

July 7, 2009

## Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants Short-Term Benefits

### Documentation of Identity, Citizenship, and Immigration Status:

Special Immigrant	Documentation
Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant granted status <i>before</i> entry into the U.S.  <i>(Primary Applicant, Spouse, and/or Unmarried Children under 21)</i>	Iraqi or Afghan passport stamped with <i>one</i> of the following Immigrant Visa (IV) Codes : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SI1, SI2, SI3, SQ1, SQ2, SQ3</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">- AND -</p> Department of Homeland Security (DHS) stamp or notification on passport or I-94 showing date of entry.
Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant granted status <i>after</i> entry into the U.S.  <i>(Primary Applicant, Spouse, and/or Unmarried Children under 21)</i>	Iraqi or Afghan passport stamped with <i>one</i> of the following Immigrant Visa (IV) Codes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SI6, SI7, SI8, SQ6, SQ7, SQ8</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">-OR-</p> DHS Form I-551 ("green card") showing Iraqi or Afghan nationality.

### Benefit Eligibility:

Basic Food	TANF/SFA and Medicaid	Refugee Cash Assistance/Refugee Medical Assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Food Stamp benefits up to <b>8 months</b> from date of entry or granted status.</li> <li>• State-funded Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits after the loss of federal eligibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TANF and Medicaid benefits up to <b>8 months</b> from date of entry or granted status.</li> <li>• State-funded (SFA) benefits for families with children after the loss of federal eligibility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCA and RMA benefits for up to <b>8 months</b> from date of entry or granted status.</li> </ul>

## Step-By-Step Process:

### Screening

- Screen all household members into ACES.
- At the programs page, select cash and food assistance.
- If the applicant has minor children, select TANF.
- Indicate RF (Refugee) in the program determination criteria if household is not TANF eligible.

### Interview Coding

DEM2 : "Citizenship": L (Documented Alien)

ALAS :

- "Ins Stat": RF (Refugee)
- "Initial INS Stat": RF (Refugee)
- "Date INS Stat Granted", "Entry Date" and "Initial INS Stat Dt": Use dates from immigration documents

Note: The Entry Date on the ALAS screen is used by ACES to determine the certification period. The certification end date for refugee assistance is no more than eight months from this Entry Date.

## Finalizing the Initial Application

Manual case adjustments are needed in the 8 month when the Special Immigrant's federal eligibility period does not align with the certification period. Refugee assistance for Special Immigrants will end at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> month.

### *TANF and Medicaid*

- Special Immigrant TANF and Medicaid assistance units should be opened in ACES with standard review periods.
- The Award Letter will auto-generate reflecting a 12 month certification period.
- Set an ACES alert or ECR tickler to update the ALAS screen in month 8 to ensure that the AU is not issued federal benefits beyond the end of the special eligibility period. (This can be changed any time after deadline in month 7)

### *Basic Food*

- Special Immigrant Basic Food assistance units should be opened in ACES with standard review periods. (WAC 388-416-0005).
- The Award Letter will reflect a 6 or 12 month certification period based on policy.
- Set an ACES alert or ECR tickler to update the ALAS screen in month 8 to ensure that the AU is not issued federal benefits beyond the end of the special eligibility period. (This can be changed any time after deadline in month 7.)

## Changes in Month 8 for TANF, Basic Food and Medicaid

After deadline in month 7, update the ALAS screen to ensure federal benefits are not issued beyond the end of the special eligibility period. Be sure to allow time to translate notices and to provide advanced notice to the assistant unit. An eligibility review is not needed to switch the benefits from federally-funded to state-funded assistance. Clearly document the narrative and the remarks.

### **ALAS**

- "Ins Stat": Change from RF (Refugee) to **PA (Permanent Resident Alien)**
- "Initial INS Stat": Change from RF (Refugee) to **NR (Not Refugee)**
- "Date INS Stat Granted", "Entry Date" and "Initial INS Stat Dt": **No Change.**

### *TANF and Medicaid*

- TANF will transition to State Family Assistance (SFA) without medical coverage.
- Open pregnancy and/or children's medical assistance as appropriate for remainder of pregnancy or TANF/SFA review period as ACES will not check for other medical eligibility or spout a new assistance unit automatically.

### *Basic Food*

- Benefits for adults (18+) change to the state funded food assistance program (FAP) for the reminder of the certification period.
- Benefits for children under age 18 remain federally funded.
- Add mandatory text to the Basic Food termination letter to assure the FAP AU that benefits will continue

NOTE: Special Immigrants may again qualify for federal benefits if they meet any criteria in:

Basic Food	<u>WAC 388-424-0020</u>
TANF/Medicaid	<u>WAC 388-424-0010</u>

## Questions:

If you have any questions regarding eligibility or how to process a case, please contact Olga Walker or Tom Berry in the CSD Office of Programs and Policy.

Olga: (360)725-4641 or e-mail [walkeop@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:walkeop@dshs.wa.gov)

Tom: (360)725-4617 or e-mail [berrytj@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:berrytj@dshs.wa.gov)