



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

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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:	Modernized Federal Family Reunification Parole (FRP) Processes for Cuba and Haiti
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) has modernized the Federal Family Reunification Parole (FRP) processes for certain nationals from Cuba and Haiti.

The Cuban Family Reunification Parole (CFRP) process, formerly known as the CFRP program, and the Haitian Family Reunification Parole (HFRP) process, formerly known as the HFRP program, were established in 2007 and 2014, respectively, to provide a lawful, safe, and orderly pathway for certain Cubans and Haitians to reunite with family as they wait for their immigrant visas to become available.

The modernized FRP processes are available by invitation only to certain nationals of Cuba and Haiti who are beneficiaries of an approved [Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative](#). The processes allow 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. The modernized processes are a part of comprehensive federal measures to continue to promote family unity and reduce dangerous and irregular migration across the Western Hemisphere, and expand lawful pathways to enter the U.S.

Cuban and Haitian nationals who enter the U.S. under the modernized FRP processes, or who are granted parole in another way, who have not acquired any other status under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), and for whom a final, non-appealable, and legally enforceable order of removal, deportation, or exclusion has not been entered, are considered specially qualified non-citizens as Cuban or Haitian Entrants, indicated in the Welfare Management System (WMS) with a Citizenship code “H – Cuban/Haitian Entrant”. If otherwise eligible, Cuban and Haitian Entrants are eligible for Family

Assistance (FA), Safety Net Assistance (SNA), the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Please note that Cuban or Haitian nationals who enter the U.S. under these modernized processes who are paroled into the U.S. are eligible to apply for employment authorization for the duration of their parole period.

Cuban and Haitian nationals who enter the U.S. under the modernized FRP processes may have a supporter and/or sponsor. There is a difference between being a supporter and being a sponsor, and the type of form a person signs determines whether they are a supporter or a sponsor. A person can be both a sponsor and supporter. If the person only signed the [Form I-134A, Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support](#), the person is a supporter. Applicants/recipients who have a supporter, but not a sponsor, are not subject to federal sponsor deeming requirements. If a person signed the [Form I-864, Affidavit of Support Under Section 213A of the INA](#), or both the I-864 and the I-134A, the person is a sponsor because they have signed the I-864. Applicants/recipients who have a sponsor who signed the I-864 are subject to federal sponsor deeming rules and the guidance outlined in [99-ADM-02](#), which includes federal sponsor deeming requirements, would be applicable.

Acceptable Immigration Documentation

Parolees under the modernized FRP processes for Cuba and Haiti can obtain a copy of their electronic Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, from the U.S Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website at [I-94 - Official Website \(dhs.gov\)](#). The following is a list of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents that parolees under the modernized FRP processes 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 Cuban Family Reunification Parole (RCU) or Haitian Family Reunification Parole (RHT); or
- Foreign passport with parole stamp that includes a COA of RCU or RHT; or
- Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), with a C11 category if they have applied for and received one, along with documentation indicating parole under the modernized FRP processes for Cuba or Haiti; or
- Any other authoritative USCIS document indicating parole under the modernized FRP processes for Cuba or Haiti.

The documents listed above are not the only forms of acceptable immigration documentation to support a non-citizen's parolee status under the modernized FRP processes for Cuba or Haiti. Family Reunification parolees are not employment authorized incident to their parole. They must have an EAD to be employment authorized.

Please note that Cuban or Haitian non-citizens paroled into the U.S. through other processes may have a general parole COA code, such as DT or PAR. 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 a 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 RCU or RHT for non-citizens granted parole through the modernized FRP processes for Cuba and Haiti. The initial SAVE system response may also include employment authorization information if the parolee has an EAD.

Parolees may have more than one valid immigration status or category and may also present valid immigration documents that demonstrate other pending applications, approved statuses, or categories.

Cuban or Haitian non-citizens paroled into the U.S. through other processes may have a general parole COA code, such as DT or PAR.

Additional SAVE system verification may be required in limited circumstances, such as when the non-citizen information submitted by the district does not match federal immigration records. SAVE system additional verification provides a detailed verification response, including:

- Parole period;
- Additional immigration statuses and categories, if any; and
- Pending immigration applications.

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 TA/DC006](#), [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 attorneys and/or referred to the NYS Office for New Americans (ONA) Hotline at: 1-800-566-7636.