

Department of Social and Health Services
Olympia, Washington

ELIGIBILITY A-Z MANUAL REVISION

Revision #	672
Category / Section	Refugee Assistance Program – Immigration Status Requirements
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Clarifying Information, Special Immigrants:

Their eligibility period starts from the date of entry into the United States or, if it occurred after the U.S. entry, the date the Special Immigrant status was granted as indicated on the I-551 (green card).

Special Immigrants from **Iraq** are eligible for **8 months** of TANF, Basic Food, Medicaid, RCA and RMA from the date of entry into the United States.

Special Immigrants from **Afghanistan** are eligible for **8 months** of TANF, Medicaid, RCA, and RMA and 6 months of Basic Food from their date of entry into the United States.

Effective 04-27-09 Desk Aid “Implementing Short-Term Benefits to Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants” (available through the link) has been updated to include eligibility of Afghan Special Immigrant for 8 months of federally funded RCA, RMA, TANF and Medicaid. Eligibility for federal Basic Food benefits remains at 6 months.

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Summary

Eligibility for Special Immigrants from Afghanistan is extended an additional two months for cash and medical programs. Assistance programs include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA). Eligibility for federal Basic Food benefits remains at 6 months.

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