

July 19, 2010

Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants Benefits

Special Immigrants from Iraq and Afghanistan are qualified aliens and are eligible for federally funded benefits, such as TANF, Basic Food, and Medicaid, to the same extent and for the same time period as refugees. Their eligibility period starts from the date of entry into the United States or, if occurred after the U.S. entry, the date the Special Immigrant status was granted as indicated on the I-551 (green card). (EA-Z Manual)

Documentation of Identity, Citizenship, and Immigration Status:

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

Benefit Eligibility:

| Basic Food | TANF and Medicaid | Refugee Cash Assistance/Refugee Medical Assistance |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Federal Food Stamp benefits to the same extent and time period as refugees from date of entry or granted status.</p> | <p>TANF and Medicaid benefits to the same extent and time period as refugees from date of entry or granted status.</p> | <p>RCA and RMA benefits for up to 8 months from date of entry or granted status.</p> |

Step-By-Step Process:

Screening

- Screen all household members into ACES.
- At the programs page, select cash and food assistance.
- If the applicant does not have any minor children, select Refugee.
- Indicate **RF** (Special Immigrants from Iraq or Afghanistan have the same eligibility) in the program determination criteria if household is not TANF eligible.

Interview Coding

DEM2 : “Citizenship”: **L (Documented Alien)**

ALAS :

- “Ins Stat”: **LA** (Permanent Resident Alien); **PL** (Parolee Paroled One Year or More); **CE** (Conditional Entrant); **BA** (Battered Alien). **Use immigration status indicated on the current immigration documents.**
- “Initial INS Stat”: **SI** (Special Immigrant from Iraq or Afghanistan)
- “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

Refugee cash and medical assistance for Special Immigrants from Iraq and Afghanistan will end at the end of the 8th month.

TANF and Medicaid

- 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.

Basic Food

- 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.

NOTE: Special Immigrants may 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

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