



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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## General Information System (GIS) Message

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	23 TA/DC017 Upstate and New York City
<b>Date:</b>	February 27, 2023
<b>To:</b>	Subscribers
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Commissioners, TA Directors, HEAP Coordinators, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Fair Hearing Officers, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators
<b>From:</b>	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
<b>Subject:</b>	Reminder on Benefit Eligibility for Non-Citizens Paroled into the United States
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Immediately
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Temporary Assistance Bureau at: 518-474-9344 or: <a href="mailto:tabureau@otda.ny.gov">tabureau@otda.ny.gov</a>
<b>Attachment:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 1: Examples of Immigration Documentation Indicating Parole for Less Than One Year</a>

### Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to remind social services districts (districts) that certain non-citizens who are paroled into the United States (U.S.) may be eligible for Temporary Assistance (TA), the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and/or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Certain non-citizens may be granted parole for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit under Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) for one year or more, while others may be paroled for a short period of time. Individuals paroled into the U.S. for one year or more may be eligible for federal public benefits such as Family Assistance (FA), SNAP and HEAP. Individuals paroled into the U.S. for less than one year may be eligible for Safety Net Assistance (SNA), if otherwise eligible.

If a non-citizen applies for assistance and presents unexpired immigration documentation that indicates they have been paroled into the U.S. for less than one year and they do not have any other immigration documentation that indicates their parole is no longer valid, the non-citizen may be eligible for SNA, if otherwise eligible. The district worker should review the [LDSS-4579](#): “Non-Citizen Eligibility Desk Aid” to determine which, if any, benefits the non-citizen may be eligible for and to assign the correct Welfare Management System (WMS) Alien Citizenship Indicator (ACI) code.

For those non-citizens granted parole for less than one year (ACI code T), district workers may wish to enter an Anticipated Future Action (AFA) Code on WMS (Rest of State only), such as “999 – Other”, or use another method to remind them to reassess eligibility near the end of the parole period. Districts that

do not have AFA codes available in WMS should track those non-citizens granted parole for less than one year in their local systems to ensure that eligibility is reevaluated near the end of the parole period.

The following is a list of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents parolees may present to districts:

- Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, noting Humanitarian Parole per INA Section 212(d)(5), or
- Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting “DT”, or
- Any other authoritative USCIS document indicating parole under INA Section 212(d)(5) was granted.

Examples of immigration documentation that indicate parole are included in Attachment 1. These and the documents listed above are not the only forms of acceptable immigration documentation to support a non-citizen parole status. If a district has eligibility questions regarding any type of immigration documentation that a non-citizen presents, the district may contact the TA Bureau by calling: 518-474-9344 or emailing: [tabureau@otda.ny.gov](mailto:tabureau@otda.ny.gov).

It is important to note that certain parolees may have specified eligibility for benefits that is set forth in federal law. These include, Afghan humanitarian parolees covered under the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, Ukrainian humanitarian parolees covered under the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, or the Uniting for Ukraine Program. For guidance on determining benefit eligibility for these other parolees, districts should refer to [GIS 21 TA/DC071](#), [GIS 22 TA/DC059](#) and [GIS 23 TA/DC006](#). These parolees also include Cuban or Haitian Entrants. Districts should refer to the [LDSS-4579](#): “Non-Citizen Eligibility Desk Aid” to determine which, if any, benefits a Cuban or Haitian Entrant may be eligible for and to assign the correct WMS ACI code.

Districts are reminded to follow the guidance included in [07-INF-01](#): “Social Security Numbers for Aliens without United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Work Authorization,” when determining eligibility for non-citizens who have not received employment authorization from USCIS.

Additionally, in accordance with [13-ADM-07](#): “Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program: Replacement of Manual Form G-845 (Document Verification Request) with Verification Information System Web-3 Access”, districts must use the SAVE system to verify non-citizens’ immigration documentation when determining their eligibility for TA and SNAP. 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.

In instances where a non-citizen applies for TA, HEAP, or SNAP and is denied because they are unable to provide immigration documentation that supports a non-citizen status that would be satisfactory for benefit eligibility, districts are encouraged to refer those non-citizens to the New York State Office for New Americans (ONA) hotline: 1-800-566-7636.