



Date: November 12, 2024

DMS Operations Memo 24-31

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff

Affected Programs:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus	<input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FoodShare	<input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid	
<input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare	

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Division of Medicaid Services

Health Care and FoodShare Eligibility Policy for New Categories of Immigrants

CROSS REFERENCE

- BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, [Section 4.3.3 Immigrants Eligible for BadgerCare Plus](#)
- Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, [Section 7.3.3 Immigrants Eligible for Medicaid](#)
- FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 3.12.1.1 Qualified Immigrant, or Immigration Status](#)
- Operations Memo 23-30, [“New Class of Admission Codes for Parolees From Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela, and Nicaragua to Establish Applicants’ Qualifying Immigration Status for Health Care Programs and FoodShare”](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediately

PURPOSE

The Department of Homeland Security created ten new visa classes of admission (COAs) for immigration processing purposes. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) utilizes COA codes from the Department of Homeland Security to determine an applicant’s immigration status for Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and FoodShare eligibility. This memo announces the categories of COAs and how they correspond to existing Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and FoodShare non-citizen eligibility policies.

BACKGROUND

The United States Department of Homeland Security recently made immigration and parolee policy changes. In the context of immigration, a parolee is someone who is granted permission to enter and stay in the US temporarily, usually for urgent humanitarian reasons. The changes include one new COA for humanitarian parolees known as Western Hemisphere Parolees effective May 13, 2024, three additional COAs for Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrants effective April 19, 2024, and six new COAs for special immigrants who were employees of the U.S. government abroad and their immediate family members effective March 26, 2024.

POLICY

WESTERN HEMISPHERE PAROLEES

Western Hemisphere Parolees are subject to the same eligibility considerations as all humanitarian parolees.

The new COA code for Western Hemisphere Parolees is WHP.

All WHP applicants whose country of origin is Cuba or Haiti are considered Cuban Haitian Entrants (CHE). Applicants are subject to the same eligibility considerations as all other Cuban Haitian entrants.

AFGHAN AND IRAQI SPECIAL IMMIGRANT LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS

These applicants are treated as refugees for benefit eligibility determinations.

The new COAs for Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrants are as follows:

- SW1: Surviving spouse or child of an SQ1-eligible person.
- SW2: Current spouse of SW1.
- SW3: Unmarried child of SW1.

NEW SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA CLASSES OF ADMISSION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ABROAD

These applicants are lawful permanent residents (LPRs). These applicants are subject to the same eligibility considerations as all other lawful permanent residents.

The new COAs for Employees of the U.S. Government Abroad are as follows:

- GV1: USG SIV Employee—2024 NDAA (Arrival)
- GV2: Spouse of GV1 (Arrival)
- GV3: Child of GV1 (Arrival)
- GV6: USG SIV Employee—2024 NDAA (Adjustment)
- GV7: Spouse of GV6 (Adjustment)
- GV8: Child of GV6 (Adjustment)

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CONTACTS

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