their eligibility expires by the end of their parole period unless they obtain another eligible status such as asylee, SIV, or LPR.</i></p>	✗	✗  (See exceptions)	✗	✗  (See exceptions)
<b>Follow-to-join Refugee (Visa 93)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spouse or child (under the age of 21) of a previously admitted refugee.</li> </ul>	✓	Date of U.S. Arrival	✓	✓
<b>Follow-to-join SIV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spouse or child (under the age of 21) of a previously admitted Special Immigrant Visa holder.</li> </ul>	✓	Date of U.S. Arrival	✓	✓
<b>Follow-to-join Asylee (Visa 92)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spouse or child (under the age of 21) of an individual who has been granted asylum.</li> </ul>	✓	Date of U.S. Arrival	✗	✓

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