

CHAPTER I – REFUGEE SERVICE PROGRAMS

CHANGE #1-2025

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I. REFUGEE PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

The United States' humanitarian response to the unique needs of refugees was formally addressed with the enactment of The Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212) that became effective on April 1 of that year.

Refugees are individuals fleeing from persecution in their homelands who have been designated for resettlement elsewhere in the world. In order to make determination of refugee status, representatives of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) conduct interviews overseas of individuals who have fled persecution. Once refugee status is established, a joint effort, conducted by the United States Department of State (DOS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and USCIS, bring approved individuals to the United States for resettlement.

A. Background

The Refugee Act established the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to coordinate the program at the national level. In addition, the legislation created a State Coordinator of Refugee Resettlement position in those states administering a refugee program. Federal regulations provide 100% federal financial participation for administrative and assistance costs associated with aiding refugees.

The federal refugee program, administered by the states, consists of a number of programs including but not limited to the following: Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) which are two short-term public benefits programs available to refugees for the twelve months after their Date of Entry and/or the Date of Eligibility (whichever is later) in the United States. Refugee Support Services (RSS), Refugee School Impact Program, Refugee Youth Mentoring, Refugee Health Promotion and Services to Older Refugees are longer-term, programs for which refugees are eligible. This program focuses on self-sufficiency and integration. Refugee Support Services ~~primarily~~ include employment services such as job development, job readiness and placement, job follow-up, vocational skills training, and English Language Training (ELT). Additional supportive services programs include case management, transportation, interpretation/translation, and various social adjustment services, such as home and health management education, and community orientation are also funded.

B. Statutory Authority

The Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) is authorized under Title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1980.

The Refugee Act designates the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the administering agency. RRP regulations are issued by HHS in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 45, Part 400, which is supplemented by administrative and program instructions issued by the federal department.

C. ORR-Eligible Recipients

1. Refugees

People who are outside of the country of their nationality; or in the case of people without nationality, are outside any country in which they last habitually resided, and who are unable or unwilling to return to, and are unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Using this definition, representatives of the USCIS conduct interviews overseas of individuals who have fled persecution and desire to be designated as refugees. USCIS then decides if the individual's eligible for refugee status. After an individual is determined to be a refugee, a joint effort, conducted by the DOS, the IOM, the USCIS, and National Volunteer Agencies (VOLAGS), brings certain individuals to the United States for resettlement.

2. Asylees

Asylees meet the definition of "refugee" for eligibility purposes. However, Asylees are individuals who, on their own, travel to the United States, apply for and receive a grant of asylum. These individuals do not enter the United States as refugees. They may enter as students, tourists, businesspeople, or without documentation. Once they are in the United States, or at a land border or port of entry, they apply to the USCIS for asylum, a status that will acknowledge that they meet the definition of a refugee and allow them to remain in the United States. Once USCIS has granted asylum, asylees are eligible for state assistance and services.

NOTE: Applicants for asylum (Asylum Seekers) are not eligible.

3. Cuban and Haitian Entrants

Any individual granted parole status as a Cuban or Haitian Entrant (Status Pending), or granted any other special status subsequently established under the immigration laws for nationals of Cuba or Haiti. For the purposes of ORR benefits and services, Cuban or Haitian Entrants who are granted parole status or Subject of exclusion or deportation proceedings under the INA or have a Pending asylum application are eligible "regardless of the status of the individual at the time assistance or services are provided" (see 45 CFR 401.2(a)). **That means, even if parole is expired or expires during the delivery of services, Cuban or Haitian Entrants remain eligible for ORR benefits and services, at the time of applying for certain public benefit, and services.**

Any other national of Cuba or Haiti

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a. Who:

(i) was paroled into the United States and has not acquired any other status under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA); or

(ii) is the subject of exclusion or deportation proceedings under the INA; or

(iii) has an application for asylum pending with the USCIS; and

With respect to whom a final, non-appealable, and legally enforceable order of deportation or exclusion has not been entered.

Cuban or Haitian who demonstrates the following are not subject to the 5-year bar.

1. Individual(s) Granted Parole. (Example: with a DT, CHP, HHP stamp and others), OR

2. Subject of exclusion or deportation proceedings under the INA (example with documents such as I-221, I-862, I-220A -I-222 and many others), OR

3. Pending asylum application. (Example with I-589, I-766 or with code (COA), OR

Any of the above makes these Cuban/Haitian a qualified alien as long as, a Final, non-appealable or legally forceable order exclusion order has not been entered. This status can be checked at the automated case information page: <https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/en/>. This page will typically indicate if someone has a final order of removal.

Of further note a newer code may well be seen in documents, both of which mean the individual is considered a Cuban/Haitian Entrant:

Cuban Humanitarian Parolee (CHP): Cuban individuals have been or will be granted humanitarian parole by the US. Department of Homeland Security in response to their need for rapid evacuation and relocation under operation allies refuge/operation allies' welcome. Cuban Humanitarian Parolees paroled into the US are eligible to apply for any mainstream benefits, resettlement assistance, and other benefits.

Haitian Humanitarian Parolee (HHP): Haitian individuals have been or will be granted humanitarian parole by the US. Department of Homeland Security in response to their need for rapid evacuation and relocation under operation allies refuge/operation allies' welcome. Haitian Humanitarian Parolees paroled into the US are eligible to apply for any mainstream benefits, resettlement assistance, and other benefits.

4. Certain Amerasians (from Vietnam)

This status refers to individuals born in Vietnam after January 1, 1962, and

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before January 1, 1976, if the individual was fathered by a U.S. citizen. Immigrant visas are issued to Amerasians under Public Law 100-202 (Act of 12/22/87), as well as to their spouses, children, parents or guardians, provided they accompany the Amerasian to the United States.

[Specifically referred to herein are certain Amerasians from Vietnam who are admitted to the U.S. as immigrants pursuant to Section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1988.]

