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TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, HEAP Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators

FROM: Phyllis D. Morris, Deputy Commissioner
Center of Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program (FWVP)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Bureau of Temporary Assistance at (518) 474-9344

Purpose

The purpose of this GIS is to inform social services districts (SSDs) of the new discretionary immigration parole program for certain family members of Filipino War World II veterans.

Background

On June 8, 2016, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) began allowing certain Filipino World War II veteran family members who are beneficiaries of an approved Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative the opportunity to receive a discretionary grant of parole on a case-by-case basis, so they may come to and reside in the United States as they wait for their immigrant visa to become available.

An estimated 2,000 to 6,000 Filipino American World War II veterans are living in the United States today as U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. This new immigration parole policy will enable many eligible family members to provide support and care to these aging veteran relatives.

The number of family-sponsored immigrant visas available by country of origin in any given year is limited by statute, except for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. These limits result in long waiting periods before family members may join petitioning U.S. citizens or permanent residents in the United States and become permanent residents themselves. For some Filipino-American families, this wait can exceed 20 years.

Under this new policy, certain family members of Filipino World War II veterans may be eligible to receive a discretionary grant of parole to come to the United States as they wait for their immigrant visa to become available. In limited cases, certain eligible relatives will be able to seek parole on their own behalf when their Filipino War II veteran and his or her spouse are both deceased.

Program Implications

Parole under the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program will be authorized for three years. Beneficiaries of the program will be Qualified Aliens (ACI Code G) subject to the five-year bar of federal-funded benefits. They can receive benefits as follows:

Temporary Assistance

Parolees under this program will be ineligible for **Family Assistance** until they have five years in status as a parolee. If otherwise, eligible, they can receive **Safety Net Assistance**.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

FWVP parolees are ineligible for SNAP until they have five years in status as parolee unless they meet one of the following exceptions:

- Under 18 years of age
- In receipt of certain disability benefits (7 USC 2012[r])

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

FWVP parolees must have five years in status to be eligible for HEAP

Work Authorization

Individuals paroled into the United States under the FWVP Program will be eligible to apply for work authorization from the USCIS. They must submit Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization with the required fee or a fee waiver request.

Re-Parole

Parole is temporary and, in and of itself does not lead to an immigration status or make an individual eligible for a Green Card. Beneficiaries of the FWVP Program are expected to apply for lawful permanent resident status (LPR) when their visa becomes available. It may be many years before visas for FWVP beneficiaries will be become current. It will be their responsibility to seek re-parole prior to the expiration of current parole until they are eligible to adjust status. FWVP parolees who remain in the United States past their current parole authorization without applying for adjustment of status or applying for parole authorization would be unlawfully present in the United States.

Immigration Documentation

Individuals paroled under the FWVP program will have an I-94 – Arrival/Departure Record with the annotation FWVP or an I-797 – Notice of Action approving a Form I-131 application for an Advance Parole Travel Document as a FWVP beneficiary.

SSDs having questions concerning immigration documentation should contact the Bureau of Temporary Assistance.