Refugee Welcome Collective

Benefits and Programs for Eligible Cuban/Haitian Entrants

Cuban or Haitians who have entered the U.S. may be eligible for Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) programs as well as federal mainstream benefits.

Cuban or Haitian Entrants are eligible for the below programs and benefits if they:

- Arrive through the Biden Humanitarian Parole Program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelan (CHNV).
- Are granted humanitarian parole at the U.S. border.
- Are in removal proceedings and do not have a final removal order.
- Have a pending application for asylum.

Benefits and Programs	Cuban/Haitian Entrants
Reception and Placement (R&P) Program Immediate resettlement assistance for newly arrived refugees, SIVs, and Amerasians resettled through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.	✗
Eligible to apply for work authorization if they: • Arrive through the CHNV parole program with unexpired parole. • Are granted (unexpired) humanitarian parole at the U.S. border. • Have a pending application for asylum. • Have Temporary Protected Status (TPS).	✓
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Time-limited cash assistance and other support services for qualifying low-income individuals with dependent children.	✓
Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)* Similar program to TANF for those who do not qualify for TANF (e.g., single adults, and adult couples without children).	✓
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance to low-income individuals who are elderly, blind, or disabled.	✓
Health insurance through Medicaid *(the exact time for Medicaid health insurance varies by state)*	✓
Medical Assistance: Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)* Those not eligible for Medicaid may receive up to 12 months of health insurance known as RMA.	✓
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Money to purchase specific types of foods for qualifying low-income individuals.	✓
Post-arrival medical screenings* Government-funded health screenings may be available through the state, county, or local health department. Contact your State Refugee Health Coordinator for more information in your area.	✓
Preferred Communities (PC) Program** The PC program offers 90-day Intake, Assessment, and Referral Case Management to support newly arriving Cuban and Haitian entrants to help access basic benefits, services, and Intensive Case Management to supports ORR-eligible populations with challenging needs that require special attention, including those with serious medical conditions, women at risk, and elderly refugees.	✓
Specialized Programs** Such as health services, technical assistance for small business start-ups, financial savings, youth mentoring, or other targeted support programs.	✓
Refugee Support Services (RSS)** Provides employment services and other services to address barriers to employment.	✓
*Eligible to apply for these ORR funded benefits from up to 12 months from the date the individual entered into Cuban/Haitian Entrant status. **ORR funded services that a Cuban/Haitian Entrant is eligible to participate in for up to 5 years from the date they first entered into Cuban/Haitian Entrant status.	

X This ORR Fact Sheet provides more information about ORR benefits and services.

X For a list of documents proving eligible status for ORR program, see ORR Policy Letter 16-01.

Refugee Welcome Collective is a project of CWS under an agreement paid for by the U.S. Department of State.