

**DATE:** August 24, 2017

**TO:** Subscribers

**SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION:** WMS Coordinators, Temporary Assistance Directors, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Directors, Employment Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators

**FROM:** Jeffrey Gaskell, Assistant Deputy Commissioner  
Employment and Income Support Programs

**SUBJECT:** Continuation of the Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa Program

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

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

The purpose of this GIS is to inform Social Services Districts (districts) that the Afghan and Iraqi special immigrant visa program remains in effect. Any Afghan and Iraqi special immigrants must continue to be treated like any other refugee whose eligibility for federal benefits is not restricted by his or her immigration status. Additionally, once someone immigrates to the United States under the Afghan and Iraqi special immigrant visa program, his or her status, and ability to adjust to lawful permanent resident status, continues even if or when the program is expired or terminated.

Districts are reminded to use WMS Alien Citizenship (ACI) code **R** for Afghan and Iraqi special immigrants.

Afghan and Iraqi nationals granted special immigrant status are generally interpreters and/or translators (or members of their families) who worked in Afghanistan or Iraq with the U.S. Armed Forces or under the authority of the Chief of Mission. For further background on the program please see GIS 10 TA/DC005.

Common documentation includes:

Iraq or Afghanistan national with **Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record** stamped with one of the following admission codes: SI-1, SI-2, SI-3, SI-6, SI-7, SI-8, SI-9, SQ-1, SQ-2, SQ-3, SQ-6, SQ-7, SQ-8 or SQ-9 or stamp noting admission under Section 101(a) (27) of the INA

Iraq or Afghanistan national with **Irqi or Afghan passport with an immigrant visa** stamped with one of the following category codes: SI-1, SI-2, SI-3, SI-6, SI-7, SI-8, SI-9, SQ-1, SQ-2, SQ-3, SQ-6, SQ-7, SQ-8 or SQ-9 or stamp noting admission under Section 101(a) (27) of the INA

Iraq or Afghanistan national with **Form I-551 Permanent Resident Card** with a category code of: SI-1, SI-2, SI-3, SI-6, SI-7, SI-8, SI-9, SQ-1, SQ-2, SQ-3, SQ-6, SQ-7, SQ-8 or SQ-9