

.09 Special Immigrant Visa Holder

REVISION 49
(01/01/21 – 12/31/21)

Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders are individuals who enter the U.S. under a special visa issued by USCIS to Iraqi and Afghani citizens. These visas entitle the noncitizen to the same benefits and services as [refugees](#).

Afghan SIVs with the SQ and SI Class of Admission (COA) codes meet the immigration status requirement for NA and CA benefits. When all other eligibility requirements are met, these participants are eligible for NA and CA benefits indefinitely without a waiting period.

Afghan SIVs with the SQ and SI COA codes have one of the following immigration statuses:

- Special immigrant Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)
- Special immigrant parolee

The special immigrant LPRs generally have foreign passports with a Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection stamp admitting them with an SQ1, SQ2, or SQ3 COA. However, some of the new Afghan special immigrant LPR arrivals may not have a physical immigrant visa in their passport and may not have a temporary Form I-551 stamp.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is also issuing a Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card, to these special immigrant LPRs. In addition, regardless of the documentation presented, the [Verified Legal Presence \(VLP\)](#) in HEAplus can provide initial verification of the special immigrant LPRs except those whose case involves something unusual that may require additional verification.

NOTE When additional verification is needed regarding the immigration status for the Afghan special immigrant LPRs, elevate the case to the Policy Support Team (PST) following the [Request for Policy Clarification or Field Inquiry](#) elevation process.

Special immigrant parolees have a separate, printed page on Customs and Border Protection letterhead with their Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record. The printed page contains information including the following notation, and is signed and dated by a USCIS officer:

Special Immigrant Status (SQ/SI) Parolee
Sec 602(b)(1) AAPA / Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006
Date _____ USCIS officer: _____

USCIS is issuing these special immigrant parolees a Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document, with a C11 parolee category. For these individuals, the [Verified Legal Presence \(VLP\)](#) in HEAplus can provide an initial verification response of Parolee with an SQ4 or SQ5 COA unless there is something unusual about the case that may require additional verification.

NOTE When additional verification is needed regarding the immigration status for the special immigrant parolees, elevate the case to the Policy Support Team (PST) following the [Request for Policy Clarification or Field Inquiry](#) elevation process.

Afghan noncitizens admitted as humanitarian parolees do not meet the immigration requirements without a waiting period and are not immediately eligible for NA and CA benefits.

Humanitarian parolees are only eligible to receive benefits if they have been paroled into the U.S. under Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) for at least one year and if they meet an additional condition such as the five-year waiting period or [forty qualifying quarters](#) of work.

NOTE Children under age 18 and individuals receiving benefits or assistance for blindness or disability, who have been paroled into the U.S. for at least one year, are not subject to a waiting period and are eligible for NA and CA.

The humanitarian parolees may receive assistance such as Reception and Placement incentives from the Afghanistan Placement Assistance Program (APA).

Afghan immigrants entering Arizona may contact a Voluntary Agency (VOLAG). When the VOLAG determines that a participant may be eligible for FAA assistance, VOLAG staff assist the participant in completing the official FAA application.

All Afghan non-citizen applications for FAA assistance during their first eight months in the U.S. must be processed at designated

Refugee Offices.

Afghan non-citizen's paper applications may be turned in at an FAA office other than a specified FAA Refugee office or submitted through HEAplus. When this occurs, during their first eight months in the U.S, transfer the application to the appropriate FAA Refugee office within one workday and complete one of the following:

- Notify the FAA Refugee Unit via an email at FAARefugeUnit@azdes.gov
- Upload the paper application to OnBase
- Fax the paper application to (623) 931-5676

NOTE When faxing documents containing confidential information use the Fax Cover Sheet (DES-1078A) form.

- Change the site code on the CARC screen in AZTECS to one of the following when the case is already keyed:
285 - Applications received in Pima County
169 - Applications received in all other counties.