

**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors, Temporary Assistance Directors, Legal Staff, Fair Hearing Staff, Staff Development Coordinators

**FROM:** Judith Arnold, Director  
Division of Coverage and Enrollment

**SUBJECT:** Change in Duration of Initial Medicaid Eligibility for Afghan Special Immigrants from Six to Eight Months

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 11, 2009

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The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to advise Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) of a change in the initial Medicaid eligibility period for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holder. During their initial eligibility period, these Special immigrants are treated as refugees for the purpose of eligibility for federal means tested public benefits, including Medicaid.

GIS 08 MA/012 informed districts that the initial eligibility period for the SIV holder was six months. The 2009 Federal Appropriations Act, enacted on 03/11/09, lengthened the initial Medicaid eligibility period for the Afghan refugee from six months to eight months.

Therefore, effective 03/11/09, the initial period of eligibility has been lengthened from six months to eight months for Afghan Special Immigrants. Districts must extend coverage, as appropriate, for any Afghan Special Immigrant currently in their initial six month eligibility period. To determine the new eligibility period of an Afghan SIV holder, the eligibility worker must identify the date of entry or the date of adjustment of status for the SIV holder and count forward eight months to find the new date on which eligibility expires.

NOTE: The chart below describes the visa category/code that will be stamped in the Afghan passport or appear on the DHS I-551-Lawful Permanent Resident Card (i.e., "green card").

The following documents will confirm both status and date of entry for Afghan Special Immigrants:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Documentation</u>
Principal Applicant Afghan Special Immigrant	Afghan Passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individual has been admitted under Immigrant Visa (IV) Category SI1
Spouse of Principal Applicant Afghan Special Immigrant	Afghan passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individual has been admitted under Immigrant Visa (IV) Category SI2
Unmarried Child Under 21 Years of Age of Afghan Special Immigrant	Afghan passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individual has been admitted under Immigrant Visa (IV) Category SI3
Principal Applicant Afghan Special Immigrant Principal Adjusting Status in the U.S.	DHS Form I-551 ("green card") showing Afghan nationality or Afghan Passport with an Immigrant Visa (IV) code of SI6
Spouse of Principal Applicant Afghan Special Immigrant in SI6 Category	DHS Form I-551 ("green card") showing Afghan nationality or Afghan passport with an Immigrant Visa (IV) code of SI7
Unmarried Child Under 21 Years of Age of Afghan Special Immigrant in SI6 Category	DHS Form I-551 ("green card") showing Afghan Nationality or Afghan passport with an Immigrant Visa (IV) code of SI9