



**HIAS ASYLEE
OUTREACH PROJECT**

HIAS

HAVE YOU RECEIVED A GRANT OF ASYLUM?

If so, you may wish to do the following:

1. **Apply for Benefits.**

As an asylee, you may be eligible to receive benefits including health insurance, help finding a job, English classes, and more. **Applying for and receiving these benefits will not affect your status as an asylee.** You have a limited time to apply for these benefits after the date you received asylum. Various agencies provide benefits to asylees. To make an appointment with an office near you, or to learn more, if you are in Maryland, **please contact the Maryland Asylee Outreach Project: (240) 284-3306 or asyleeoutreach@hias.org**. If you are in another state, go to www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/map/find-resources-and-contacts-your-state to contact a resettlement agency near you.

2. **Obtain more Documents.**

You may immediately apply for an unrestricted Social Security card at any Social Security Office. For more information, visit www.ssa.gov or call 1-800-772-1213. Also, although you have the authorization to work in the United States as long as you remain in asylum status, you may wish to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD; also known as a work permit). To learn more, visit www.uscis.gov/i-765. Lastly, you may need a Form I-94 to receive certain benefits. To make an appointment to receive one, call USCIS (800-375-5283), explain that you have received asylum, and ask for an InfoPass appointment.

3. **If possible, apply for asylum for your family members.**

You may request derivative asylum status for your spouse and children. You must have been married prior to the date you received asylum, and your child/children must have been less than 21 years of age when you submitted your asylum application. You have two years from the date you received a grant of asylum to apply for your family members to join you as asylees. For more information, visit www.uscis.gov/i-730.

4. **Apply for Legal Permanent Residency.**

After you have been physically present in the United States for one year following the date you received asylum, you may apply for Legal Permanent Residency (a Green Card). Five years after the residency start date listed on your Green Card, you may apply for U.S. citizenship. To learn more, speak with an immigration attorney or visit www.uscis.gov/i-485.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT ASYLEEOUTREACH.ORG/EVENTS TO
ATTEND AN UPCOMING ONLINE NATIONAL ASYLEE BENEFITS ORIENTATION

Follow us on Facebook at [@asyleeoutreach](https://www.facebook.com/asyleeoutreach)



Attend an online National Asylee Benefits Orientation

The HIAS Asylee Outreach Project holds post-asylum grant orientation webinars every other month throughout the year.

How to Attend Online

Open nationwide to asylees, attorneys, and any others interested in critical post-asylum grant next steps.

To register for an upcoming orientation, scan the QR code or visit asyleeoutreach.org/events/

Or

Watch via Facebook:
facebook.com/asyleeoutreach



Have questions? Contact asyleeoutreach@hias.org

Post-Asylum Grant Guide for Asylees



A Guide by the



**ASYLEE
OUTREACH
PROJECT**

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Overview of Next Steps

As an asylee, you are now eligible for a range of benefits and services. This guide includes helpful information that can help you navigate your next steps. Now that you have received asylum, you may want to pursue the following:

- 1. Apply for Benefits.** As an asylee, you may be eligible to receive benefits including health insurance, help finding a job, English classes, and more. Applying for and receiving these benefits will not affect your status as an asylee. You have a limited time to apply for these benefits after the date you received asylum. Various agencies provide benefits to asylees. If you are an asylee in Maryland, to learn more, please contact the Asylee Outreach Project: (240) 284-3306. If you are outside of Maryland, please contact a local resettlement agency near you (see page 11 for list).
- 2. Obtain Additional Documents.** You may immediately apply for an unrestricted Social Security card at any Social Security Office. For more information, visit ssa.gov or call 1-800-772-1213. Although you have automatic authorization to work in the United States as an asylee, you may also wish to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), also known as a work permit. To learn more, visit uscis.gov/i-765. Lastly, you will need a Form I-94 to receive certain benefits. Please see our I-94 guide on page 6 to find out how to obtain one.
- 3. If possible, apply for asylum for your family members.** You may request derivative asylum status for your spouse and children. You must have been married prior to the date you received asylum, and your child/children must have been less than 21 years of age when you submitted your asylum application. You have two years from the date you received a grant of asylum to apply for your family members to join you as asylees. For more information, visit uscis.gov/i-730.
- 4. Apply for legal permanent residency.** After you have been physically present in the United States for one year following the date you received asylum, you may apply for Legal Permanent Residency (a Green Card). Five years after the residency start date listed on your Green Card, you may apply for U.S. citizenship. To learn more, visit uscis.gov/i-485.

