

Factsheet for Haitian Entrants

Over the past five decades, Haitian migrants have been treated inconsistently under U.S. immigration policy. However, some Haitian migrants are still eligible for certain benefits and services under a special category, which was created for them and Cuban migrants. If a Haitian migrant meets the definition of a Cuban and Haitian entrant, he or she is eligible for benefits and services to the same extent as refugees, which means they receive priority for services unlike any other immigrant category.



Cuban and Haitian Entrant Classification and Documentation

Pursuant to [45 CFR § 401.2](#), a Cuban/Haitian Entrant is:

- Anyone granted parole status as a Cuban/Haitian Entrant (status pending) or granted any other special status subsequently established under the immigration laws for nationals of Cuba or Haiti, regardless of the status of the individual at the time assistance or services are provided; and
- Any other national of Cuba or Haiti:
 - Who,
 - Was paroled into the United States and has not acquired any other status under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
 - Is the subject of exclusion or deportation proceedings under the Immigration and Nationality Act; or
 - Has an application for asylum pending with the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and
 - With respect to whom a final, non-appealable, and legally enforceable order of deportation or exclusion has not been entered.

The documentation and specific codes can be confusing when attempting to determine someone’s eligibility for benefits and services. Oftentimes, in addition to reviewing documentation, eligibility determinations must be verified by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) via the EOIR case status hotline, or agencies connected to the DHS SAVE system can follow standard procedures to confirm determination.

A full list of specific codes/documentation and procedures can be found [here](#).

Benefits and Services

Cuban and Haitian entrants are eligible for benefits and services to the same extent as refugees. This means that they are eligible for **both** refugee benefits through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), and federal mainstream benefits, provided they meet other eligibility criteria.

Mainstream federal benefits include, among others:

- Supplemental Security Income
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

ORR benefits include:

Up to 8 months of:

- Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)
- [Refugee Medical Assistance](#) (RMA)
- [Matching Grant Program](#) (MG)

Up to 5 years of:

- [Refugee Support Services](#) (RSS) related to employment assistance.

Specialized programs such as youth mentoring, technical assistance for small business start-ups etc.