



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](#). This eligibility guide will be updated on an ongoing basis as requirements and guidance evolve.

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, many ORR-eligible individuals are no longer eligible for SNAP, except for Cuban and Haitian Entrants. After adjusting to LPR status, ORR-eligible clients are exempt from the five-year bar and can apply for SNAP immediately per [USDA guidance](#). 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](#) Starting October 1, 2026, many ORR-eligible individuals will no longer be eligible for Medicaid. Cuban Haitian Entrants and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders will remain eligible. States may choose to provide full Medicaid coverage to lawfully residing children (up to 21) and pregnant mothers, including ORR-eligible populations, under CHIPRA 214, per [CMS guidance](#). Emergency Medicaid remains available for ORR-eligible individuals who meet standard Medicaid criteria. Check with your state Medicaid office to confirm eligibility and coverage. | HHS/CMS



Available to:   

or




[Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#) Starting October 1, 2026, many ORR-eligible individuals will no longer be eligible for CHIP. Cuban Haitian Entrants and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders will remain eligible. States may choose to provide full CHIP coverage to lawfully residing children (up to 21) and pregnant mothers, including ORR-eligible populations, under CHIPRA 214, Per [CMS guidance](#). Check with your state CHIP office to confirm eligibility and coverage. | HHS/CMS

Available to: 




[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:   




[Refugee Medical Screening](#) Check with your state refugee office. | ORR

Available to:   

[Medicare](#) Starting January 4, 2027, many ORR-eligible individuals will no longer be eligible for Medicare. Cuban Haitian Entrants and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders will remain eligible. After adjusting to lawful permanent resident (LPR) status, some ORR-eligible clients may be able to enroll in Medicare if they meet all other Medicare eligibility requirements. Check with your state Medicare office to confirm eligibility and coverage. HHS/CMS

Available to:   


[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:   

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: 