5. Victims of Human Trafficking

Any individual who has been subjected to “severe forms of trafficking in persons,” which include:

- a. involvement in activity in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act is under 18 years of age; or
- b. the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

6. Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holders from Iraq and Afghanistan

Afghan and Iraqi individuals who are granted Special Immigrant (SI) Status under Section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Individuals and family members granted this SI Status are eligible for entitlement programs, including Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance, and refugee social services the same as refugees admitted under Section 207 of the INA.

For Iraqi/Afghan immigrants who acquire SI Status while already in the U.S., the date of eligibility for RCA/RMA (their “entry” date) is the date they are granted SI Status. Until Iraqis/Afghans in parole or some other non-immigrant status become SI with documentation of this status, they are not eligible for Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance, Refugee Support Services.

7. Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) (i.e., green card holders)

Individuals who held one of the above statuses prior to adjusting to Lawful Permanent Resident. This applies to Refugee Support Service recipients, who would be in the country for the past 8 months from the date of arrival.

8. Afghan Special Immigrant Parole (SQ/SI)

Certain individuals are granted a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) or SQ/SI parole by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Afghan nationals granted an SIV or SQ/SI parole for their service to the U.S. government are eligible for ORR benefits.

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9. Afghan individuals with Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Residence (CPR)

Citizens and nationals of Afghanistan for whom refugee and entrant assistance activities are authorized (e.g., Special Immigrant Visa holders, Special Immigrants with Conditional Permanent Resident status, SI/SQ parolees, refugees, asylees), whose eligibility date is between July 31, 2021, and December 16, 2022

10. Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP)

Certain Afghan individuals have been or will be granted humanitarian parole by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in response to their need for rapid evacuation and relocation under Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome. Afghan humanitarian parolees paroled into the U.S., are eligible to apply for mainstream benefits, resettlement assistance, and other benefits available to refugees **until September 30, 2023, or the end of their parole term whichever is later. Spouses or children of these individuals paroled into the U.S after December 16, 2022, are also eligible to apply for these benefits.**

11. Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee (UHP)

The Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA) authorizes the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide resettlement assistance and other benefits available for refugees to specific Ukrainian populations. Citizens or nationals of Ukraine who the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit, known as Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs). **These individuals' spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who are paroled into the U.S after September 30, 2024, are also eligible to apply for these benefits.**

12. Other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine

The Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA) authorizes the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide resettlement assistance and other benefits available for refugees to specific Ukrainian populations. Non-Ukrainian individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine, who DHS has paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit. **These individuals' spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who are paroled into the U.S after September 30, 2024, are also eligible to apply for these benefits.**

NOTE: Throughout this Chapter, the term “refugee” will refer to all populations/groups listed below, who are ORR-eligible with a qualified status, exempt from the 5-year ban time frames and potentially eligible for RMA. See Chapter I., Section III. for acceptable documentation.

- Refugees
 - Asylees

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- Cuban and Haitian Entrants
- Certain Amerasians (from Vietnam)
- Victims of Human Trafficking
- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holders from Iraq and Afghanistan

NOTE: SIV holders and potentially transition to Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) status within the first ninety (90) days, after date of entry into the United States.

- Afghan Special Immigrant Parole (SI/SQ)
- Afghan individuals with Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Residence (CPR)
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP)
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP)
- Non-Ukrainian Individuals displaced from Ukraine

NOTE: Current, Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) status holders may have held one of the above statuses prior to adjusting to LPR status.

II. USCIS DOCUMENTATION MOST OFTEN PRESENTED BY ALIENS ELIGIBLE FOR RCA, RMA and REFUGEE SERVICES PROGRAMS

For a comprehensive list of USCIS documentation, and instructions on how to determine eligibility status visit: **Status and Documentation Requirements for the ORR Refugee Resettlement Program**. Also **Refer to ORR Fact Sheets (Appendices E – L)**. A child/ren who arrives with a parent(s) carries the same immigration status as the parent(s).

If an applicant has a document which is a(n):	Then the status is:
I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record): Coded with a reference to the following section: Section 207	Refugee, Eligible
I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record): Coded with a reference to the following section: Section 208	Granted Asylum, Eligible
I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record): Coded AM-1, AM-2, or AM-3	Amerasian, LPR, Eligible
I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record with a stamp showing parole at any time as a "Cuban/Haitian Entrant (Status Pending)"): Coded with Section 212 (d)(5)	Parolee; Cuban or Haitian National, Eligible
U. S. Passport or USCIS document bearing the Endorsement "Processed for I-551, Temporary	Permanent Resident Lawfully Admitted

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Evidence of Lawful Permanent Residence"	for Permanent Residence (LPR), Eligible
I-551 (Resident Alien Card): Coded AM-1, AM-2, AM-3,	Amerasian, LPR, Eligible
I-551 (Resident Alien Card): Coded CH-6	Cuban/Haitian, Eligible
I-551 (Resident Alien Card): Coded RE6, RE7, and RE8	Other Refugees, Eligible

The following documents will confirm both eligible status, date of entry and/or date of eligibility for Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant:

Immigration Status or Category of Applicant	Acceptable Documentation
Principal Applicant Afghan or Iraqi Special Immigrant	Afghan or Iraqi passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individual has been classified under IV (Immigrant Visa) Category SI1 or SQ1 and DHS stamp or notation on passport or I-94 showing date of admission
Spouse of Principal Applicant Afghan or Iraqi Special Immigrant	Afghan or Iraqi passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individual has been classified under IV (Immigrant Visa) Category SI2 or SQ2 and DHS stamp or notation on passport or I-94 showing date of admission
Principal Applicant Afghan or Iraqi Special Immigrant Principal Adjusting Status in the U.S.	Afghan or Iraqi passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individual has been classified under IV (Immigrant Visa) Category SI3 or SQ3 and DHS stamp or notation on passport or I-94 showing date of admission
Spouse of Principal Applicant Afghan or Iraqi Special Immigrant Principal Applicant Adjusting Status in the U.S.	DHS Form I-551 ("green card") with an IV (immigrant visa) code for category SI7 or SQ7
Unmarried Child Under 21 Years of Age of Afghan or Iraqi Special Immigrant Principal Applicant Adjusting Status in the U.S.	DHS Form I-551 ("green card") with an IV ("immigrant visa") code for category SI8 or SQ8
Afghan or Iraqi Special Immigrant (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	I-94 noting SQ or SI Parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006)

