



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: # 09-28

Effective Date: IMMEDIATELY

Issuance Date: March 16, 2009

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF
HEALTH OFFICERS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: KEVIN MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA *Kevin McGuire*
CHERYL A. CAMILLO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHM/HOES *Cheryl A. Camillo***

**RE: EXTENSION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FOR AFGHANI AND
IRAQI SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: ALL PROGRAMS

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Action Transmittal 08-30, issued April 28, 2008, described the special immigrant status for certain Iraqis and Afghani immigrants beyond their status as a legal permanent resident (LPR). Individuals and family members granted this special immigration status are eligible for resettlement assistance, the Food Supplement Program (FSP), Temporary Cash Assistance, Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance on the same basis as refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), except this period of special eligibility cannot exceed 6 months from the date of entry into the United States for Afghanis or 8 months from date of entry for Iraqis.

After this 6 or 8 month period, the immigrant is not eligible for benefits on the same basis as a refugee, but since they are legal permanent residents (LPR), they are qualified immigrants. The case manager must determine the eligibility of recipients beyond the 6 or 8 month period, based on each program's policy.

Action transmittal 08-30 limited the special status through September 30, 2008.

ACTION REQUIRED:

The Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 extends the appropriations for Afghanis from September 2008 through September 30, 2009. 2008 legislation extended the period for special immigrant status for Iraqis until September 30, 2012.

ACTION DUE:

The policy is effective upon receipt of this action transmittal. Restore benefits to households that have been denied prior to receipt of this transmittal based on immigration status.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct FSP policy questions to Rick McClendon at 410 767-7307. For TCA and RCA questions contact Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333. For MA policy questions, contact the DHMH Division of Eligibility Policy and MCHP at 410-767-1463 or 1-800-492-5231 (select option 2 and request extension 1463).

cc: DHR Executive Staff
DHMH Executive Staff
FIA Management Staff
DHMH Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk