



Office of the Citizenship and
Immigration Services Ombudsman

Working to improve the immigration benefits process



The CIS Ombudsman's Webinar Series: Engagement with USCIS on the Streamlined, Fee- Exempted Re-parole Application Process for Certain Afghan Nationals

June 27, 2023

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Nathan Stiefel, Acting CIS Ombudsman

Today's Speakers



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- **Emilie Hyams**, Deputy Chief of Staff, USCIS
- **Mark Ludeking**, Senior Advisor, Office of Policy & Strategy, USCIS
- **Andrea Crane**, Refugee Program Eligibility Specialist, Refugee Policy Unit, Division of Policy and Procedures, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
- **Quinn Andrus**, Management and Program Analyst, Digital Services Division, External Affairs Directorate, USCIS



Emilie Hyams, Deputy Chief of Staff, USCIS

Pending Applications



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Asylum and Green Card Filings

Pending asylum applications	Pending Green Card applications
14,000	12,400

If eligible, USCIS will extend parole and work authorization for two years for Afghan parolees who:

- Have a pending application for asylum or adjustment of status (AOS) to lawful permanent resident, including derivatives; or
- Apply for asylum or AOS before their initial parole expires.

These individuals do not need to apply for re-parole.

No Other Filings and TPS



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Have applied for no immigration benefit	Pending Temporary Protected Status applications
19,100	14,600

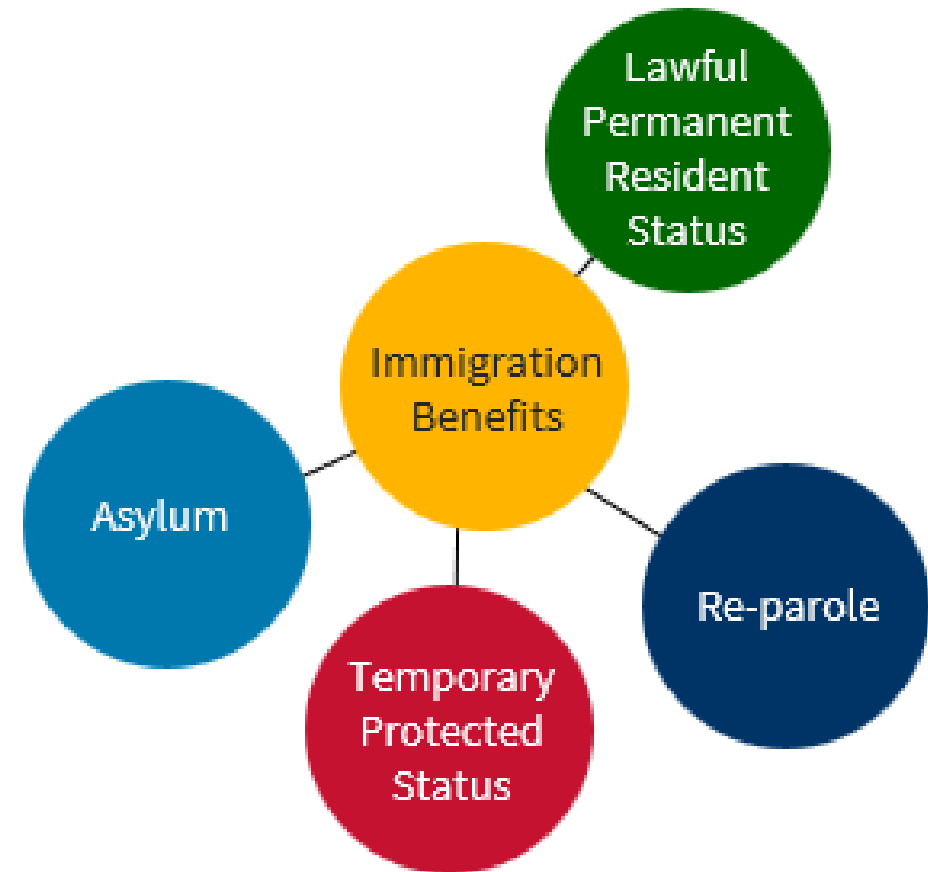
As of June 8, 2023, eligible Afghan nationals can apply for re-parole and employment authorization for a two-year period of parole under a new streamlined, fee-exempted process, online or via paper application.