While the Class of Admission (COA) code SQ designates Iraqi Special Immigrants, some Afghans were issued Special Immigrant Visas or I-551s (green card) with COA SQ1, SQ2, SQ3, SQ6, SQ7, or SQ9. Country of Citizenship is determined by the passport or information on the I-551, not by the COA code. When the COA is SQ, verify whether the applicant is Afghan or Iraqi to verify eligibility for ORR benefits and services.

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Additional new categories of ORR-eligible Afghan populations.

In addition to Afghan refugees, Asylees, and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders delineated, the following list contains new categories of ORR-eligible Afghan populations.

1. Afghan individuals with SI/SQ Parole
2. Afghan individuals with Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Residence
3. Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP) admitted to the United States between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. These individuals' spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who are paroled into the U.S after September 30, 2023, are also eligible to apply for these benefits.

The following documents will confirm both eligibility status, date of entry and/or date of eligibility for acceptable documents for additional categories of Afghan populations:

Immigration Status or Category of Applicant	Acceptable Documentation
Afghan Special Immigrant Parolee (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	Form I-94 noting SI or SQ parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006)
Afghan Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Resident (CPR) (Principal Applicant, Spouse of Principal Applicant, or Child of Principal Applicant)	Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting that the individual has been classified under IV (immigrant visa) category CQ1, CQ2, or CQ3 Or DHS Form I-551 ("green card") with an IV (immigrant visa) code for category CQ1, CQ2, or CQ3 Or DHS/CBP temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp Or DHS/USCIS temporary Form I-551 Alien Documentation Identification and Telecommunication (ADIT) stamp

Date of eligibility for certain Afghan populations

A. Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIVs), Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents (SI CPRs), and Afghan SI/SQ Parolees

The date of eligibility for SIVs, SI CPRs, and Afghan SI/SQ Parolees for ORR benefits and services is the date of entry into the United States, as noted on the Form I-94

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arrival/departure record or other federal travel documentation. However, effective November 10, 2021, for individuals in these categories who traveled directly to an Operations Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome (OAR/OAW) Safe Haven ("Safe Haven"), ORR will authorize the date of entry into the community (in other words, the date the individual departed the Safe Haven) as the eligibility date.

B. Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP)

The date of eligibility for the Afghan Humanitarian Parolee (AHP) population for ORR benefits and services is October 1, 2021, or their date of entry into the community (the date on which the AHP departed a Safe Haven), whichever is later. Therefore, if an AHP was paroled and entered into a community in the U.S. between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023, or departed a Safe Haven prior to October 1, 2021, their date of eligibility is October 1, 2021. If an AHP departed a Safe Haven or entered into a community in the U.S. after October 1, 2021, use the eligibility date from the travel documentation that they may have.¹² The AHP population is eligible for ORR benefits and services until September 30, 2023, or the end of the individual's parole term, whichever is later, unless otherwise amended by law or the individual gains another ORR-eligible category or status. These individuals' spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who are paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2023, are also eligible to apply for these benefits.

The following documents will confirm both eligible status, date of entry and/or date of eligibility for acceptable documents for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees and other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine:

Immigration Status or Category of Applicant	Acceptable Documentation
Ukrainian citizen or national who received humanitarian parole (known as a Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee, or UHP), a spouse or child.	Form I-94 noting humanitarian parole (per INA section 212(d)(5) or 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)) Or Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting "DT" Or Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Uniting for Ukraine or "U4U" Or Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee or "UHP" Or Form I-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code C11 Or Form I-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with the code C11
A non-Ukrainian individual who received humanitarian parole and the U4U or UHP class of admission in response to their Or displacement from Ukraine.	Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission for stamp noting Uniting for Ukraine or "U4U" OR Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee or "UHP"

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A non-Ukrainian individual who last habitually resided in Ukraine and received humanitarian parole, but without the U4U or UHP class of admission	Any one of the forms or stamps listed above for UHPs parole And Documentation of last habitual residence in Ukraine.
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Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) – Citizens or nationals of Ukraine who the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit, known as Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs). These individuals' spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who are paroled into the U.S after September 30, 2023, are also eligible to apply for these benefits.

Period of eligibility for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees and other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine.

The initial date of eligibility for UHPs and other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine for ORR benefits and services is May 21, 2022, or the individual's date of humanitarian parole, whichever is later.

If an individual(s) from either of these populations was paroled and entered the United States between February 24, 2022, and May 21, 2022, their date of eligibility is May 21, 2022. If they entered the United States after May 21, 2022, their date of eligibility is their date of humanitarian parole.

Continue to provide services even if the individual's initial period of parole expires while their application for re-parole is pending with USCIS. Confirm at a later date that USCIS approved the individual's application for re-parole and issued a new period of parole.

Agencies do not need to seek verification of an application for re-parole from individuals who are no longer enrolled in refugee benefits and services.

A humanitarian parolee from Ukraine who has been granted re-parole will be issued a new period of parole from USCIS and retains their initial date of eligibility for refugee benefits and services. They are eligible to access uninterrupted refugee benefits and services throughout their new period of parole, but a new period of parole does not qualify an individual for additional time-limited services, such as Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA), beyond the customary eligibility period as defined in 45 CFR part 400.

C. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS

Refugees are resettled through one of ten National Voluntary Agencies (VOLAG). In North Carolina, eight affiliates of a national VOLAG are responsible for Refugee Reception and Placement Services (R&P). NC Refugee Resettlement Agencies (RRA) are as follows:

- Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency: Charlotte
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte: Charlotte

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- Church World Service: Durham, Greensboro, Wilmington
- Interfaith Refugee Ministry: New Bern
- Lutheran Services Carolina: Raleigh, Salisbury, Asheville
- NC African Services Coalition: Greensboro
- US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants: Raleigh
- World Relief Corporation: Durham, High Point, Winston-Salem

Each of the NC Refugee Resettlement Agencies listed above are authorized to assist refugees who are approved for admission by the State Department Bureau of Population and Migration.

III. DEFINITION/ACRONYMS OF REFUGEE ASSISTANCE TERMS

AABD – Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled

AAPD – Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled

AB – Aid to the Blind

ABAWDS – An Able-Bodied Adult between ages 18-49 without child/ren in the Food and Nutrition Services;) household. ABAWD eligibility for FNS is limited to any 3 months in a 36-month period (considered the 3-month time limit) unless the individual meets the ABAWD work requirements or qualifies for a second 3-month period of eligibility, as determined in the Food and Nutrition Services Manual, Section FNS 245-246.

Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA) – Authorizes Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) grants that as of May 21, 2022, authorizes provide resettlement assistance and other benefits available for refugees to specific Ukrainian populations and other non-Ukrainian individuals in response to their displacement from Ukraine and entry into the United States.

Adjustment to Lawful Permanent Resident (Immigrant) Status – Procedure requiring certain non-citizens, such as refugees already in the United States, to apply for a change in alien status. Non-citizens admitted to the United States in a refugee or parolee category are issued an I-94 Arrival/Departure Record. After residing in the United States for one year, refugees and asylees must apply to have the status changed to that of lawful permanent resident.

Adult – For determining Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) eligibility, an adult is defined as any individual age 18 or older.

Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) Program – An emergency program created in response to the evacuation efforts in Afghanistan. It allows for the provision of initial relocation support services for Afghan parolees admitted to the U.S. during the period of August 20, 2021, through March 31, 2022.

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Alien – Any person not a citizen or national of the United States.

Alien Registration Number/Alien Number (A-Number) – An A-Number, also known as an Alien Registration Number, is a unique eight or nine-digit number (example, A012345678) assigned to a noncitizen by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at the time their official record is created. The alien registration number is also referred to as USCIS # on some immigration documents.

Amerasian (Vietnam) – Individuals born in Vietnam after January 1, 1962, and before January 1, 1976, if the individual was fathered by a U.S. citizen. Immigrant visas are issued to Amerasians under Public Law 100-202 (Act of 12/22/87), as well as to their spouses, children, parents or guardians if they accompany the Amerasian to the United States.

Asylees –Asylees are individuals who, on their own, travel to the United States, apply for and receive a grant of asylum. These individuals do not enter the United States as refugees. They may enter as students, tourists, businesspeople, or without documentation. Once they are in the United States, or at a land border or port of entry, they apply to the USCIS for asylum, a status that will acknowledge that they are found to be unable or unwilling to return to their country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear thereof must be based on the non-citizen's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. For people with no nationality, the country of nationality is considered to be the country in which the non-citizen last habitually resided. Asylees are eligible to apply to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after residing one year in the United States.

Case Management Services – The determination of which service(s) to refer a refugee to, referral to such service(s), and tracking of the refugee's participation in such service(s).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – The CDC, of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS), is responsible for ensuring that immigrants entering the U.S. do not pose a threat to the public health. CDC monitors the overseas medical screening of immigrants, inspects the medical records of immigrants at U.S. ports of entry, and notifies state health departments of each arriving refugee as well as some categories of other immigrants.

Central American Minor (CAM) Program – An in-country refugee and parole program for certain qualified minors in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The CAM program began accepting applications from parents in the U.S. for their children on December 1, 2014.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) – A federal program funded under Title XXI of the Social Security Act.

Cuban and Haitian Entrant (CHE) –the definition of a Cuban/Haitian entrant under Title V of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980. A Cuban and Haitian entrant is defined as:

- Any individual granted parole status as a Cuban/Haitian entrant or granted any other special status subsequently established under the immigration laws for nationals of

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Cuba or Haiti, regardless of the status of the individual at the time assistance or services are provided; and

- Any other national of Cuba or Haiti who is not subject to a final, non-appealable and legally enforceable removal order and who meets the following criteria:
 - is in removal proceedings under the Immigration and Nationality Act; or
 - has an application for asylum pending with USCIS.

Cuban and Haitian entrants are eligible to apply for benefits and services from HHS from the date they first enter into Cuban/Haitian Entrant status. For parolees, this is the date they are granted parole or the first parole if more than one parole has been granted.

Date of Eligibility – date the non-citizen arrived in the community; the date status is granted to the individual. NOTE: ORR encourages stakeholders to provide maximum benefits to individuals based on their DATE OF ELIGIBILITY or their DATE of ENTRY (whichever is later) into the community. Referred to as “Date Alien Status Granted” in North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) field.

Date of Entry – date a non-citizen arrived in the US, usually notated on the USCIS document. For Refugee Program eligibility is determined by DATE OF ELIGIBILITY or the actual date of entry whichever is later. Referred to as “Date of Entry” in North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) field.

Economic Self-Sufficiency – A total family income which is at a level that enables a family unit to support itself without receipt of a cash assistance grant.

Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) is the process by which recipients receive their Food and Nutrition Services benefits.

Eligibility Information System (EIS) – (EIS was used prior to NC FAST and several acronyms established in EIS are still commonly referred to in the Refugee Program) An automated system which provides support for Work First Cash Assistance (WFA), Special Assistance (SA), Medical Assistance (MA), Medicaid for Foster Care and Adoptive Children, and Refugee Assistance Programs (RAP). It allows entry and retrieval of case and individual data required to produce assistance checks, Medicaid ID cards, and federal, state and county level management reports.

Employability Plan – A written, individualized plan for a Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) recipient who is not exempt from work registration. It sets forth a program of employment services intended to result in the earliest possible employment of the refugee.

Employability Services – Services designed to enable an individual who is receiving for Refugee Cash Assistance / Match Grant / RSS to obtain employment and/or improve the employability or work skills of the individual. These services include, but are not limited to, world-of-work and job orientation, job clubs, job workshops, job development, referral to job opportunities, job search, job placement and follow-up, on-the-job training, vocational training, skills re-certification, and work-related transportation.

Exemptions – Criteria for exemption from registration for employment services, participation in employability service programs, and acceptance of appropriate offers of employment that apply to Refugee Cash Assistance applicants. Exemptions include a refugee who is:

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- under age 18 or is age 65 or older.
- a parent or other relative who is caring for a child under age 2;
- ill or incapacitated or is required in the home to care for another member of the household who is ill or incapacitated.

NOTE: A refugee's inability to communicate in English is not a reason for Exemption.

Family Unit – For determining eligibility for Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance a family unit means an individual adult, married individuals without children, or parents, or custodial relatives, with minor children who are not eligible for TANF or Medicaid, who live in the same household.

Family Self-Sufficiency Plan – A required written plan for Refugee Cash Assistance and RSS Employability Service(s) recipients that addresses the employment service needs of members of a household for the purpose of enabling the family to become self-supporting through the employment of one or more family members.

Family Violence Option – To help raise the awareness of families who participate in Work First Cash Assistance about the impact that violence can have on individuals and families, and to assure that all individuals seeking assistance are given the opportunity and services necessary to address the violence.

Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) – works with State agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits. Food and Nutrition Services also works with State partners and the retail community to improve program administration and ensure program integrity. Expedited service is an application processing method designed to provide benefits to certain Food and Nutrition Services units within seven calendar days from the date of application. Once participants are found eligible, they will be awarded an EBT card.

Green Card (officially Permanent Resident card) – A term often used to refer to a document granting lawful permanent residence status in the United States. Lawful permanent residents have the right to live and work indefinitely in the United States, as well as to petition for certain family members to attain permanent resident status. Lawful permanent residence is also the first step towards becoming a citizen of the U.S. ("naturalizing"). There are several different ways to become a lawful permanent resident of the U.S., including through a family member, through an employer, through the diversity lottery, or applying for it after being granted asylum or refugee status.

I-693 Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record – A form used by USCIS to document the medical aspects of the Adjustment of Status application.

I-94 Arrival Departure Record Card – A form used by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service that records each non-citizen's arrival and departure from the U.S. This form identifies the time period for which the non-citizen is admitted and the non-citizen's immigrant status.

Illegal Aliens (or "**Undocumented Immigrants**") is defined as people who enter or lives in

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the United States without official authorization, either by entering without inspection by the DHS, overstaying or violating the terms of their visa.

Immigrant is a general term for a person who migrates to another country, usually for permanent residence. Immigrants are motivated to leave their countries of citizenship, or habitual residence, for a variety of reasons. Such reasons may include a desire for economic prosperity, to change one's quality of life, better job opportunities, family reunification, retirement, climate or environmentally induced migration, exile, escape from prejudice, conflict or natural disaster.

Commuters, tourists and other short-term stays in a destination country do not fall under the definition of immigration.

Immigration Act of 1990 – Public Law 101-649 (Act of November 29, 1990), which increased the limits on legal immigration to the United States, revised all grounds for exclusion and deportation, authorized temporary protected status to non-citizens of designated countries, revised and established new nonimmigrant admission categories, revised and extended the Visa Waiver Pilot Program, and revised naturalization authority and requirements.

Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) – The Refugee Act, along with other immigration laws, treaties, and conventions of the United States, relates to the immigration, temporary admission, naturalization, and deportation of non-citizens.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) – See definition for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Immigration Status – refers to the condition under which a person is present in the United States. All refugees are legal immigrants.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) – IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues.

IOM Bag – A large (white) bag issued to refugees at the time of travel to carry medical records (including the results of the overseas medical exam, immunizations records, and overseas chest X-rays) and other documents.

Labor Trafficking – The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, forced labor, debt bondage, or slavery. The victim is an unwilling participant due to force, fraud, or coercion.

Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) – An individual admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident. Lawful permanent residents are also commonly referred to as immigrants. Lawful permanent residents are legally accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States. They may be issued immigrant visas overseas by the Department of State or adjusted to permanent resident status by USCIS. See “Adjustment to Lawful Permanent Resident Status.”

Local Resettlement Agency/Local Affiliates – An agency that contracts with the U.S. Department of State via National Voluntary Agency to provide R&P services to refugees

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who reside in the state in which they operate. Services include housing, essential furnishings, food, clothing and other basic necessities as well as case management and cultural orientation. See Appendix A for a list of North Carolina Local Resettlement Agencies.

Matching Grant (MG) – A federal program designed to help refugees attain economic self-sufficiency within 8-months (240 days) after date of entry in the United States, without accessing public cash assistance. Participating in NC refugee resettlement agencies agree to matching the Office of Refugee Resettlement grant with cash and in-kind contributions for refugees who qualify.

Medicaid – A federally-funded entitlement program that provides medical assistance and benefits to individuals who meet eligibility criteria as outlined in the Family and Children’s Medicaid Manual, or in the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (Adult) Medicaid Manual. Note: NC Medicaid Expansion became effective December 1, 2023.

Mutual Responsibility Agreement (MRA) – Core Requirements – An agreement that outlines and describes the Work First Cash Assistance family’s specific responsibilities and ways in which the worker will assist the family to achieve them. It includes Core Requirements and Plan of Action Requirements and is prepared jointly and signed by both the worker and applicant.

