

Migrant Relocation Assistance Program (MRAP) Participant Rights and Responsibilities

Introduction

MRAP provides support for voluntary relocation from New York City to other counties in New York State that have agreed to provide relocation services. Participation in MRAP is voluntary. You are considered an MRAP Participant after you confirm you are interested in relocating have been determined eligible by a designated Department of Homeless Services (DHS) or Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Service Provider, agree to participate in the program, and sign a consent form.

Upon arrival to the participating county of your choice, you will be enrolled in MRAP by the MRAP Service Provider, a community-based organization. MRAP support and services are available to you and your family for up to one year. The MRAP Service Provider will provide assistance with material needs and support services to help you and your family have the best possible chance of achieving self-sufficiency and integrating into your new community. You and your family must also play an active part by cooperating with the Service Provider. If you or any adults in your family are authorized and able to work, you will be assisted to find a suitable job and will need to contribute to your family's expenses.

The MRAP Service Provider will help you with United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) or Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) applications and notices, and transportation for USDHS or EOIR appointments. If needed, the Service Provider will refer you to an attorney or legal services provider in your new community.

The rights and responsibilities of MRAP Participants are outlined on the next pages. Failure to comply with any of the responsibilities may result in the discontinuation of your participation in the program.

MRAP Participant Rights

1. The MRAP Service Provider in the county you are moving to must meet you upon arrival and provide transportation to rental housing with essential furnishings, and services or referrals to other assistance to meet your immediate needs such as culturally appropriate, ready-to-eat food; seasonal clothing; medical care; and financial assistance.
2. After you relocate, you may receive the following assistance in the receiving county for up to one year, unless your service period is extended:
 - Financial assistance
 - Assistance with material needs such as:
 - food & food allowances
 - necessary clothing
 - other necessities
 - Support Services such as:
 - Assistance with applying for social security cards
 - Obtaining health screenings
 - Accessing other necessary health and mental health services
 - Obtaining appropriate benefits
 - Other social services
 - English language instruction
 - Registering your children in school
 - Enrollment in employment services*
 - Transportation to job interviews*
 - Job training*

** Enrollment in employment services, transportation to job interviews, and job training may depend on whether you have authorization to work in the United States.*

3. You have the right to safe, sanitary, and affordable housing during your participation in MRAP.
4. You have the right to access MRAP information and services in the language of your choice through interpretation services arranged by the MRAP Service Provider.
5. You have the right to be referred to an accredited legal services provider to assist you with your immigration and/or other legal matters if necessary.
6. The amount and type of MRAP assistance you receive is determined by the MRAP Service Provider and is based on your individual family's circumstances and the information you provide.
7. You have the right to assistance from the MRAP Service Provider in getting important documentation and information about you and your family that will help you become self-sufficient and gain economic security.
8. You have the right to receive services without discrimination based on race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, religion, political beliefs, gender identity, transgender status, gender dysphoria, sexual orientation, marital status, military status and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.
9. You have the right to seek assistance if you think you have been discriminated against in MRAP, or that your case has been handled improperly due to some type of discrimination, by contacting the OTDA Bureau of Refugee Services, 518-402-3096 or MRAP@otda.ny.gov
10. You have the right to end your participation in MRAP at any time. If you end your participation in the program, all MRAP services and financial assistance will also end at that time.

MRAP Participant Responsibilities

1. You understand that, prior to relocating, if you decide that you no longer wish to participate in MRAP, you must immediately notify the OTDA or DHS Service Provider.
2. **You are responsible for obtaining a legal consultation either on your own or through a referral from the OTDA or DHS Service Provider, if applicable, to discuss the effect relocating may have on your immigration case and/or any other legal matters, and to start or continue the process of stabilizing your immigration status if necessary. You are responsible for understanding any effects that relocating could have on your immigration case or other legal matters. Some things that could affect your immigration case include, but are not limited to, failing to file a change of address form, or requesting to change the court that will hear your immigration case. You understand that having a legal consultation prior to relocating to understand any effects that relocating could have on your immigration case is strongly recommended.** If you wish to decline a legal consultation, you are responsible for informing the OTDA or DHS Service Provider.

3. After relocating, you are responsible for notifying federal authorities of your address change including but not limited to Department of Homeland Security, Immigrations & Customs Enforcement, USCIS, and the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR).
4. After relocating, you are responsible for working with a legal service provider to start or continue the process of stabilizing your immigration status, if necessary.
5. You are responsible for complying with USCIS and EOIR requirements, rules and directives, and if necessary, file all required forms and attend all appointments and hearings in order to maintain or stabilize your immigration status.
6. You understand that MRAP services and financial assistance will end after 12 months, unless an exception is made, and at the end of 12 months your household will need to have a plan in place to support itself without assistance from MRAP.
7. You are responsible for providing proof of certain things in order to be enrolled in and receive MRAP services and assistance. The information and documents you provide must be truthful and accurate. You may be asked by the MRAP Service Provider and/or other public benefits issuing agencies to provide proof of:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity • Age • Address • Living arrangements • Shelter/rental expense • Social security number • Citizenship or immigration status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earned income • Unearned income • Financial or other resources • School attendance for those attending school • Health insurance • Unpaid rent or utilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid or unpaid medical bills • Whether you are Drug/Alcohol Dependent • Disability, Incapacity, or Pregnancy • Other Expenses/child or other dependent care
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8. You are responsible for reporting changes to needs, income, employment, health insurance, family composition, living arrangements, address, immigration status, health conditions or other situations to the MRAP Service Provider as soon as possible.
9. You are responsible for attending and/or rescheduling all appointments with the MRAP Service Provider and to respond to all inquiries and communications from the MRAP Service Provider in a timely manner.
10. At the direction of the MRAP Service Provider, it is your responsibility to participate in activities that will help you get and keep a job.
11. If you or any adults in your household are not yet authorized to work in the United States, you must cooperate with the Service Provider and/or a legal services provider in all steps needed to apply for work authorization.
12. If you are authorized and able to work, you are required to work with the MRAP Service Provider to obtain a lawful job that you are able to do.
13. If you are authorized and able to work, once you obtain a lawful and suitable job, you are responsible to contribute to your family's housing and household expenses. The amount of your contribution will be reassessed every 90 days based on your income and expenses.
14. You may be responsible for signing the lease for your apartment and will be responsible for the terms of that lease, including being financially responsible for the duration of the lease.
15. While you are participating in MRAP, moving out of the provided housing without coordinating with the MRAP Service Provider may result in the discontinuation of your participation in the program, including discontinuation of financial assistance to help pay for any remaining months of the lease.