Multiple Immigration Pathways



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- **Parole** does not lead to immigration status; it does not lead to lawful permanent resident status or U.S. citizenship.
- Noncitizens may pursue multiple immigration benefits at the same time.





**Mark Ludeking, Senior Advisor,
Office of Policy & Strategy, USCIS**





- **June 8, 2023: New streamlined, fee-exempted re-parole application process opens.**
 - Process only available to individuals filing between June 8, 2023, and July 31, 2024.
 - Two filing options available: Online (my.uscis.gov) and on paper.
- **Afghans are eligible to apply under the new streamlined, fee-exempted application process if paroled into the U.S. on or after July 31, 2021, and have “OAR” or “PAR” Class of Admission on Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record.**
 - View and print your Form I-94 at i94.cbp.dhs.gov
 - Contact CBP at oawi94adjustments@cbp.dhs.gov with questions about your Class of Admission.



Employment Authorized Incident to Parole

Afghan parolees with an OAR or PAR Class of Admission who have Afghanistan as the country of citizenship on Form I-94 are employment authorized incident to parole.

- Eligible parolees do not have to wait for a new EAD to arrive to begin working legally in the U.S.
- Unexpired Form I-94 can be presented to employers as an identity document and employment authorization for purposes of Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification for 90 days from the date of hire (or, in the case of reverification, the date employment authorization expires).
- After the 90 days, parolees must present an EAD or unrestricted Social Security card and acceptable List B identity document from the Form I-9 Lists of Acceptable Documents (such as a state-issued driver's license or identification card).



About the New Streamlined Application Process for Eligible Afghans

What form should I use?	Form I-131, Application for Travel Document
How much is the filing fee?	There is no filing fee. Automatic fee exemption. No fee waiver required.
Can I request employment authorization?	Yes, by using Form I-131. Do not submit Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization.
Do I need to submit any other forms?	No. Do not submit Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support.



Why Apply for Re-Parole Online



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By applying online, you can prevent common mistakes seen on paper-filed forms.

- Missing signature, missing pages, incomplete forms... These mistakes may be why some forms are rejected.
- To apply online, create a free USCIS online account at my.uscis.gov.

! There are errors in About You: Your contact information

Edit my responses



Use the online Form I-131 to apply for re-parole and request employment authorization at the same time.

- Do not submit other forms.
- Fee exemption automatically applies.

File a Form

Select the form you want to file online. Once you start, we will automatically save your information for 30 days, or from the last time you worked on the form.

Fee waiver: If you are requesting a fee waiver, you cannot file online. You must file a paper version of both the Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver and the form for the specific benefit you are requesting. You can review the fee waiver guidance at www.uscis.gov/feewaiver.

Select the form you want to file online.

I-131, Application for Travel Document

I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card

I-130, Petition for Alien Relative

I-131, Application for Travel Document

I-134A, Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support

I-539, Application To Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status

I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal

I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

Start form



Requesting Re-Parole Online




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To request re-parole for yourself under this new process, you must select:

- I am outside the United States, and I am applying for an Advance Parole Document.
- For minor children, select this option to receive the fee exemption.

What type of application are you applying for?

Note: If you are an Afghan parolee seeking re-parole and requesting an EAD, you must select the option that indicates you are outside the United States and applying for an Advance Parole Document.

 You can file your request online only for certain application types

If your application type does not appear as an option, you must file a [paper Form I-131](#). If you submit online and are not eligible for one of the application types listed as an option, your application may be denied.