MRF – EIS code for entering Refugee Medical Assistance activity. In this document, RMA references will often be displayed as “RMA/MRF” for cross-referencing purposes.

North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) – is a system designed to improve the way the NC Department of Health and Human Services and county departments of social services do business.

NC Works Career Center (formerly First Stop Employment Assistance) – A program established to assist applicants and participants of both Work First Cash Assistance and Refugee Cash Assistance become employed. Certain NC refugee resettlement agencies are also designated First Stop sites where refugees can register for work.

Numerical Limit Exempt – Those non-citizens with lawful permanent residence who are exempt from the provisions of the flexible numerical limit of 675,000 set by the Immigration Act of 1990. Exempt categories include immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, refugees, asylees (limited to 10,000 per year by Section 209(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act), Amerasians, individuals adjusted under the legalization provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, and certain parolees from the former Soviet Union and Indochina.

OAA – Old Age Assistance

OASDI – Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is the federal agency responsible for the national refugee program. ORR provides funds to states and counties in the form of grants for services provided.

Overseas Medical Exam – The physical and mental examination that immigrants and refugees coming to the U.S. complete as part of the visa application process. The purpose

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of the overseas medical examination is to identify the presence or absence of certain disorders that could result in exclusion from the U.S. under provisions of the Immigration Act of 1990.

Parolee – Applicants found by DHS to be ineligible for refugee status in the United States will be considered on a case-by-case basis for parole (**Parolee status**). A non-citizen, appearing to be inadmissible to the inspecting officer, may be allowed into the United States for urgent humanitarian reasons, such as a medical emergency, or when that non-citizen's entry is determined to be for significant public benefit, such as, non-citizens who enter to take part in legal proceedings, as well as for some Cuban and Haitian Entrants, Afghans, and Ukrainians. Parole does not constitute formal admission to the United States and confers temporary status only. It requires parolees to leave when the conditions supporting their parole cease to exist.

An individual considered for parole may be eligible for parole if DHS finds that the individual is at risk of harm, clears all background vetting, and there is no serious derogatory information.

Qualified Alien – This term was created under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) to define those non-citizens who are eligible to receive certain Federal public benefits such as Medicaid. Qualified aliens are potentially eligible for all Medicaid programs just like U.S. Citizens. Generally, there are two main categories of qualified aliens: (1) Lawful Permanent Resident admitted for permanent residence under the INA, and (2) Aliens Admitted Under a Specific Political Status. Eligibility is based on the date admitted and USCIS documentation of alien status. A child(ren) who arrives with a parent(s) carries the same alien status as the parent(s).

Reception and Placement (R&P) – The initial resettlement process and period (generally 90 days) during which a VOLAG or other sponsor under an agreement with the United States Department of State is responsible for assisting the refugee.

Refugee – People who are outside of their country of nationality who are unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear thereof must be based on the non-citizen's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. People with no nationality must generally be outside their country of last habitual residence to qualify as a refugee. Refugees are subject to ceilings by geographic area set annually by the President in consultation with Congress. Refugees must apply to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after residing one year in the United States. Refugees are able to apply for the same benefits and service programs that are available to U.S. Citizens.

Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212) – The Act that created a domestic refugee resettlement program designed to provide assistance and services to refugees resettling in the United States.

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) – Cash assistance provided to refugees who are ineligible for TANF funds via the Work First Cash Assistance Program or other cash assistance programs. Refugee Cash Assistance is limited to four months (effective May 5th, 2025) beginning with the first month of date of entry in the USA or attaining eligibility status. If arrival is before May 5th, 2025, the recipient will receive benefits for up to 12 months.

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) – RMA provides health care to refugees who are

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ineligible for the Medicaid program. For those who qualify, RMA is limited to four months (effective May 5th, 2025) beginning with the first month of date of entry in the USA or attaining eligibility status. If arrival is before May 5th, 2025, the recipient will receive benefits for up to 12 months. Refugees must **FIRST** be evaluated for all Medicaid programs {Family and Children's Medicaid (MAF) i.e. Medicaid Pregnant Women (MPW), Aged, Blind, and Disabled (Adult) Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (NC CHIP)}. Applicants must be determined ineligible PRIOR to being placed on RMA.

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) is not a Medicaid Program.

Note: If the refugee is an adult who is pregnant, has minor children, or is between the ages of 19 and 20, that adult or adult and minor children are likely eligible for a Medicaid program. Refer to the Family and Children's Medicaid Manual and the Adult Medicaid Manual for more information regarding the Medicaid programs that would be most appropriate for these individuals.

Refugee Resettlement – Permanent relocation of refugees to the United States, allowing them to establish residence and become productive members of society. Refugee resettlement is accomplished with the direct assistance of private voluntary agencies working with the Department of State under the Reception and Placement Program. Refugee Support Services are available through North Carolina refugee service providers under contract with the NC State Refugee Office via the US Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Refugee Service Programs – North Carolina's State Refugee Office administers a wide range of programs e.g. Refugee Support Services (RSS), Refugee School Impact (RSI) Refugee Youth Mentoring (RYM), Refugee Health Promotion (RHP) and Services to Older Refugee (SOR), that are part of the implementation of the Refugee Resettlement Program funded under Title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act, a federal program of assistance and services to refugees resettling in the United States. The North Carolina Refugee Service Programs provides public assistance benefits, Refugee Cash Assistance and/or Refugee Medical Assistance for up to four (4) months (effective May 5th, 2025, for those who arrived prior to May 5th, 2025, can receive up to 12 months of these benefits) after a refugee's date of eligibility and/or entry in the United States. Federal funding also provides for social services, health promotion, integration support, vocational and self-sufficiency, youth and education services, and covers state and county administrative costs. These services are available to refugees for up to 5 years after initial arrival or eligibility. In some cases, certain services can be provided for those beyond this 5-year mark.

