

## **Cash Eligibility and Effective Date for Afghani & Iraqi Special Immigrants**

### **Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Diversionary Work Program (DWP)**

Individuals and family members granted Iraqi and Afghan special immigrant status are considered Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) by law. If they apply, their eligibility for MFIP and DWP depends upon their date of arrival in the U.S. as Iraqi or Afghan special immigrants and/or adjustment to that status from a different immigration status (e.g., paroled into the country for less than a year, etc.).

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Those who arrived in the U.S. within the last 12 months may be eligible for the state-funded Family Stabilization Services (FSS) under the FSS “Newly Arrived Immigrant” criteria if they meet all the other eligibility requirements of MFIP/DWP programs.
- Those who arrived in the U.S. as Afghan or Iraqi special immigrants between January 2006 and April 2007 should meet appropriate TANF citizenship and immigrant eligibility criteria. If found eligible, they may be eligible for state-funded cash and food like all other LPRs. It should be noted that the FSS “Newly Arrived Immigrant” criteria does not apply in such cases because they would exceed the 12 months requirement.

**Sponsor Deeming** - MFIP/DWP sponsor deeming rules do not apply to Iraqi and Afghan special immigrants LPR's.

**Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA):** Single persons and married couples without children who are Iraqi special immigrants would be eligible for RCA for the eight months. Single persons and married couples without minor children who are Afghani special immigrants would only be eligible for RCA for six months. (Note: On the Cash Review Date on STAT/REVIEW enter the first of the 9<sup>th</sup> month for Iraqi special immigrants, and the first of the 7<sup>th</sup> month for Afghani special immigrants to ensure that the RCA will auto close correctly.) After RCA eligibility ends, determine if the participant is eligible for another cash program.

**General Assistance (GA):** Generally there is no eligibility for GA during the eight or six month period of special eligibility for MFIP or RCA because the immigrant would be otherwise provided for. A possible exception would be for persons who fit the GA ESL / high school student eligibility category.

After the eight or six month period ends, the immigrant may be converted to state funded GA provided he or she meets all the usual GA eligibility requirements such as eligibility category, income and resources, and ineligibility for other programs such as MFIP.

**Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA):** If at any point the immigrant becomes eligible for SSI, he or she could be eligible for MSA depending on the usual MSA living arrangement and payment standards.