- I am outside the United States, and I am applying for an Advance Parole Document
- I am applying for an Advance Parole Document for a person who is outside the United States

Requesting Re-Parole Online



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Select ‘Yes’ to the question, “Are you applying for re-parole?”

- By selecting “Yes,” you are requesting re-parole if you were paroled into the United States and need to remain here beyond your initial authorized parole period.
- For minor children, select this option to receive the fee exemption.

A screenshot of a web form titled "Are you applying for re-parole?". Below the title is a sub-header: "You can request re-parole if you were paroled into the United States and need to remain in the United States beyond the authorized parole period to accomplish the purpose for which parole was approved." There are two radio button options: "Yes" (which is selected) and "No". At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Back" and "Next".

Are you applying for re-parole?

You can request re-parole if you were paroled into the United States and need to remain in the United States beyond the authorized parole period to accomplish the purpose for which parole was approved.

Yes

No

Back Next

- ✓ **Minors will need their own USCIS online account and a unique email address.**
- ✓ **Parents or legal guardians may sign on behalf of a minor child under the age of 14. Children under the age of 14 may also sign for themselves.**

Employment Authorization Document



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Renewal Through the Online Form I-131

- To request renewal of an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), select **'Yes'** to request one.
- You will receive a Form I-131 receipt notice, but the built-in EAD functionality will not generate a separate receipt.
- You do not need to submit Form I-765 or Form I-134, or any other forms such as a fee waiver.

Do not email the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to inquire about a pending EAD. IOM only helped to distribute initial EADs under Operation Allies Welcome.

A screenshot of a web form titled "What is your class of admission?". The form has a dropdown menu with "OAR - Operation Allied Refuge Parole" selected. Below the dropdown is a horizontal line. Underneath the line, the text reads: "I am requesting an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) upon approval of my new Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) period of parole." There are two radio button options: "Yes" and "No". A red arrow points to the "Yes" option. At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "Back" and "Next".

What is your class of admission?

OAR - Operation Allied Refuge Parole

I am requesting an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) upon approval of my new Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) period of parole.

Yes

No

Back Next

Paper Filing Application Process



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- Use the paper Form I-131 to apply for re-parole and request employment authorization at the same time.
 - Do not submit other forms.
 - Fee exemption is automatic.
- USCIS has updated Form I-131.
 - Use the new Form I-131 with edition date **06/06/23**.
 - The previous Form I-131 with edition date 10/31/22 can only be used until August 8, 2023.
 - We will reject all other forms with previous edition dates.

Application for Travel Document
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form I-131
OMB No. 1615-0013
Expires 10/31/2025

Application for Travel Document
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form I-131
OMB No. 1615-0013
Expires 10/31/2025

For USCIS Use Only

Document Head Delivered

Document Event

Start Here. Type or Print in Black Ink

Part I. Information About You

1.a. Family Name (Last Name)

1.b. Given Name (First Name)

1.c. Middle Name

Physical Address

2.a. In Care of Name

2.b. Street Number and Name

2.c. Apt. Ste. P.O.

2.d. City or Town

2.e. State 2.f. ZIP Code

2.g. Postal Code

2.h. Province

2.i. Country

Other Information

3. Alien Registration Number (A-Number)

4. Country of Birth

5. Country of Citizenship

6. City of Administration

7. Gender Male Female

8. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

9. U.S. Social Security Number (if any)

Form I-131 Edition 06/06/23

Form I-131 Edition 06/06/23

Paper Filing Process Based on Edition Dates



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Edition Date 06/06/23	Edition Date 10/31/22 (Only accepted until Aug. 8, 2023)
Handwrite “REPAROLE” at the top of your paper Form I-131.	Handwrite “REPAROLE” at the top of your paper Form I-131.
Select ‘1.e.’ in Part 2 to request re-parole.	Select ‘1.e.’ in Part 2 to request re-parole.
Select ‘Yes’ in Part 8 to request employment authorization.	To request employment authorization, write “OAW EAD” at the top of the form.
Do not submit Form I-765.	Do not submit Form I-765.





