



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

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To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, HEAP Coordinators, Employment Coordinators, Fair Hearing Officers, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators, Medical Assistance Directors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs Richard Umholtz, Deputy Commissioner Housing and Refugee Services
Subject:	Updated Guidance on Providing Assistance to Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees
Effective Date:	Immediately
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Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to provide updated guidance to social services districts (districts) on meeting the needs of certain Ukrainian individuals and families, or non-Ukrainians who last habitually resided in Ukraine who were paroled in to the United States (U.S.) due to urgent humanitarian reasons, known as Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs), and are applying for assistance and/or benefits through Public Assistance (PA), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) and/or Medicaid (MA). The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) initially provided guidance to districts on this matter via [GIS 22 TA/DC059](#) and [GIS 24DC044](#). This GIS includes additional federal guidance and supersedes GIS 24DC044.

The *Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024*, Division B of the *Act Making Supplemental Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024*, was signed into law on April 24, 2024. This law **extends** the time period during which UHPs may be paroled into the U.S. and thereby eligible for certain benefits to **September 30, 2024** (see: Division B, Title III, Sec. 301 of [H.R.815 - Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes](#)).

Program Implications

PA, SNAP, HEAP, RCA, RMA, MA

Initially, as of May 21, 2022, UHPs granted parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, were eligible for PA (Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA)), SNAP, HEAP, RCA, RMA and MA, if they otherwise met program eligibility requirements. UHPs were eligible for these benefits until the end of the individual's parole term, unless otherwise amended by law. Certain benefits can continue after the expiration of the parole period if the individual gained another non-citizen status that would be satisfactory for benefit eligibility. UHPs' spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who were paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2023, were also eligible to apply for these benefits and receive them, if otherwise eligible. If the paroled Ukrainian was an unaccompanied child, their parents, legal guardians, or primary caregivers paroled after September 30, 2023, were also eligible for these benefits.

Subsequently, the *Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024* provided that UHPs who are granted parole between February 24, 2022, and **September 30, 2024**, are now eligible to receive PA (FA and SNA), SNAP, HEAP, RCA, RMA and MA. These individuals are not subject to a waiting period and are immediately eligible for benefits as long as they meet all other program financial and non-financial eligibility requirements. UHPs' spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who were paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2023, continue to be eligible to apply for these benefits and receive them, if otherwise eligible. If the paroled Ukrainian was an unaccompanied child, their parents, legal guardians, or primary caregivers paroled after September 30, 2023, also continue to be eligible for these benefits.

A citizen or national of Ukraine or other non-Ukrainian individual who last habitually resided in Ukraine and is defined as an unaccompanied child under section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. § 279(g)(2)), who has been released from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) custody to family or sponsors is eligible for mainstream and ORR refugee benefits upon release from the ORR Unaccompanied Children Program's custody.

UHPs are eligible for PA, SNAP, HEAP and MA until the end of the individual's parole term, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another non-citizen status that would be satisfactory for benefit eligibility. For example, if a UHP applies for and obtains Temporary Protected Status (TPS), the individual will remain eligible for federal benefits, including PA, SNAP, HEAP and MA until the end of the individual's parole term, due to their underlying receipt of humanitarian parole per INA section 212(d)(5). Note, however, that an individual who has only applied for or been granted TPS and has no underlying humanitarian parole or other immigration status is not eligible for federal benefits but would be considered Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL) and eligible for SNA and MA if they otherwise meet program eligibility requirements. Further information on the TPS designation for Ukraine can be found in [GIS 22 TA/DC059](#).

It is important to note that on February 27, 2024, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began to accept and consider applications from UHPs and their immediate family members for a new period of parole, also known as re-parole. A UHP who has been granted re-parole will be issued a new period of parole from USCIS. A UHP who has been granted re-parole retains their initial date of eligibility for benefits and services, but they continue to be eligible for benefits and services through the end of the re-parole period, if otherwise eligible. For information on the re-parole process for UHPs, districts may refer to the following website: [Re-Parole Process for Certain Ukrainian Citizens and Their Immediate Family Members | USCIS](#).

When determining PA, SNAP, HEAP and MA eligibility, UHPs will be coded Welfare Management System (WMS) Citizenship Code (CIT) "R", and if they otherwise meet program eligibility requirements, may receive federal benefits. Additionally, singles and childless couples who are UHPs can be claimed to RCA and RMA.

1. The date of status (DOS) for UHPs who entered the U.S. with parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, is May 21, 2022, or their date of parole, whichever is later.
2. The DOS for spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 of such UHPs described under 1 above, who entered the U.S. with parole after September 30, 2023, is their date of parole.
3. The DOS for a parent, legal guardian, or primary caregiver of a UHP unaccompanied refugee minor or a UHP unaccompanied child as described under 1 above, who entered the U.S. with parole after September 30, 2023, is their date of parole.
4. The DOS for UHPs who entered the U.S. with parole between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, is April 24, 2024, or their date of parole, whichever is later.

