



Public Benefits Overview for Refugees and Other Humanitarian Immigrants

Certain humanitarian immigrants are [eligible](#) for cash assistance, medical assistance, employment preparation, job placement, English language training, and other services offered through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), along with other federally funded programs. This includes Refugees, Asylees, Cuban and Haitian Entrants, Special Immigrant Visa holders, Amerasians, Victims of Trafficking, and some [Afghan](#) and [Ukrainian](#) individuals granted humanitarian parole by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Certain unaccompanied minors, including some Paroled Unaccompanied Afghan and Ukrainian minors, are eligible for the [Unaccompanied Refugee Minors \(URM\) Program](#).

This tool provides a summary of what benefits may be available to families with children, single adults or couples with no minor children, and disabled individuals and adults over 65. Timeframes listed below begin on arrival to the United States.

If you are seeking benefits and services, you can discuss the various benefits for which you may be eligible with a case manager at a [local resettlement agency](#), or by calling the [Switchboard Community Support Line](#) at (212) 551-3100. For information about other benefits and services available in your community, contact your [State Refugee Coordinator's office](#).

Availability Key:



Families with
minor children



Single adults or couples
with no minor children



Disabled individuals and
adults over age 65

First 6-12 Months

Direct Assistance

[Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#) TANF may be available longer than 12 months. HHS/ACF

Available to: 

Determined by states; some states exclude two-parent families.

or

[Matching Grant \(MG\)](#)
ORR

Available to:  

or

[Refugee Cash Assistance \(RCA\)](#) Clients whose date of eligibility for ORR benefits is on or after May 5, 2025, have an eligibility period of 4 months for RCA | ORR

Available to:  

or

[Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) for disabled and adults over age 65 SSI may be available longer than 12 months.

Available to: 

Food Security

[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance \(SNAP\)](#) As of July 4, 2025, ORR-eligible populations are no longer eligible for SNAP, except for Cuban and Haitian Entrants. Upon adjusting status, clients may be subject to a five-year waiting period. Please check with your state office as they adapt eligibility guidelines to meet these requirements. SNAP may be available longer than 12 months. USDA/FNS

Available to:   

[Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#) WIC may be available longer than 12 months. | USDA/FNS

Available to: 

Medical Assistance

[Medicaid](#) Beginning October 1, 2026, Medicaid eligibility will be limited to Cuban and Haitian Entrants. Upon adjusting status, clients may be subject to a five-year waiting period. Please check with your state office as they adapt eligibility guidelines to meet these requirements. Medicaid may be available longer than 12 months. | HHS/CMS

Available to:   

or

[Refugee Medical Assistance \(RMA\)](#) Clients whose date of eligibility for ORR benefits is on or after May 5, 2025, have an eligibility period of 4 months for RMA. | ORR

Available to:   

or

[Marketplace Coverage](#) Beginning January 1, 2027, only Cuban and Haitian Entrants will be eligible for Marketplace premium tax credits or cost-sharing reductions. Unsubsidized Marketplace plans may still be available for purchase. Marketplace coverage may be available longer than 12 months. | HHS/CMS

Available to:   

[Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#) Beginning October 1, 2026, CHIP eligibility will be limited to Cuban and Haitian Entrants. Upon adjusting status, clients may be subject to a five-year waiting period. Please check with your state office as they adapt eligibility guidelines to meet these requirements. CHIP may be available longer than 12 months. | HHS/CMS

Available to: 

[Medicare](#) Beginning October 1, 2026, Medicare eligibility will be limited to Cuban and Haitian Entrants. Upon adjusting status, clients may be subject to a five-year waiting period. Please check with your state office as they adapt eligibility guidelines to meet these requirements. Those already enrolled as of July 4, 2025, may retain coverage for up to 18 months. Medicare may be available longer than 12 months. | HHS/CMS

Available to:   

[Refugee Medical Screening](#) Administered by state refugee programs. | ORR

Available to:   

Up to 5 Years (availability varies by program and location)

Case Management, English Language Training,
Employment Preparation, and Job Placement

[Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#) | HHS/ACF

Available to: 

or

[Refugee Support Services \(RSS\)](#) | ORR

Available to:   

or

[Matching Grant \(MG\)](#) | ORR

Available to:  

Integration, Economic Development, and Health Promotion
ORR | *Not in all states*

[Preferred Communities \(PC\)](#)
[Ethnic Community Self-Help \(ECSH\)](#)
[Individual Development Accounts \(IDA\)](#)
[Microenterprise Development \(MED\)](#)
[Refugee Agricultural Partnership Project \(RAPP\)](#)
[Refugee Career Pathways \(RCP\)](#) [Refugee Health Promotion \(RHP\)](#) [Refugee Mental Health Initiative \(ReMHI\)](#)
[Support for Trauma-Affected Refugees \(STAR\)](#)
[Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Development \(RFCCMED\)](#)
[Employer Engagement Program \(EEP\)](#)

Available to:   

[Refugee School Impact \(RSI\)](#)
[Early Refugee School Impact \(ERSI\)](#)
[Youth Mentoring \(YM\)](#)

Available to: 

[Services to Older Refugees \(SOR\)](#)

Available to: 

Ongoing

Long-Term Support Services

[RSS Citizenship and Naturalization Preparation Services](#) | ORR

Available to:   

[RSS Referral and Interpreter Services](#) | ORR

Available to:   

[Services for Survivors of Torture \(SoT\)](#) *Not in all states* | ORR

Available to:   

Other Community Services and Programs | *Local Organizations*

Available to:   

The IRC received competitive funding through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant #90RB0053. The project is 100% financed by federal funds. The contents of this document are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.