Part 2. Application Type

- 1.a. I am a permanent resident or conditional resident of the United States, and I am applying for a reentry permit.
- 1.b. I now hold U.S. refugee or asylee status, and I am applying for a Refugee Travel Document.
- 1.c. I am a permanent resident as a direct result of refugee or asylee status, and I am applying for a Refugee Travel Document.
- 1.d. I am applying for an Advance Parole Document to allow me to return to the United States after temporary foreign travel.
- 1.e. I am outside the United States, and I am applying for an Advance Parole Document.



Part 8. Employment Authorization Document for New Period of Parole Under Operation Allies Welcome

1. I am requesting an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) upon approval of my new Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) period of parole. Yes No



Paper Filing Process Based on Edition Dates



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Edition Date 06/06/23	Edition Date 10/31/22 (Only accepted until Aug. 8, 2023)
Handwrite “REPAROLE” at the top of your paper Form I-131.	Handwrite “REPAROLE” at the top of your paper Form I-131.
Select ‘1.e.’ in Part 2 to request re-parole.	Select ‘1.e.’ in Part 2 to request re-parole.
Selection ‘Yes’ in Part 8 to request employment authorization.	To request employment authorization, write “OAW EAD” at the top of the form.
Do not submit Form I-765.	Do not submit Form I-765.





Question:

I did not request employment authorization when I filed my paper Form I-131 requesting re-parole. What should I do?



Answer:

You will need to wait until we adjudicate your Form I-131. If it is approved, file Form I-765 with a copy of your Form I-131 approval notice.

Tip: It is easier to request employment authorization when you apply for re-parole using Form I-131 under this new application process.



Instructions for Mailing Paper-Filed Cases



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U.S. Postal Service

USCIS

Attn: I-131 OAW HP

P.O. Box 20800

Phoenix, AZ 85036-0800



FedEx, UPS, or DHL deliveries

USCIS

Attn: I-131 OAW HP

(Box 20800)

2108 E. Elliot Road

Tempe, AZ 85284-1806



Remember! Paper filed cases can still be added to a USCIS online account.



Required Identity Document



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Submit a government-issued identity document.

Examples include:

- Both sides of your current Employment Authorization Document or driver's license.
- Passport with English translation.
 - For passports, include copies of the biographical page and ALL visas you have from any country.
- Both sides of your Tazkira with English translation.



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Did You File for Re-Parole Before the New Process?



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- Alert USCIS if you already filed for re-parole **before June 8, 2023**, when the new streamlined, fee-exempted application process opened.
- Send us an email at HumanitarianParole@uscis.dhs.gov. Include in the subject line:
 - “**Afghan Re-Parole**” and your IOE receipt number.
 - You can find your receipt number on your receipt notice.



Options if You Filed Form I-131 Before June 8, 2023



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Option # 1

Submit a new re-parole request using the streamlined process, to take advantage of the fee exemption and concurrent EAD request.

To withdraw your pending Form I-131 submitted before June 6, 2023...

Email us at Humanitarianparole@uscis.dhs.gov. Indicate that you are filing for re-parole under the new streamlined application process and wish to withdraw your previously filed I-131.

Option # 2

If you decide not to submit a new request for re-parole under the streamlined process, we will consider your already filed re-parole request.

Only once we approve your re-parole request, may you file a separate request for a new Employment Authorization Document by filing Form I-765.

Consider submitting a new fee-exempt re-parole and EAD request under the new streamlined process.



Afghan Support Centers



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Visit centersforafghansupport.org and uscis.gov/outreach for more information.