For the UHPs described under 4 above, it is important to note that they are not eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits before April 24, 2024. For these UHPs who received SNA after April 24, 2024, districts may retroactively claim their SNA cases back to April 24, 2024 under FA, if the UHP remains otherwise eligible.

For SNAP, UHPs described in 4 above, who applied for and were denied SNAP based on their date of parole between October 1, 2023, and April 24, 2024, are not eligible for retroactive benefits since PL 118-50 was not yet enacted. Ukrainian parolees with a parole date between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024, who applied on or after April 24, 2024, and were denied, may be eligible for retroactive benefits from the date of application.

For any Ukrainian individual or person who last habitually resided in Ukraine who was paroled into the U.S. prior to February 24, 2022, or after September 30, 2024 and is not included under 2 or 3 above, districts must consult the [LDSS-4579](#): "Non-Citizen Eligibility Desk Aid" to determine eligibility.

As a reminder, UHPs are exempt from sponsor deeming requirements. Sponsor income, resources and contributions are not to be considered when determining benefit eligibility for UHPs.

The following is a list of U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/USCIS documents that may be presented to districts by UHPs, to verify they were granted humanitarian parole:

Immigration Status or Category of Applicant/Recipient	Acceptable Documentation
Ukrainian citizen or national who received humanitarian parole (known as a Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee, or UHP)	Form I-94 noting humanitarian parole (per INA section 212(d)(5) or 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)) Or Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting “DT” Or Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Uniting for Ukraine or “U4U” Or Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee or “UHP” Or Form I-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code C11 Or Form I-766 EAD with the code C11 Or Any other notation of parole under INA § 212(d)(5)
A non-Ukrainian individual who received humanitarian parole and the U4U or UHP class of admission in response to their displacement from Ukraine	Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Uniting for Ukraine or “U4U” Or Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee or “UHP”
A non-Ukrainian individual who last habitually resided in Ukraine and received humanitarian parole, but without the U4U or UHP class of admission	Any one of the forms or stamps listed above And Documentation of last habitual residence in Ukraine, including Crimea

UHPs can obtain a copy of their electronic Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website at: [I94 - Official Website \(dhs.gov\)](https://www.dhs.gov/i-94).

For more information on UHP eligibility and documentation, please see [ORR Policy Letter 22-13 Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees Eligible for ORR Benefits and Services](#).

Verifying Immigration Documentation

As a reminder, in accordance with [13-ADM-07](#), when determining PA and SNAP eligibility, districts must use the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (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.

An initial SAVE verification response is automated and includes one immigration status or category, and EAD information, if any. Based upon information from an individual's documentation, the SAVE system may provide an initial verification response of Parolee with documentation that indicates a UHP class of admission (COA) and the individual's country of birth. The initial response may also include the most recent parole grant date.

As indicated above, UHPs may apply for and receive re-parole, which is a new period of parole. Additionally, these parolees may have more than one valid immigration status or category and many also present valid immigration documents that demonstrate other pending applications or approved statuses or categories.

If the initial automated SAVE system response is unexpected or is not sufficient, the district should request additional verification. Response times may vary. SAVE additional verification provides a detailed verification response, including:

- Original Ukrainian Humanitarian Parole grant date and re-parole expiration date, when a Ukrainian parolee has received re-parole;
- Additional immigration statuses and categories, if any; and
- Pending immigration applications.

Employment Authorization

According to the USCIS website: [Frequently Asked Questions About Uniting for Ukraine | USCIS](#), certain UHPs may present an unexpired Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, to show identity and employment authorization for Form I-9. Individuals may visit the [I-94 Website](#) to view and print a copy of their I-94 so that they may begin work right away.

Within 90 days of hire, the individual must present to their employer either:

- A valid EAD, which can be applied for at: [Application for Employment Authorization | USCIS](#); or
- An unrestricted Social Security card and a List B identity document from the Form I-9 Lists of Acceptable Documents. Some examples of List B documents include a driver's license, school ID, U.S. military card, and voter registration card. Click here for a full list of acceptable [List B documents](#) that must be presented by the individual.

Districts are reminded to follow the regular process to determine each individual's employability status and assign an appropriate employability code.

When a UHP applies for their EAD, they may also apply for their social security number (SSN). PA and SNAP SSN requirements are outlined in [93-ADM-04](#) and [07-INF-01](#), and RCA SSN requirements are included in [22-ADM-07](#).