



OPERATIONAL MEMO

TITLE:	AFGHAN HUMANITARIAN PAROLEE MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY
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Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this memo is to inform authorized individuals/entities, such as county departments of social/human services, Medical Assistance (MA) sites, Eligibility Application Partner (EAP) sites, and anyone who processes Medical Assistance eligibility applications of the new rules regarding Afghan Humanitarian Parolees.

Information:

On September 30, 2021, Congress signed the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (HR 5305) into law. Section 2502 of the Act expanded eligibility to entitlement programs such as Medicaid, Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+), and Refugee Medical Assistance to certain Afghan evacuees, considered Afghan Humanitarian Parolees.

Humanitarian parolees are individuals who were evacuated from their country for urgent humanitarian reasons and paroled on a case-by-case basis into the United States. They are eligible to apply for asylum upon entry to the United States, as well as



adjustment to other immigration statuses (such as Legal Permanent Resident). They are also eligible to apply for work authorization.

Afghan Humanitarian Parolees are:

- Afghan citizens and nationals paroled into the US between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022;
- Afghan citizens and nationals paroled into the US after September 30, 2022 and are:
 - The spouse or child of an individual who was paroled into the US between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022; or
 - The parent or legal guardian of a child paroled into the US between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022, if the child was previously considered an unaccompanied child

Afghan Humanitarian Parolees are considered qualified non-citizens for the purposes of determining Medical Assistance Eligibility, not subject to the five-year waiting period, from July 31, 2021 - March 31, 2023, or through the termination of their parole period, whichever is later.

Individuals who report immigration statuses such as refugees, asylees, and Afghan Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) are already considered qualified non-citizens for Medical Assistance without a five-year waiting period (8.100.3.G.1.g.iv.3,4, & 12). Humanitarian parolees who are pregnant women or children under the age of 19 years (regardless of entry date) are also already considered qualified non-citizens without a five-year waiting period (8.100.3.G.1.g.vi.12).

Immigration status must be verified through Colorado's Verify Lawful Presence (VLP) interface with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) SAVE program. If VLP is not able to promptly verify citizenship or immigration status, CBMS will approve benefits during a 90-day reasonable opportunity period (ROP) to applicants who have attested to an eligible immigration status; and meet all other eligibility requirements for Medical Assistance.

The Department updated the Colorado Benefit Management System (CBMS), and the online application (www.colorado.gov/PEAK), to reflect this change on November 28, 2021.



If an individual attempted to apply for Medical Assistance prior to the system enhancements, eligibility sites must honor their original application date. Eligibility sites may need to re-open cases for individuals with this immigration status if they were inaccurately denied (or were only approved for Emergency Medical Services) to ensure they are making a proper eligibility determination.

Additionally, eligibility sites should check with applicants to determine if they need to request retroactive medical assistance for medical services utilized prior to their application date.

Attachment(s):

N/A

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