Phoenix, AZ	May 17 – 20
Tucson, AZ	June 1 – 3
Sacramento, CA	June 21 – 24
Pittsburgh, PA	July 19 – 22
Seattle, WA	Aug. 16 – 19
Oklahoma City, OK	Sept. 13 - 16
Tulsa, OK	Sept. 20 - 23



**Andrea Crane, Refugee Program
Eligibility Specialist, Refugee Policy Unit
Division of Policy and Procedures
Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)**



Benefits and Services



Certain Afghans may be eligible for federal public benefits:

- **ORR-funded benefits and services**
 - ✓ Temporary cash assistance
 - ✓ Medical assistance
 - ✓ Case management
 - ✓ Employment services
 - ✓ Legal services
- **Other federal means-tested public benefits**
 - ✓ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, etc.



Courtesy of the Department of Defense: Afghan children learning the names of the 50 states in the U.S. at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Photo ID 7030815.

Who is Eligible for ORR-Funded Benefits?



Certain Afghan nationals may be eligible for ORR-funded services:

- Afghans with parole (including those granted re-parole)
- Afghan asylees (must be granted asylum, not just applied)
- Afghan refugees
- Special Immigrants

Important note: Afghans with only Temporary Protected Status and whose parole period has ended will not be eligible for ORR benefits and services.

Immigration Legal Services for Afghan Arrivals

Funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement

The Immigration Legal Services For Afghan Arrivals (ILSAA) project provides free legal support to eligible Afghan families.

- Covers legal services including, but not limited to:
 - Asylum
 - Special Immigrant Visa
 - Adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident
 - Family reunification
 - Family-based petitions
 - Employment authorization
- Visit <https://ilsaa.acf.hhs.gov> for more information.



Flyers in Dari and Pashto available!

- [acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/ilsaa-handout-english.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/ilsaa-handout-english.pdf)
- [acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/ilsaa-handout-dari.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/ilsaa-handout-dari.pdf)
- [acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/ilsaa-handout-pashto.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/ilsaa-handout-pashto.pdf)

Important ORR Resources



Questions about eligibility for ORR services:

RefugeeEligibility@acf.hhs.gov

Contact a resettlement agency in your state:

acf.hhs.gov/orr/map/find-resources-and-contacts-your-state



Afghan Assistance Resources:

acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/afghan-assistance-resources



- **Emilie Hyams**, Deputy Chief of Staff, USCIS
- **Mark Ludeking**, Senior Advisor, Office of Policy & Strategy, USCIS
- **Andrea Crane**, Refugee Program Eligibility Specialist, Refugee Policy Unit, Division of Policy and Procedures, Office of Refugee Resettlement
- **Quinn Andrus**, Management and Program Analyst, Digital Services Division, External Affairs Directorate, USCIS

Helpful Information and Resources for Afghan Nationals



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- Visit uscis.gov/allieswelcome and uscis.gov/i-131
- Watch how to file for re-parole online at youtube.com/watch?v=M3BU-89MGlc
- File online at uscis.gov/file-online (filing tips are available)
- Access your USCIS online account at my.uscis.gov
 - uscis.gov/about-us/contact-us/how-do-i-get-a-new-online-access-code
- Keep your address current with USCIS
 - If you submitted a form online, or you submitted a paper form and the receipt number begins with IOE, and you linked your paper form to your online account, you can update your address quickly in your USCIS online account at my.uscis.gov.
 - You can also use our change of address tool at uscis.gov/addresschange and uscis.gov/ar-11

How to Create a USCIS Online Account Videos

- Dari - youtube.com/watch?v=1m1nQPFWiX0
- Pashto - youtube.com/watch?v=ndx9SL4LZlA



Nathan Stiefel, Acting CIS Ombudsman



Office of the Citizenship and
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Working to improve the immigration benefits process



Contact Us

Website: www.dhs.gov/cisombudsman

Phone: 1-855-882-8100 (toll free) or 1-202-357-8100

Email: cisombudsman@hq.dhs.gov or cisombudsman.publicaffairs@hq.dhs.gov

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