



Refugees and Humanitarian Parolees - HUD Programs & Resources

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funding to state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and other housing partners to help individuals and families in the United States find safe, stable, and affordable housing. Funding is limited and not everyone can be assisted. Some programs have waiting lists or other special criteria. If your clients need help with housing, we encourage you to use the table and links below to find out about housing and related assistance they may be able to receive. Help will depend on their immigration status; their income level or other eligibility criteria; and availability of the housing or assistance in the area. HUD funds these programs but does not directly administer them, so HUD does not handle or accept applications for assistance or screen applicants. The agency relies on local public housing agencies, private landlords, and local governments to administer the programs following HUD's guidelines.

HUD's Housing Counseling Program can also assist individuals and families with searching for, obtaining, and maintaining a home, whether it be renting or owning. To find a HUD-approved housing counseling agency in your local area, call (800) 569-4287, or use the online search at www.hud.gov/housingcounseling. HUD-certified housing counselors are trained to assess an individual's financial situation, explain the housing options available, and help with accessing the resources and programs available.

Providers should help individuals regardless of what language they speak. It is illegal to discriminate against someone based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity or sexual orientation), familial status, or disability when they are trying to rent or buy a home, get a mortgage, seek housing assistance, or engage in other housing-related activities. Learn more about housing rights here: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/fair_housing_act_overview

Rental Assistance and Low-Rent Housing

The HUD programs listed below provide rental assistance and low-rent housing to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. To access these programs, you must meet certain program criteria and you must be a U.S. citizen/national or have an eligible immigration status. For some HUD programs, such as public housing and Section 8, households with U.S. citizens and people with other immigration statuses (called "mixed-status families") may also be eligible for assistance.

The chart below provides a list of immigration statuses that are eligible for the HUD programs mentioned in this resource. The following is **not** a complete list of eligible immigration statuses to access HUD programs. If you have questions about eligibility based on immigration status, contact the housing provider.

Eligible Citizenship and Immigration Status Categories For Rental Assistance and Low-Rent Housing Listed in the Table Belowⁱ
U.S. Citizen or U.S. National
Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR), ⁱⁱ including but not limited to Afghan special immigrants ⁱⁱⁱ
Asylee ^{iv}
Refugee ^v
Noncitizen paroled into the United States for a period of at least one year. ^{vi}
Afghan citizens and nationals paroled into the United States on or after July 31, 2021, unless parole has been terminated by the Secretary of Homeland Security. ^{vii} IMPORTANT NOTE: Eligibility on this basis for HUD programs continues until March 31, 2023 or the end of the parole term, whichever is later.
A noncitizen granted withholding of removal under 8 U.S.C. 1231(b)(3). ^{viii}
Human trafficking victims and certain family members, ^{ix} who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a Certification Letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (including T-1 nonimmigrants and Continued Presence recipients*), 2. Are noncitizen minors who have received a Child Eligibility Letter from the Department of Health and Human Services;^{xi} or 3. Are granted derivative T nonimmigrant status by USCIS (T-2 through T-6 nonimmigrant status).^{xii}

Please note that HUD does not make decisions about people’s immigration status. Please find immigration resources below:

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- [SAVE Fast Facts for Benefit Applicants](#)^{xiii}
- [Information for Afghans](#)^{xiv}
- [SAVE What’s New webpage](#)^{xv}

USCIS

- [General info](#)^{xvi}
- Customer service tools: [USCIS Contact Us page](#)^{xvii}
- Case/process information: [USCIS Contact Center](#)^{xviii}

Type of assistance	HUD program information
Rental assistance (including utility assistance)	Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) To learn about this program, see: www.hud.gov/topics/housing_choice_voucher_program_section_8 To ask about assistance in your area, please contact your local public housing authority - https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts
	Emergency Housing Vouchers To learn about this program, see: www.hud.gov/EHV To ask about assistance in your area, please contact your local public housing authority (https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts) or contact your local Continuum of Care (www.hud.gov/topics/homelessness/localassist)

Type of assistance	HUD program information
Low-rent housing	<p>Public Housing Program</p> <p>To learn about this program, see: www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph</p> <p>To ask about assistance in your area, please contact your local public housing authority - https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts</p>
Rental assistance (includes utility assistance)	<p>Project-based Rental Assistance</p> <p>This type of assistance, which includes Section 8 Project-based Rental Assistance, can be paired with units in HUD multifamily mortgage programs to provide a deeper level of affordability to households.</p> <p>To find units in your area, go to: https://www.hud.gov/topics/rental_assistance</p>
Rental assistance (includes utility assistance)	<p>Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program</p> <p>To learn more about this program, see: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/mfh/progdesc/eld202</p> <p>To find units in your area, go to: https://www.hud.gov/topics/rental_assistance</p>
Rental assistance (includes utility assistance)	<p>Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>To learn more about this program, go to: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/mfh/progdesc/disab811</p> <p>To find units in your area, go to: https://www.hud.gov/topics/rental_assistance</p>

