

Reminder: Immigration-Related Legal Assistance Allowable Under ORR ASA Funding

September 28, 2023

Dear Colleague Letter 23-36

Dear Colleague:

The purpose of this Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) is to remind stakeholders of the various types of immigration-related legal assistance available through ORR grants funded by the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 and the Additional Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (ASA). ORR also encourages ORR ASA-funded legal service providers to coordinate to meet eligible Afghans’¹ immigration needs.

Within ORR Policy Letter (PL) 22-11, [Immigration-Related Legal Assistance Allowable Under ORR ASA Funding](#), ORR authorized various types of immigration-related legal assistance to eligible Afghans. Such assistance includes, but is not limited to, legal orientation on immigration statuses and protections, client consultation on immigration-related legal assistance needs, interpretation and translation support for immigration-related legal assistance, filing immigration-related forms, and representation in affirmative asylum-related interviews or other mandatory immigration-related appointments. Assistance with immigration-related forms may include, but is not limited to, assistance with applications for re-parole, asylum, family reunification, and employment authorization.

Specifically, ORR would like to highlight the “Other Allowable Activities...” section of ORR PL 22-11, which addresses additional means of supporting immigration pathways for eligible Afghans. These include providing:

- transportation and lodging in support of immigration-related legal assistance when necessary to ensure that a client can attend their affirmative asylum interview or other mandatory appointment with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS);
- immigration fees pertaining to all forms listed in PL 22-11; and
- costs associated with the administration of, and fees for, the immigration-related medical exam, or Form I-693, as required for an application for Legal Permanent Residency.

Please see [PL 22-11](#) for a complete description of requirements for States and grantees who decide to use ORR ASA funding to support these specific activities.

ORR has provided ASA funding for legal services through its Refugee Support Services (RSS) and Preferred Communities (PC) programs. ORR has also awarded a contract to the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), which has established the Immigration Legal Services for Afghan Arrivals (ILSAA) project. [ILSAA](#) provides direct legal services to eligible Afghan arrivals across the country and helps to build the capacity of immigration legal service providers to engage in these services. ILSAA can also provide support in states and communities where there are gaps in immigration-related legal services for eligible Afghans.

ORR recommends that States coordinate with all other ORR ASA-funded grantees and legal service providers,

¹ For a description of eligible populations, please see PL [22-01](#) and PL [22-02](#). Note that legal services for ASA eligible populations remain available for those who filed for re-parole, asylum, or adjustment of status prior to the end of their parole term; see [PL 23-06](#) for details.

including ILSAA, to identify solutions to meet the ongoing immigration-related legal services needs of Afghan arrivals within the scope of existing ORR ASA funding.

For questions about ASA-funded RSS immigration-related legal services, please contact your ORR Regional Representative/Regional Analyst or ORR's Division of Refugee Assistance, at DRAprograms@acf.hhs.gov.

For questions about ASA-funded PC immigration-related legal services, please contact Vanessa Mndolo at vanessa.mndolo@acf.hhs.gov.

For questions about ILSAA, please contact ILSAAinfo@icf.com.

We appreciate all of your work to support the well-being of these new Afghan arrivals.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Tota
Director, Refugee Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement