



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	24DC009 Upstate and New York City
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To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, HEAP Coordinators, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Fair Hearing Officers, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	New Family Reunification Parole (FRP) Process for Ecuador
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Temporary Assistance Bureau at: 518-474-9344 or: tabureau@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to inform social services districts (districts) that the United States (U.S.) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently announced a new family reunification parole (FRP) process for certain nationals from Ecuador.

The new FRP process is available by invitation only to certain nationals of Ecuador who are beneficiaries of an approved [Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative](#). The process allows an eligible beneficiary to be considered for parole into the U.S. on a case-by-case basis while they wait for their family-based immigrant visa to become available. This process is intended to reunite families more quickly and is part of comprehensive federal measures to reduce dangerous and irregular migration across the Western Hemisphere and expand lawful pathways to enter the U.S.

Ecuadorian nationals who enter the U.S. under the new FRP process, or who are granted parole in another way, may be eligible for public benefits. The public benefits for which certain parolees are eligible depend on the length of their parole and whether they otherwise fulfill all the conditions of eligibility for the program. Non-citizens paroled into the U.S. for less than one year may be eligible for Safety Net Assistance (SNA), if they otherwise meet program eligibility requirements. Non-citizens paroled into the U.S. for one year or more may be eligible for federal public benefits such as Family Assistance (FA), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

Please note that Ecuadorian nationals who enter the U.S. under this new process may be paroled into the U.S. for up to three years and are eligible to apply for employment authorization for the duration of their parole period. When determining eligibility for public benefits, districts should use the [LDSS-4579](#)

as a guide when assigning the appropriate Welfare Management System (WMS) Citizenship (CIT) code of “G – Non-Citizen Paroled into the U.S. for at Least One Year”, or “T – Non-Citizen Paroled into the U.S. for Less Than One Year”.

Acceptable Immigration Documentation

Parolees under the new FRP process for Ecuador can obtain a copy of their electronic Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website at: [194 - Official Website \(dhs.gov\)](https://www.dhs.gov). The following is a list of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents that parolees under the new FRP process may present to districts to verify they were granted FRP:

- Electronic or Paper Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, with a class of admission (COA) of Ecuador Family Reunification Parole (RED); or
- Foreign passport with parole stamp that includes a COA of RED; or
- Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), with a C11 category if the individual has applied for and received one, along with documentation indicating parole under the new FRP for Ecuador; or
- Any other authoritative USCIS document indicating parole under the new FRP process for Ecuador.

Note: The documents listed above are not the only forms of acceptable immigration documentation to support a non-citizen parolee status under the new FRP process for Ecuador.

For guidance on common documentation for other types of parolees, districts should refer to the [LDSS-4579](#). If a district has eligibility questions regarding any type of immigration documentation that a non-citizen presents, the district may contact the Temporary Assistance (TA) Bureau by calling: 518-474-9344 or emailing: tabureau@otda.ny.gov. The New York State (NYS) Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will release further guidance, if necessary, should additional federal immigration policy changes occur.

SAVE System Verification

Based on information from the non-citizen’s immigration documentation, the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system will provide an initial verification response of Parolee with a COA of RED for non-citizens granted parole through the new FRP process for Ecuador. The initial SAVE system response may also include employment authorization information if the parolee has an EAD. Additional verification may be required in limited circumstances, such as when the non-citizen information submitted by the district does not match federal immigration records.

Parolees may have more than one valid immigration status or category and may also present valid immigration documents that demonstrate other pending applications or approved statuses or categories. Ecuadorian non-citizens paroled into the U.S. through other processes will have a general parole COA code, such as DT or PAR.

As a reminder, 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. 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.

Other Guidance

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 met the benefit eligibility requirement to apply for/have a Social Security Number (SSN).

For guidance on determining benefit eligibility for other types of parolees, districts should refer to the [LDSS-4579](#), [GIS 21 TA/DC071](#), [GIS 22 TA/DC059](#), [GIS 23 TADC006](#), [GIS 23 TA/DC017](#), [GIS 23 TA/DC036](#), [GIS 23DC061](#) and [GIS 23DC073](#).

For additional information on FRP, please visit the following U.S. DHS website: [Family Reunification Parole Processes](#). Individuals with questions specific to FRP should be directed to contact their immigration attorney and/or referred to the NYS Office for New Americans (ONA) Hotline at: 1-800-566-7636.