Assistance Necessary to Protect Life or Safety

Some programs are available to people no matter what their immigration status is. Non-cash assistance and services funded by the below HUD programs are **available to individuals and families regardless of immigration status because they are considered “necessary to protect life or safety.”** This is true as long as the regulations of the program do not require the provider to provide the assistance based on your income or resources. These programs are open to all people regardless of the language you speak. Examples of such assistance and services include:

- Emergency shelter;^{xix}
- Street Outreach Services;^{xx}
- Safe Haven;^{xxi}
- Rapid Re-housing;^{xxii}
- Transitional housing funded by the federal government (for example, HUD, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)) where the transitional housing program is not required by regulation to provide the rental assistance payments based on the program participant’s income;^{xxiii}
- Short-term housing assistance for people experiencing homelessness or survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, or for runaway, abused, or abandoned children;
- Short-term, non-cash, emergency disaster relief;
- Crisis counseling and intervention programs;
- Services and assistance relating to child protection, adult protective services, violence and abuse prevention, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or other criminal activity; or treatment of mental illness or substance abuse;

- Programs, services, or assistance to help individuals during periods of heat, cold, or other adverse weather conditions; and
- Soup kitchens, community food banks, senior nutrition programs such as meals on wheels, and other such community nutritional services for persons requiring special assistance.

Type of assistance	HUD program information
Emergency shelter, rental assistance, low-rent housing, housing-related services, security deposits, utility assistance	HOME-ARP Program To learn about this program, see: www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/home-arp
	To ask about assistance in your area, please contact the HOME Program administrator for your state or local government using your internet search engine or https://www.hud.gov/states/
Emergency shelter, short- and medium-term rental assistance, housing-related services, security deposits, utility assistance	Emergency Solutions Grants Program ^{xxiv} To learn about this program, see: www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/esg
	To ask about assistance in your area, please contact your local Continuum of Care or the ESG Program administrator for your state or local government, using your internet search engine or www.hud.gov/findshelter or www.hud.gov/states/
Rental assistance, transitional housing, low-rent housing, housing-related services, security deposits	Continuum of Care Program ^{xxv} To learn about this program, see: www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc
	To ask about assistance in your area, please contact your local Continuum of Care (see www.hud.gov/topics/homelessness/localassist)
Housing-related services, emergency shelter, security deposits, utility assistance, homebuyer assistance	Community Development Block Grant Program To learn about this program, see: www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg
	Available assistance varies by grantee. Contact your local or state CDBG grant administrator to find out what housing, homebuyer, and public services may be provided with CDBG funds in your community. Points of contact for local and state CDBG grant administrators are typically available through an internet search or by searching the local or state government website.

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- i 42 U.S.C. § 1436a(a) includes additional eligible categories that do not apply to Afghan arrivals.
- ii 42 U.S.C. § 1436a(a)(1); 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(20).
- iii Special Immigrant Lawful Permanent Resident refers to Afghans granted such status under either Section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, Pub. L. 109-163, 119 Stat. 3136, 3443 (January 6, 2006) or the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, Title VI of Pub. L. 111-8, 123 Stat. 524, 807 (March 11, 2009), as amended (8 U.S.C. § 1101 note).
- iv 42 U.S.C. § 1436a(a)(3); 8 U.S.C. § 1158.
- v 42 U.S.C. § 1436a(a)(3); 8 U.S.C. § 1157; 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(42).
- vi 42 U.S.C. § 1436a(a)(4); 8 U.S.C. § 1612(a); 8 U.S.C. § 1641(b). Individuals are paroled into the United States on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. See 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5).
- vii Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. No. 117-43, § 2502, 135 Stat. 377, 377-378 (2021). This law gives Afghan parolees on or after July 31, 2021 the same access to benefits as refugees. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5305/text>.
- viii 42 U.S.C. § 1436a(a)(5); 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(3).
- ix 8 U.S.C. § 1641(c)(4); 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(T); 22 U.S.C. § 7105(b)(1)(A).
- x See <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/victim-assistance/certification>
- xi See <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/victim-assistance/child-eligibility-letters>
- xii 22 U.S.C. § 7105(b)(1)(A). Family members of individuals who are victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons that are derivative T nonimmigrants (T-2 through T-6 nonimmigrants) are immediately eligible for benefits and services to the same extent as refugees. They do not need a certification or eligibility letter from HHS.
- xiii <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/fact-sheets/SAVERecordsFastFactsforBenefitApplicants.pdf>
- xiv <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghans>
- xv <https://www.uscis.gov/save/whats-new>
- xvi <https://www.uscis.gov/>
- xvii <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/contact-us>
- xviii <https://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter>
- xix <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PRWORA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- xx <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PRWORA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- xxi <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PRWORA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- xxii <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PRWORA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- xxiii <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PRWORA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- xxiv Some projects funded by the Emergency Solutions Grants program may have immigration status requirements. For more information, see this HUD fact sheet: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PRWORA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- xxv Some projects funded by the Continuum of Care program may have immigration status requirements. For more information, see this HUD fact sheet: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PRWORA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>