Important Dates to Know



1 Year

following the date you received asylum, you may apply for Permanent Residency

2 Years

after granted asylum is the deadline to file paperwork for your spouse and eligible children to join you as asylees




5 Years

after the residency start date listed on your Green Card, you may apply for U.S. citizenship

Your Asylum Grant Documents

If you received a grant of asylum through an Asylum Office, you received an Asylum Approval Letter and I-94.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
75 Hawthorne Street
7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-0000

 U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Date:

RE:

Asylum Approval

Dr Mr/Ms/Mrs.

As of January 01, 2022, you have been granted asylum in the United States pursuant to section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Your derivative family member(s) listed above — who are present in the United States, who were included in your asylum application, and for whom you have established a qualifying relationship — are granted derivative asylum. Enclosed with this letter you will find a completed Form I-94, *Arrival-Departure Record*, for you and each of your derivative family members listed above. Please retain this document.

Asylum is authorized for an indefinite period, but asylum status does not give you the right to remain permanently in the United States. Asylum status may be terminated pursuant to section 208(c)(2) of the INA if you no longer have a well-founded fear of persecution because of a fundamental change in circumstances, you have obtained protection from another country, or you have committed certain crimes or engaged in other activity that makes you ineligible to retain asylum status in the United States.

Now that you are an asylee, you may apply for certain benefits listed below. You are responsible for complying with applicable laws and regulations explained in this letter. In addition to your Form I-94, *Arrival-Departure Record*, we recommend that you retain the original of this letter as proof of your status and that you submit copies of this letter when applying for any of the benefits or services listed below.

You may obtain any of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) forms mentioned in this letter on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov, through the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283, or at a local USCIS office.

Benefits

1. Employment Authorization

You are authorized to work in the United States for as long as you remain in asylum status. Your derivative


RFGM November 2015 www.uscis.gov

When you received asylum, you were sent an **Asylum Approval Letter** from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (shown left). This letter is one of your proof of asylum documents.

Along with your Asylum Approval Letter, you also likely received an **Arrival/Departure Record (I-94)** with a stamp indicating asylum was granted (shown right). This card is your second proof of asylum document.

Departure Number
813106636 11

Department of Homeland Security
CBP I-94A (11/04)
Departure Record



Family Name DOE	Birth Date (Day Mo Yr) 01 01 50
First (Given) Name JOHN	
Country of Citizenship PAKISTAN	

20041122 US-VISIT 20050204 MULTIPLE

See Other Side **STAPLE HERE**

If you received your asylum grant *through an Immigration Court*, you received an Order of the Immigration Judge (OIJ) but likely did not receive an I-94.

As proof of your asylum decision, you received an **Order of the Immigration Judge** (shown on right).

To obtain an I-94, you will need to contact USCIS to schedule an appointment with your local USCIS field office. Please read the next page to follow our guide on making an I-94 appointment.



IMMIGRATION COURT
100 MONTGOMERY STREET, SUITE #800
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104

In the Matter of: _____ Case No: A#: _____
IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS

ORDER OF THE IMMIGRATION JUDGE

This is a summary of the oral decision entered on _____.
This memorandum is solely for the convenience of the parties. If the proceedings should be appealed or reopened, the oral decision will become the official opinion in the case.

☐ The respondent was ordered removed from the United States to _____.

☐ Respondent's application for voluntary departure was denied and respondent was ordered removed to _____ or in the alternative to _____.

☐ Respondent's application for voluntary departure was granted until _____ upon posting bond in the amount of \$ _____ with an alternative order of removal to _____.

