

What's Changed on 09/13/2021

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Change: New Standard Medical Deduction (SMD) of \$160

Reminder: Afghan Special Immigrants' Program Eligibility

General Information: Forms Update

This page notifies staff and the public of changes to the Cash and Nutrition Assistance Policy (CNAP) Manual regarding policy, procedures, and forms. Reminders and general information may also be displayed on this page. Prior What's Changed pages are listed in [FAA6.R01](#) of the CNAP Manual.

The above list summarizes the information on this page. Within the CNAP Manual, each item listed above links to screens below. This page must be discussed during the weekly [policy dissemination](#) in every office which determines eligibility, reviews eligibility, or answers questions regarding eligibility. ([Current week's FAA-1215A](#))

Change: New Standard Medical Deduction (SMD) of \$160

EFFECTIVE DATE: With all determinations completed for the benefit month of 10/2021 and ongoing

The reason for this change is to introduce the new Standard Medical Deduction (SMD) project for households with elderly participants or participants with a disability.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), SMD project, allows households with elderly participants or participants with a disability to deduct unreimbursed medical expenses over \$35 per month from their income. This deduction potentially qualifies households for more NA benefits.

AZTECS deducts a standard amount of \$160 minus the initial \$35 disregard, for a total of \$125 from all eligible households that demonstrate medical expenses over \$35 a month. The SMD benefits both households and our agencies, as it simplifies the process for both parties, and encourages households to provide evidence of expenses.

Households can choose the SMD amount or can provide additional verification of actual expenses exceeding the SMD amount of \$160. When selecting the SMD amount, households must verify expenses of more than \$35. When the household claims expenses of more than \$160, the household must verify all expenses totaling over \$160.

FAA Staff must be aware of the need to provide each eligible household with enough information about the SMD project, its benefits, and the option of choosing to use an actual medical expense deduction when it is to their advantage.

Policy reference(s) revised due to this change:

FAA4.K04C – [NA Medical Expenses](#)

[Prior Policy](#)

Removed the Budgeting Expenses link because it goes to various expenses. Added links to new examples. Added the SMD of \$160 and when the expenses should be verified. (Effective with all determinations completed for the benefit month of 10/2021 and ongoing)

FAA4.K04C.01 – [Participants Eligible for NA Medical Expenses](#)

[Prior Policy](#)

Added that households with elderly participants or participants with a disability may receive the SMD or actual medical expenses. Added when the medical expenses need to be verified. (Effective with all determinations completed for the benefit month of 10/2021 and ongoing)

FAA4.K11A.03 – [NA Medical Expense Verification](#)

[Prior Policy](#)

Updated the title from medical expense verification and removed the CA Exception. Added when medical expenses must be verified. (Effective with all determinations completed for the benefit month of 10/2021 and ongoing)

FAA4.K13A – [NA Medical Expense Changes](#)

[Prior Policy](#)

Updated the policy for renewals and changes. Added that changes in medical expenses that are reported during an NA approval period or at renewal must be verified only when the medical expense is questionable or unclear. (Effective with all determinations completed for the benefit month of 10/2021 and ongoing)

FAA6.J04D – [Standard Medical Deduction Amount](#)

New Policy

Added new policy for the Standard Medical Deduction. (Effective with all determinations completed for the benefit month of 10/2021 and ongoing)

Reminder: Afghan Special Immigrants' Program Eligibility

An [Urgent Bulletin](#) was emailed on 09/09/2021 to inform staff that some Afghan nationals arriving in the United States under the Operation Allies Refuge are potentially eligible for Nutrition Assistance (NA) and Cash Assistance (CA) benefits.

Afghan nationals may be admitted as Special immigrant Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR), Special immigrant parolees, or humanitarian parolees.

Afghan non-citizens with the SQ and SI Class of Admission (COA) codes have one of the following immigration statuses:

- Special immigrant LPR
- Special immigrant parolee

Afghan non-citizens with the SQ and SI 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 non-citizens admitted as humanitarian parolees do not meet the immigration requirements for NA and CA benefits without a waiting period.

Special Immigrant LPR:

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 elevation process at FAA1.A02C Request for Policy Clarification or Field Inquiry in the Cash and Nutrition Assistance Policy (CNAP) Manual.

Special Immigrant Parolee:

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 elevation process at FAA1.A02C Request for Policy Clarification or Field Inquiry in the CNAP Manual.

Humanitarian Parolee:

Afghan nationals arriving as humanitarian parolees 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).

Processing Applications of Afghan Non-Citizens:

All Afghan non-citizen applications for FAA assistance during their first eight months in the U.S. must be processed at designated Refugee Offices, site codes 169 and 285.

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.

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

General Information: Forms Update

Changes to Forms – 09/04/2021 through 09/10/2021

As a reminder, it is important not to save documents on your desktop or a folder. It is better to use the form you need directly from the [Document Center](#). Forms are frequently updated and sometimes the current form must be used for programming purposes.

Revised forms:

- No forms were revised during the specified period

Newly created forms:

- No forms were created during the specified period

Revised Marketing Materials (Posters, Pamphlets, Flyers):

- No revisions to marketing materials were made during the specified period

Forms Archived from the Document Center

- No forms were archived from the Document Center