



Department of Homeland Security Operation Allies Welcome Afghan Parolee and Benefits Report

March 10, 2023

Fiscal Year 2022 Report to Congress



**Homeland
Security**

Message from the Secretary

March 10, 2023

I am pleased to submit this *Department of Homeland Security Operation Allies Welcome Afghan Parolee and Benefits Report* prepared by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans.

The report was compiled pursuant to *the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022* (P.L. 117-43). The report provides available information on the requested topics and was coordinated with the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Office of Management and Budget.

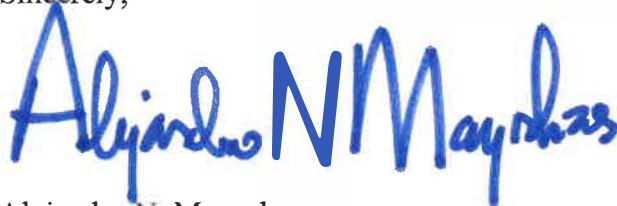
Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is provided to the following:

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House of Representatives

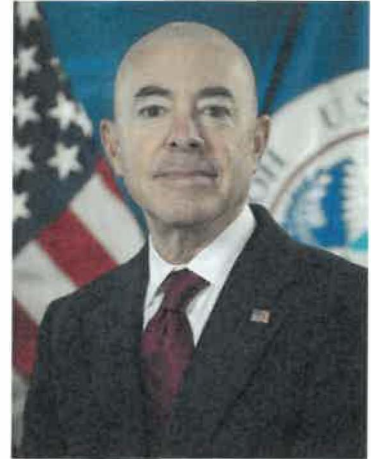
The Honorable Kamala Harris
The Vice President of the United States
President of the Senate

Inquiries relating to this report may be directed to the DHS Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 447-5890. Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Homeland Security.

Sincerely,



Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary





Department of Homeland Security
Operation Allies Welcome
Afghan Parolee and Benefits Report
March 2023

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I. Legislative Language

This document was compiled in response to Section 2502 of *the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022* (P.L. 117-43), signed into law September 30, 2021, subsection (e) of which states:

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 3 months thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, shall submit a report to Congress detailing the number of individuals described in subsection (a); the number of individuals receiving benefits in subsection (b), including their eligibility for benefits as refugees notwithstanding this Act; and any other information deemed relevant by the Secretary.

Subsections (a) and (b) referenced above read:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a citizen or national of Afghanistan (or a person with no nationality who last habitually resided in Afghanistan) shall be eligible for the benefits described in subsections (b) and (c) if—

(1) such individual completed security and law enforcement background checks to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security and was subsequently—

(A) paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022; or

(B) paroled into the United States after September 30, 2022, and—

(i) is the spouse or child (as such term is defined under section 101(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)) of an individual described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) is the parent or legal guardian of an individual described in subparagraph (A) who is determined to be an unaccompanied child under 6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2); and

(2) such individual's parole has not been terminated by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) BENEFITS.—An individual described in subsection (a) shall be eligible for—

(1) resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) until March 31, 2023, or the term of parole granted under subsection (a), whichever is later;

(2) services described under section 412(d)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)), subject to subparagraph (B) of such section, if such individual is an unaccompanied alien child as defined under 6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2); and

(3) a driver's license or identification card under section 202 of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (division B of Public Law 109–13; 49 U.S.C. 30301 note), notwithstanding subsection (c)(2)(B) of such Act.”

II. Introduction

On August 29, 2021, President Biden directed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to lead and coordinate ongoing efforts across the Federal Government to support at-risk Afghans, including those who worked in Afghanistan alongside the United States during the past two decades, as they safely resettle in the United States. DHS established a Unified Coordination Group (UCG), which reports directly to the Secretary of Homeland Security, to coordinate the implementation of a broad range of services, including medical services, immigration processing, and resettlement support. The work of the UCG is undertaken in close collaboration with partners across every level of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector. Through Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), we welcomed 90,000 Afghans to the United States and we are prepared to welcome additional qualifying Afghans as part of Enduring Welcome.

This report includes data on Afghans paroled into the United States following relocation¹ and those eligible for refugee resettlement assistance. The report is based on DHS Office of Immigration Statistics analysis of data provided through U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Department of State, and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

¹ This report includes data only on Afghan parolees, and does not include other Afghans welcomed through OAW, such as those who were lawful permanent residents of the United States—including Special Immigrant Visa holders-- or those admitted as refugees.

III. § 2502(e) Reporting Requirements

This data includes only Afghan parolees. Parolees are eligible to receive resettlement assistance through the Afghan Placement and Assistance program. Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders and Afghans admitted with refugee status are separately eligible to receive resettlement assistance through those programs. Many Afghan parolees are awaiting adjudication of SIV applications.

The number of individuals described in § 2502(a):

Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan (or a person with no nationality who last habitually resided in Afghanistan) eligible for benefits described in subsections (b) and (c): **76,160**

NOTES: Data are based on CBP admissions and parole data, are valid as of November 1, 2022, and cover the period July 30, 2021 to September 30, 2022. These data include all parole codes, including those issued through OAW and those issued outside the scope of OAW and through USCIS.

The number of individuals receiving benefits in § 2502(b):

§ 2502(b)(1):

Those receiving resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) until March 31, 2023, or the term of parole granted under subsection (a), whichever is later: **73,163**

NOTES: Data are based on Department of State (DOS) resettlement agency assignment information and only include those relocated under OAW prior to June 30, 2022. Data are valid as of November 23, 2022, and cover those assigned resettlement agencies during the period July 30, 2021 to September 30, 2022. DHS does not have data on the number of Afghans enrolled in specific entitlement programs and other benefits available to refugees other than information on resettlement agency assignment.

§ 2502(b)(2):

Those receiving services described under section 412(d)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)), subject to subparagraph (B) of such section, if such individual is an unaccompanied alien child as defined under 6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2):

The HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) received **1,556** Afghan unaccompanied child (UC) referrals, of whom:

456 were referred into ORR care, of whom:

81 are currently in ORR care.

375 were discharged from ORR care, of whom:

127 were enrolled in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program.²

1,100 were directly unified with family members (a) in third country locations controlled by the United States, (b) at ports of entry, or (c) at safe haven facilities within the United States set up to house and support individuals following their arrival within the United States.³

NOTES: Data on unaccompanied children are from HHS, are valid as of November 28, 2022, and cover the period July 30, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

§ 2502(b)(3):

Those receiving a driver's license or identification card under section 202 of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (division B of Public Law 109–13; 49 U.S.C. 30301 note), notwithstanding subsection (c)(2)(B) of such Act: **See "Notes" section below.**

NOTES: Driver's licenses and identification cards are issued under the authority of U.S. states and territories. There is no REAL ID requirement that states and territories provide any issuance data specific to any class of individuals, including Afghan parolees. While states may be able to collect this data on an individual basis, there is no requirement and no system to report this metric to DHS.

² Children enrolled in the URM program are considered "Reunified (Program/Facility)" (i.e., discharged from the UC Program to another long-term, state-operated program). Other discharge types include Reunified with an ORR-approved individual sponsor, Age Out (i.e., UC attained 18 years old), Age Redetermination (i.e., updated information determines that the individual is not a minor).

³ For more information about HHS ORR programs supporting unaccompanied minors and unaccompanied refugee minors, see [Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#).

IV. Conclusion

This report provides the most complete and current data available to respond to the requirements of Section 2502 of the Afghan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022. DHS will continue to work with its interagency partners to provide updated information about Afghan parolees in future editions of this report.