Refugee Support Services (RSS) (formerly known as Refugee Assistance Program – Social Services (RAP-SS)) – Program that supports services and supports that facilitate the pursuit of stability, self-sufficiency and integration. This includes addressing barriers to employment, support on social adjustment, interpretation and translation, day care for children, case management, information provision, and citizenship and naturalization.

Refugee School Impact (RSI) – The Refugee School Impact (RSI) program focuses on designated eligible populations (aged 0-18) in a wide range of locations and counties. Programs should include activities that lead to the effective integration and education of eligible youth. The proposed outcomes of this program include the promotion of academic performance and successful integration of refugee youth and other youth served by ORR. Importantly, this includes supporting parents' capacity and understanding of the US

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education system. Furthermore, RSI is also comprised of services to ORR-eligible families with children from birth until the age they enter school. The proposed outcome of this facet of the program includes promoting access to childcare, to ensure that ORR-eligible children are prepared to succeed in formal schooling, and to holistically serve families of eligible children.

Refugee Youth Mentoring (YM) – The Youth Mentoring (YM) program funds grantees to match eligible youth with mentors who supports refugees and other ORR populations between the ages of 15-24 to promote positive civic and social engagement and support individual educational and vocational advancement. The YM program aims to provide the social, educational, and vocational support needed to ensure all refugee youth and young adults are well-positioned on a path towards self-sufficiency and integration.

Refugee Health Promotion (RHP) – The Refugee Health Promotion (RHP) grant program supports refugee health literacy and access to health and emotional wellness services. The RHP program services are to be designed to address the barriers refugees and other eligible populations typically face and promote the refugee arrival's health and wellbeing. These outcomes can be achieved through provision of supportive case management, counselling and support groups, as well as health education classes, capacity building, education, training, and health systems navigation.

Refugee Medical Screening (RMS) – Refugees are required to be medically screened overseas to be cleared for admission into the United States. Upon arrival, refugees should also complete domestic medical screening. The Refugee Medical Screening (RMS) program provides guidance, technical assistance, and funding for state refugee programs to implement and manage domestic screening.

Two sets of guidance lay the foundation for refugee medical screening:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a series of guidelines to assist clinicians, health professionals, and public health departments in conducting medical screenings. These guidelines are referred to as **Guidelines for the U.S. Domestic Medical Examination for Newly Arriving Refugees** Visit disclaimer page.
- CDC's guidelines and establishes a framework for reasonable medical screening reimbursement costs. Additional documents detail the clinical components of the RMS:
ORR's Domestic Medical Screening Guidelines Checklist (DOCX).

Registrant – An individual who has registered for employment services as a condition for receiving Refugee Cash Assistance.

Resettlement Agency – See Local Resettlement Agency.

Resident – A person who lives in the state of North Carolina, voluntarily, with the intent to remain in the state.

Responsible Person – For these purposes, a responsible person includes, but is not

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limited to, a representative from a NC refugee resettlement agency or National Voluntary Agency, a sponsor, relative, friend, agency staff member, or other personnel acting on behalf of the refugee.

RRF – EIS code for entering Refugee Cash Assistance activity. In this document, Refugee Cash Assistance references will often be displayed as “RCA/RRF” for cross-referencing purposes.

Secondary Migrants – Refugees who initially settles in one state and subsequently move to another, outside the jurisdiction of the agency that was responsible for their initial resettlement.

Services to Older Refugees (SOR) -Services to Older Refugees (SOR) was established via federal funding from the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide refugees age 60 and above have access to mainstream aging services in their community. Outcomes proposed include promoting independent living, building bridges with mainstream providers, and provision of access to naturalization support.

Sex trafficking – The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person is forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years.

Special Immigrant Visa Holders from Iraq and Afghanistan (SIV) –is an immigration program that grants permanent residence to people who aided the U.S. government abroad. The program is administered under the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which was signed into law on January 28, 2008. The program requires certain aliens to have been employed by, and performed faithful service for, the U.S. government abroad for at least fifteen years. The program has been in high demand by refugees from Afghanistan after the U.S. withdrawal.

Sponsor – An individual, church, or other group or organization that has agreed to help in the reception and placement of refugees in the USA. Refugees do not have legally binding sponsors, as no Affidavit of Support is required for the admission of refugees. Ukrainians who arrived through the Uniting for Ukraine program, have binding sponsors.

State Refugee Coordinator – An individual who is designated and authorized by the Governor or the appropriate legislative authority of the State to be responsible for coordination of public and private resources in refugee resettlement and administration of the refugee service provision in that state.

State Refugee Office (SRO) – The office that oversees statewide refugee service coordination and provision including Refugee Support Services (RSS), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) among others. The NC SRO is operated within the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services Section.

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Initiative – To assist families confronted with the barriers of substance abuse and mental health issues The Initiative offers screenings and follow-up for both. Screening for substance abuse is required of all participants in the WFCA, and participation in the mental health screening is voluntary.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Federal SNAP – is a federal program formerly known as the Food Stamps Program that offers nutrition assistance to eligible low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities.

NC SNAP – Simplified Nutrition Assistance Program – North Carolina’s Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) is designed to deliver food assistance to elderly individuals receiving SSI. SNAP cases are certified for 36 months. SNAP is a simplified version of regular Food and Nutrition Services.

NOTE: The household requirement states, all individuals who eat together must be included in the same Food and Nutrition Services unit. Married individuals living in the same home cannot be considered a separate household. Reference Food and Nutrition Services Manual, Section FNS-210.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – A federal assistance program administered by the Social Security Administration for aged, blind, and disabled persons. SSI recipients automatically receive Medicaid.

Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE Verification) – A Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) system designed to aid eligibility workers in public agencies in determining an applicant’s immigration status in order to establish the person’s entitlement to receive certain federal public benefits.

