

Immigration Legal Services for Afghan Arrivals

Dear Colleague Letter 23-15

January 19, 2023

Dear Colleague:

The Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, and Additional Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (ASA) provided the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) with specific appropriations to provide benefits and services to the citizens or nationals of Afghanistan delineated in ORR Policy Letter (PL) 22-01, Afghan Humanitarian Parolees and Unaccompanied Afghan Minors Eligible for ORR Benefits and Services; ASA-Eligible Afghan Populations. This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) announces the award of a new contract to the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) to provide coordination support and technical assistance to states and ORR grantees delivering immigration-related legal services to ASA-eligible individuals, as well as to provide direct legal services where needed.

Through this project, known as *Immigration Legal Services for Afghan Arrivals (ILSAA)*, USCRI helps build the capacity of immigration legal service providers, supports Eligible Arriving Afghans (EAAs) in engaging in immigration legal services, and provides immigration legal services to EAAs across the country. Immigration legal services for EAAs can include providing information about available immigration relief and protections; supporting pathways to permanent residency, such as asylum; supporting family reunification; and more. The contract, awarded in December 2022, has an initial period of performance that ends September 2023, with an option to extend it through September 2024.

USCRI will launch a website to provide additional information to EAAs, legal service providers, and ORR grantees. The website will serve as a referral and coordination hub for EAAs requiring assistance from legal service providers and will facilitate the sharing of best practices and knowledge-sharing, as well as training, and technical assistance. USCRI will share additional information about this new resource soon.

Service providers can request USCRI assistance via email: ILSAAinfo@icf.com.

If you have any questions about this DCL, please contact Lauren Edwards, Senior Advisor, at lauren.edwards@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Ken Tota Director, Refugee Programs Office of Refugee Resettlement