



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

DANIEL W. TIETZ  
Commissioner

BARBARA C. GUINN  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

## General Information System (GIS) Message

---

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	23 TA/DC006 Upstate and New York City
<b>Date:</b>	January 24, 2023
<b>To:</b>	Subscribers
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Commissioners, HRA Center Directors, TA Directors, HEAP Coordinators, SNAP Directors, Fair Hearing Officers, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators
<b>From:</b>	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
<b>Subject:</b>	Extension of the Period of Parole for Afghan Humanitarian Parolees
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Immediately
<b>Contact Information:</b>	NYS OTDA Temporary Assistance Bureau: 518-474-9344 or <a href="mailto:otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov">otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov</a> NYS OTDA Home Energy Assistance Program Bureau: 518-473-0332 or <a href="mailto:NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov">NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov</a> NYS OTDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Bureau: 518-473-1469 or <a href="mailto:otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov">otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov</a> NYS OTDA Bureau of Refugee Services: 518-402-3096 or <a href="mailto:bria.contact@otda.ny.gov">bria.contact@otda.ny.gov</a>

---

### Section 2

#### Purpose

The purpose of this GIS message is to provide guidance to social services districts (districts) on meeting the needs of individuals and families from Afghanistan who have entered or will enter the United States (U.S.) on humanitarian parole who are applying for/receiving benefits and/or assistance through Temporary Assistance (TA), the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA). The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) initially provided guidance to districts on this matter via [GIS 21 TA/DC071](#).

President Biden recently signed the *Consolidated Continuing Appropriations Act, 2023* into law. This law **extends** the period of parole under which certain individuals from Afghanistan may be eligible for certain benefits to **September 30, 2023** (see: Division M, Title V, Sec. 1501 of [H.R. 2617: Consolidated Continuing Appropriations Act, 2023](#)).

#### Program Implications

Temporary Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Home Energy Assistance Program, Refugee Cash Assistance

## *Afghan Humanitarian Parolees*

Initially, effective September 30, 2021, the federal government began providing evacuees from Afghanistan who entered the U.S. on humanitarian parole access to federal benefits and services through the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022. Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan, or individuals with no nationality who last resided in Afghanistan, may be eligible for benefits if they have completed DHS's background checks, their parole has not been terminated by DHS, and if they were: (1) paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022, or (2) paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2022, and are: (a) the spouse or child of an evacuee from Afghanistan paroled between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022, or (b) the parent or legal guardian of an unaccompanied child paroled between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022. The Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 allows these individuals to receive benefits for a limited period of time, either through March 31, 2023, or until the end of their parole term, whichever is later.

Section 2502 of the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2022 (PL 117-43) **now** provides that Afghan nationals, citizens, or those who last habitually lived in Afghanistan paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021, and **September 30, 2023**, are eligible to receive resettlement assistance, entitlement programs (including TA and SNAP), and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act through March 31, 2023, or until the end of their parole term, whichever is later. These individuals are not subject to a waiting period and are immediately eligible for benefits as long as they meet all other TA/SNAP financial and non-financial eligibility requirements.

The only update to prior guidance regarding Afghan humanitarian parolees (see [GIS 21 TA/DC071](#)) is the period in which an individual can be paroled into the U.S. in order to be eligible for benefits, provided they meet all other financial and non-financial requirements.

If otherwise eligible, these non-citizens are eligible for Family Assistance (FA), Safety Net Assistance (SNA), HEAP, and SNAP, and will be coded WMS ACI code "R." Additionally, singles and childless couples who are Afghan humanitarian parolees can be claimed to RCA.

The following is a list of common United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents Afghan humanitarian parolees may present to districts:

- Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, noting Humanitarian Parole per INA Section 212(d)(5)(A) and reasonable evidence of being an evacuee from Afghanistan, or
- Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting one of the following: Operation Allies Refuge or "OAR;" or Operation Allies Welcome or "OAW;" or "DT", or
- Any other authoritative USCIS document indicating Afghan humanitarian parole was granted.

The documents listed above are not the only forms of acceptable immigration documentation to support an Afghan humanitarian parole status.

It is important to note that the above guidance pertains specifically to Afghan humanitarian parolees covered under the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022. For guidance on the immigration documentation and on determining eligibility for other humanitarian parolees who are not evacuees from Afghanistan, districts should continue to refer to page four of the [LDSS-4579](#): "Non-Citizen Eligibility Desk Aid."

## *Verifying Immigration Documentation*

As a reminder, in accordance with [13-ADM-07](#), when determining TA and SNAP eligibility, districts must use the SAVE system to verify non-citizens' immigration documentation. Benefits must not be delayed, denied, reduced, or terminated, pending verification of non-citizens' documentation through the SAVE system. If all other factors of eligibility have been established and the non-citizens are otherwise eligible, benefits must be granted while awaiting responses from the SAVE system.

When verifying the immigration documentation presented by Afghan humanitarian parolees, the SAVE system will confirm the documentation by providing a "parolee" response.

### **Guidance and Questions**

For questions or further information on determining TA eligibility for evacuees from Afghanistan or other non-citizen questions, please contact the OTDA TA Bureau for assistance by calling: 518-474-9344 or emailing: [otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov](mailto:otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov).

HEAP eligibility questions regarding evacuees from Afghanistan should be directed to the OTDA HEAP Bureau by calling: 518-473-0332 or emailing: [NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov](mailto:NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov).

SNAP eligibility questions regarding evacuees from Afghanistan should be directed to the OTDA SNAP Bureau by calling: 518-473-1469 or emailing: [otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov](mailto:otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov).

For questions pertaining to RCA or USRP, districts should contact the OTDA BRS by calling: 518-402-3096 or emailing: [bria.contact@otda.ny.gov](mailto:bria.contact@otda.ny.gov).