NOTE: Do not verify a refugee’s status via the SAVE system for Refugee Cash Assistance or Refugee Medical Assistance benefits. If a caseworker is unable to confirm status from documentation presented, then refer to fact sheets found in Appendices E-J.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – (TANF) A revamping of the federal program formerly known as AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act. It is known as Work First Cash Assistance or simply “Work First” in North Carolina.

Trafficking – Involvement in activity in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act is under 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) – Citizens or nationals of Ukraine who the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit, known as Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs).

Ukrainian/Non-Ukrainian Date of Entry/Eligibility – If an individual from either of these populations was paroled and entered the United States between February 24, 2022, and May 21, 2022, their date of eligibility is May 21, 2022. If they entered the United States after May 21, 2022, their date of eligibility is their date of humanitarian parole.

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Non-Ukrainian – individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine, who DHS has paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit. If an individual from either of these populations was paroled and entered the United States between February 24, 2022, and May 21, 2022, their date of eligibility is May 21, 2022. If they entered the United States after May 21, 2022, their date of eligibility is their date of humanitarian parole. The initial date of eligibility for UHPs and other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine for ORR benefits and services is May 21, 2022, or the individual's date of humanitarian parole, whichever is later.

United States Citizen – Individuals are United States citizens if they were born in the United States or were naturalized as citizens. For purposes of qualifying as a United States citizen, the United States is defined as including the fifty states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, and nationals from American Samoa and Swains Island.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) – Created in 2003, as a new bureau under the US Department of Homeland Security. It is responsible for the administration of immigration and citizenship services. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) formerly provided these services. It is responsible the implementation of federal immigration and naturalization laws, including immigration, exclusion, deportation, expulsion, or removal of immigrants.

Victim of Torture – Persons who have experienced torture abroad and who are residing in the United States to restore their dignity and health and rebuild their lives as they integrate into their communities.

Victim of Human Trafficking – Any individual who has been subjected to “severe forms of trafficking in persons” including:

- a. involvement in activity in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act is under 18 years of age; or
- b. the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Voluntary Agency – This term refers to any of the ten U.S. private agencies that have cooperative agreements with the State Department to provide reception and placement services for refugees arriving in the United States. These agencies use funding from the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) along with self-generated resources to provide refugees with a range of services including sponsorship, initial housing, food, clothing, orientation and counseling. National Voluntary Agencies (VOLAGS) contract with local affiliates in various locations across the country for reception and placement services. The local agency, which operates under the auspices of the national, is called a “local affiliate” or “local resettlement agency.” See Appendix A for a list of local affiliates.

Work First Cash Assistance (WFCA) – The component of NC's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program that provides cash and medical assistance and is designed to promote self-sufficiency. It is built upon strategies that include promoting work, requiring

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personal responsibility, helping families get and keep jobs, locating absent parents, and reducing out-of-wedlock births. Implemented in 1995, the program requires active caretakers to participate thirty (30) hours/week in work or work-related activities.

NOTE: All refugee families (households with MINOR children age 17 and below) seeking financial assistance must be evaluated for Work First Cash Assistance eligibility. A refugee family is NOT eligible for Refugee Cash Assistance.

IV. NORTH CAROLINA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES

A. North Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agencies (RRA)

A Local NC Refugee Resettlement Agency, or “local affiliate,” operates under the auspices of a national Voluntary Agency (VOLAG) and under contract with the U.S. Department of State to provide Reception and Placement services at the local level. The State Refugee Office and local departments of social services work in partnership with these agencies to provide the necessary continuum of services for refugees. The local NC refugee resettlement agency may refer refugees to apply for public assistance benefits - most commonly, food stamps, medical, and cash assistance. When sending a refugee to apply for assistance, the local affiliate will send a DSS-6247, Notification of Refugee Arrival and Intent to Apply for Benefits. See Appendix A for a list of North Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agencies.

- 1. Resettlement and Placement (R&P) Services** – For the first ninety days in the country, reception and placement services are usually provided by local resettlement agencies to refugees who arrive under Section 207. These services include assistance with housing, essential furnishings, food, clothing, and other basic necessities.
- 2. Matching Grant (MG) Program** – Some local resettlement agencies participate in the federal Matching Grant Program. This program provides financial assistance to employable refugees who enroll for up to 8 months (up to 240 days) from the date of entry. Agency participation is optional and contingent upon the availability of funds; therefore, not all of North Carolina's local refugee resettlement agencies participate and not all clients of a participating agency receive Matching Grant. If a Matching Grant Agency sends a refugee to apply for public benefits, they will also send a DSS-6247, Notification of Refugee Arrival and Intent to Apply for Benefits, noting whether or not the refugee receives Matching Grant. Refugees, currently receiving Matching Grant, are ineligible for cash assistance through Work First Cash Assistance or Refugee Cash Assistance for the duration of the Matching Grant.

NOTE: Not all refugees are associated with a local RRA. Also, MG does not affect eligibility for refugee medical benefits.

B. North Carolina Refugee Service Providers (RSP)

NC refugee service providers contract directly with the SRO to provide a wide variety of ongoing refugee-specific services such as delivery of or coordination of English Language Training (ELT), translation and interpretation, case management, employment services, outreach, and Emergency Services. These services can last

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up to 5 years. A person is no longer eligible for services once they become a US citizen (are naturalized).

1. **Local Affiliates** – Some local affiliates also contract with the SRO to provide ongoing services to refugees after the initial R&P.
2. **Non-Affiliates** – Agencies who are not involved in the initial R&P, but who contract with the SRO to provide ongoing services to refugees.

A listing of all agencies, local affiliates as well as non-affiliates that provide refugee-specific services in North Carolina, can be found in Appendix B, NC Refugee Service Providers. This list contains the location, contact information, the primary services provided, and counties served by each agency. A refugee may receive services from more than one service provider.

All NC refugee service providers funded under contract with the SRO are available to assist, within their realm of expertise, other agencies that offer assistance to refugees in North Carolina.

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