☐ Respondent's application for asylum was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☐ withdrawn ☐ other ☐ moot.

☐ Respondent's application for restriction or withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☐ withdrawn ☐ other ☐ moot.

☐ Respondent's application for ☐ withholding of removal ☐ deferral of removal under Article II of the Convention Against Torture was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☐ withdrawn ☐ other ☐ moot.

☐ Respondent's application for cancellation of removal under section 240A(a) was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☐ withdrawn ☐ other.

☐ Respondent's application for a waiver under section _____ of the INA was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☐ withdrawn ☐ other.

☐ Respondent's application for adjustment of status under section _____ of the INA was ☐ granted ☐ denied ☐ withdrawn ☐ other.

☐ LPR Status is conditional under section 216 of the INA.

☐ Respondent shall be permanently ineligible for any benefits under the INA for having knowingly presented a frivolous asylum application, in violation of section 208(d)(6) of the INA.

☐ Respondent was advised of the limitation on discretionary relief for failure to appear as ordered in the Immigration Judge's oral decision.

☐ Proceedings were terminated.

☐ Notice to Respondents Granted Voluntary Departure is attached.

☐ Other: _____

Appeal: A / 1 / B
Appeal due by: _____

Date: _____

John Doe
Immigration Judge

Certificate of Service

This document was served by: Mail (M) Personal Service (P)
To: ☐ Alien ☐ Aliant c/o Custodial Officer ☐ Aliant's Attorney/Representative ☐ DHS
Date: _____ By: Court Staff / Immigration Judge
Attachments: ☐ EOIR-33 ☐ EOIR-28 ☐ Legal Services List ☐ Post-Order Instructions ☐ Other



Make sure to take care of your documents! They will be important for getting your social security card and additional forms of identification you may need. Do not write on them or laminate them. Make sure to keep them somewhere safe at home. You may need them for applying for permanent residency in the future.

I-94 Guide

The I-94 is a small, paper card that shows you have your asylum approved. It can be helpful for applying for a new Social Security card, demonstrating your asylum status to an employer, applying for benefits, and for other reasons as well. People who receive asylum through a USCIS Asylum Office usually receive the I-94 with their grant letter, but people who receive asylum through the immigration courts need to make an appointment to obtain the form. If you have an attorney, your attorney may be able to help you with this appointment. If you don't have an attorney, or if your attorney suggests that you should call directly, just follow these ten steps!

- 1. Have ready the following information/documents:** your A number (the 9 digit number on your immigration documents), your letter from the immigration judge (a photo is OK), and your email address. Also, have a pen and paper ready.
- 2. Call USCIS:** 1-800-375-5283 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.– 8:00 P.M. EST)
- 3. Say why you're calling.** When the automated voice asks why you are calling, say "InfoPass Appointment."
- 4. Talk to the USCIS representative.** After a brief wait (usually between 5-30 minutes), a USCIS representative will answer the phone. Explain to this person that you received asylum in an immigration court and now need to make an appointment for your Form I-94.
- 5. Provide your information.** The USCIS representative will likely ask for some identifying information, such as your full name, A number, country of origin, address, asylum grant date and date of birth. You should let them know if you have asylee family members who also need an I-94. There is a chance that the representative will ask you for your receipt number; you don't have this, which is OK. You may have to wait a few minutes while they look you up in the system.
- 6. If necessary, explain why you need the I-94.** Next, it's possible that the representative might ask you why you need the I-94. If they ask this, you can tell them you need it to apply for an unrestricted Social Security card, to show to an employer, or to receive benefits.
- 7. Prepare for a call back.** At this point, they should tell you that someone from USCIS will call you back in the coming days to finalize your appointment. You should write down the information they provide, including your article number and the USCIS phone number they mention.

