

Effective October 1, 2026, per Section 71109 of the 2025 Budget Reconciliation Act certain Iraqi and Afghan nationals had special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) are eligible for full coverage Medicaid only after they adjust to a qualified non-citizen status or meet federal exemption (Refer to 2402.20.00).

Both Iraqi and Afghani special immigrants will either enter the U.S. as Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) with the special immigrant visa or will adjust to special immigrant status after entering the U.S. under another immigration status (such as an asylee or parolee). However, unless the immigrant is a qualified non-citizen and is eligible under current program rules, the date of eligibility may or may not coincide with the special immigrant's date of entry. This policy is based on the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2010 (Section 8120, P.L. 111-118) enacted on December 19, 2009, and amended by H.R. 1 (2025).²²

On 8/2/21, the Department of State approved three additional immigration categories for Afghan evacuees entering the U.S. who are eligible for Medicaid benefits.²³

Afghans with a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV): Afghans granted a SIV have been affiliated with the U.S. mission in Afghanistan, e.g., as translators and interpreters, or are the spouse or an unmarried child under the age of 21 of such individuals. SIVs are Legal Permanent Residents (LPR also known as U.S. green card holders). Effective October 1, 2026 under H.R. 1 (2025)

- Afghans granted SIVs are in a qualified non-citizen status and are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP with a five-year waiting period, if they meet other eligibility requirements.

- Afghans granted SI/SQ Parole who are ineligible for Medicaid/CHIP because they are over income limits or do not have other coverage (e.g., employer-sponsored insurance) may be eligible for Marketplace coverage with financial assistance of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA).

Special Immigrant (SI/SQ) Parolees: Such SI/SQ Parolees are eligible for a SIV but were evacuated to the U.S. before completing the process to receive a SIV.

- Afghans granted SI/SQ Parole for more than one year are in a qualified non-citizen status and are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP with the five-year waiting period, if otherwise eligible.
- Afghans granted SI/SQ Parole who are ineligible for Medicaid/CHIP because they are over income limits or do not have other coverage (e.g., employer-sponsored insurance) may be eligible for financial assistance of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA).

All Other Parolees (aka Humanitarian non-SI/SQ Parolees): Such Humanitarian (non-SI/SQ) Parolees are Afghans who were evacuated for urgent humanitarian reasons and paroled into the United States but have not been granted a SIV and may not be eligible for the SIV program.

Amended by H.R. 1 (2025), the following categories are ineligible for Medicaid unless they transition to an approved LPR status (subject to 5-year bar) or receive a federal exemption:

- Afghan nationals who entered the U. S under humanitarian parole.
- Afghans who are Humanitarian (non-SI/SQ) Parolees for more than one year are in a

(SI/SQ) Parolees: Such SI/SQ Parolees are eligible for a SIV but were evacuated to the U.S. before completing the process to receive a SIV.

- Afghans granted SI/SQ Parole for more than one year are in a qualified non-citizen status and are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP with the five-year waiting period, if otherwise eligible.
- Afghans granted SI/SQ Parole who are ineligible for Medicaid/CHIP because they are over income limits or do not have other coverage (e.g., employer-sponsored insurance) may be eligible for Marketplace coverage with financial assistance of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA).

All Other Parolees (aka Humanitarian non-SI/SQ Parolees): Such Humanitarian (non-SI/SQ) Parolees are Afghans who were evacuated for urgent humanitarian reasons and paroled into the United States but have not been granted a SIV and may not be eligible for the SIV program.

Amended by H.R. 1, Public Law 119-21 (2025), the following categories are ineligible for Medicaid unless they transition to an approved LPR status (subject to 5-year bar) or receive a federal exemption:

- Afghan nationals who entered the U. S under humanitarian parole.
- Afghans who are Humanitarian (non-SI/SQ) Parolees for more than one year are in a non-qualified non-citizen status and are not eligible for Medicaid or CHIP without a five-year waiting period, if otherwise eligible.
- Afghan parolees deemed to be unaccompanied children eligible for Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) services are ineligible to receive Medicaid.

Note: Non-eligible Afghans include individuals paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022; or those paroled into the United States after September 30, 2022, and, either the spouse or child of such a parolee or the parent or legal guardian of an unaccompanied child paroled during that period who have not transitioned to an approved LPR status and/or have

not met 5-year waiting period.

Verification is established by passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individuals has been classified under IV (Immigrant Visa) Categories SI1, SI2, SI3, SI6 ,SI7, SI8 or SQ1, SQ2, SQ3 , SQ6, SQ7, SQ8 and a DHS stamp or notation on passport or I-94 showing date of admission; DHS Form I-551 (“green card”) with an IV (immigrant visa) code for category, or I-94 noting SQ or SI Parole (per section 602(B)(1)AAPA/Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006). If a person would be determined otherwise eligible for Medicaid under any category due to meeting all verification requirements of Medicaid, except for the verification of either citizenship or qualified immigration status, then the person must be determined eligible for Medicaid (Refer to 2035.40.05 for processing guideline).

Note: Individuals who fail to attain or adjust to a federally qualified status should be transitioned to Emergency Services Only Medicaid coverage (ESO) (Refer to 2402.20.50).