- 8. Take the second call.** When the second person calls you back, you may need to provide your article number and other identifying information. This person should help you schedule your appointment. They will also likely ask you for your email address.
- 9. Get ready for your appointment.** Once your appointment is scheduled, USCIS will provide you with a confirmation code and PIN number, and they will email you a confirmation as well. Print this confirmation. If you do not receive an email with your confirmation code and PIN number, visit [this USCIS webpage](#) to view, and then print, your appointment notice.
- 10. Attend your USCIS appointment.** Please bring your appointment confirmation page, the letter you received from the Immigration Judge (the Order of the Immigration Judge), and other relevant documents (for example, a form of photo identification, a release order from ICE, etc.). If you live in Maryland, your appointment will be at the USCIS Baltimore Field Office (3701 Koppers Street, Baltimore MD 21227). If you live in a different state, you can use [this website](#) to locate the correct USCIS Field Office. Before you leave your appointment, please double check that your name is spelled correctly on the I-94 card!

Note: if you notice an error on your I-94, contact your nearest asylum office. If your nearest asylum office is the Arlington Asylum Office, you may contact ArlingtonAsylum@uscis.dhs.gov by email.

Additional Documents You May Need

Unrestricted Social Security Card

If you received a social security card, it may list a restriction such as “valid for work only with DHS authorization.” This is a restricted social security card (shown below). If you have a restricted social security card or if you do not have a social security card, you will need to contact the Social Security office nearest you to make an appointment to update to an unrestricted social security card. You can search for your local Social Security office here: secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp or call 1-800-772-1213.



To get your **Social Security card**, you will need:

1. an official government-issued identification document containing a photo (such as an unexpired foreign passport or driver's license)
2. your I-94
3. an Asylum Approval Letter or Order of the Immigration Judge (samples shown on pages 4-5).

Sometimes, people who work at the social security offices may be unaware that asylees qualify for a social security card and what documents they can provide to get one. For this reason, when you go in-person to the social security office, it may be helpful to take a printed copy of the information under “Refugees and Asylees” at ssa.gov/people/immigrants.

Employment Authorization Document (Work Permit)

As an asylee, you have automatic work authorization that does not expire, regardless of whether or not you have an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), also known as a work permit. While you do not need an EAD to work lawfully, you may prefer to have one to show to your employer and to make obtaining other documents, such as a social security card and driver's license, easier. Visit uscis.gov/i-765 to learn how to apply for one and consult an attorney for help applying for an EAD. Some employers may not know that asylees have automatic work authorization without a work permit. You can share the following document with them that explains asylees' right to work: justice.gov/crt/page/file/1132626/download.

If you do not currently have an **EAD**, you can show your employer:

1. your Form I-94
2. your Social Security Card
3. a valid photo ID

If you do have an EAD, you only need to present your EAD document and social security card.

Driver's License and State Identification (ID) Cards

The process to obtain a Driver's License or State ID card is different in each state. You will want to visit the website of your state's department or office of motor vehicles to view the list of required documents and to make an appointment. Generally, required documents include, but are not limited to: social security number, two proofs of residency, a proof of identity (such as an EAD), and often your I-94. Even if you do not want or need a driver's license, your state's office offers other non-driver identification cards for those who would like an additional form of identification.

Travel Documents

If you travel, DO NOT use your home country's passport. Instead, for travel you will need to apply for a **Refugee Travel Document** (shown on right) which is valid for one year.

Go to uscis.gov/i-131 to learn how to file for one. You will need to check whether the destination accepts this document for entry. It is important to note that **visiting your home country can risk your asylum status**, and hurt your chances of getting a green card or naturalizing.



TRAVEL DOCUMENT



Issued by
U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration Services

Asylee Benefits and Resources

Asylees are eligible for various benefits and resources. But remember: act quickly! Many benefits are only available to you for a certain amount of time, so reach out to your local resettlement agency as soon as possible. **Accessing benefits and resources will not harm your immigration status and it will not impact your ability to apply for and receive U.S. permanent residency and citizenship in the future.**

ORR-Funded Benefits

What sorts of benefits and resources are available for asylees? Asylees may be eligible for various benefits funded by the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) through local resettlement agencies, including:



Health screenings provide free medical check-ups for up to 3 months after the asylum granted date.



Medical Assistance provides health insurance coverage up to 8 months after the asylum granted date.



Cash Assistance can help pay your bills for up to 8 months after the asylum granted date, if you received asylum before 10/1/21 and meet eligibility requirements. You may receive cash assistance up to 12 months after your asylum grant if you received asylum on or after 10/1/21.



Employment support services and job training can help you find a job or upgrade to a better job for up to 5 years after the asylum granted date.



Education resources include free English classes and degree evaluations for up to 5 years after the asylum granted date.

Federal Public Benefits

Asylees may also apply for federal public benefits, ***eligibility for which is dependent upon income and household size***. Your resettlement agency may help apply for these or you may apply directly through your local department of social services. Examples of these benefits include:



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which provides food stamps for low-income households.



Medicaid which provides subsidized free or low-cost health insurance for low-income individuals and their families.



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a cash assistance program that provides supportive services like child assistance and employment services.

How do I Access Benefits and Resources?

If you are an asylee in Maryland, please contact the Asylee Outreach Project by phone at (240) 284-3306 or by email at asyleeoutreach@hias.org to be connected to benefits and services near you. Please see page 17 for more information.

If you are outside Maryland, please contact a resettlement agency near you to get started. If your state is not included in the list below, please visit [this website](#) to view a list of resettlement agencies in your area. When you contact one of these offices, please have at the ready an ID, a document proving that you have received asylum (Approval Letter or Order of the Immigration Judge), and your I-94, if you have one.

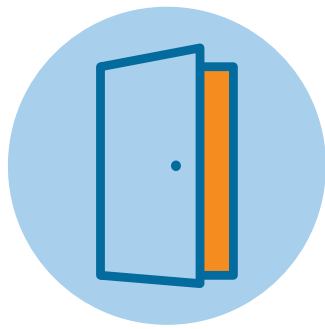
Contact Your Local Resettlement Agency

STATE	SERVICE PROVIDER	PHONE NUMBER	ADDRESS
Alabama	Catholic Social Services Refugee Program	(251) 432-2727	188 S. Florida St., P.O. Box 161229 Mobile, AL 36606
District of Columbia	Catholic Charities Refugee Service Center	(202) 266-3062	1018 Monroe St. NE Washington, D.C. 20017
Georgia	IRC Atlanta	(678) 636-8929	2305 Parklake Dr., Suite 100 Atlanta, GA 30345
	Inspiritus (Atlanta)	(678) 852-8591	230 Peachtree St. NW, Suite 1100 Atlanta, GA 30303
	Inspiritus (Savannah)	(912) 353-8875	401 Mall Blvd., Suite 201-F Savannah, GA 31405
	Migration and Refugee Services, Catholic Social Services, Inc.	(678) 222-3950	2305 Parklake Dr., Suite 150 Atlanta, GA 30345
	New American Pathways	(404) 299-6099x235	2300 Henderson Mill Rd. NE, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30345
	World Relief Atlanta	(404) 294-4352	655 Village Square Dr. Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Maryland	Ethiopian Community Development Council	(301) 562-7303	8121 Georgia Ave, Suite 800 Silver Spring, MD 20910
	International Rescue Committee, Silver Spring	(301) 562-8633	8719 Colesville Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20910
	Lutheran Social Services, National Capitol Area	(240) 714-4034	3799 East-West Hwy Hyattsville, MD 20782
	International Rescue Committee, Baltimore	(410) 327-1885	1900 N Howard St. Ste 200 Baltimore, MD 21218

STATE	SERVICE PROVIDER	PHONE NUMBER	ADDRESS
North Carolina	Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency	(704) 535-8803	5009 Monroe Rd., Suite 100 Charlotte, NC 28205
	Catholic Charities, Diocese of Charlotte	(704) 370-3262	1123 S. Church St. Charlotte, NC 28203
	Church World Service, Durham	(919) 680-4310	112 S. Duke St., Suite 4B Durham, NC 27701
	World Relief, Durham	(919) 286-3496	801 Gilbert St. Suite 209 Durham, NC 27701
	Church World Service, Greensboro	(336) 617-0381	620 N. Elm St., Suite 607 Greensboro, NC 27401
	North Carolina African Services Coalition	(336) 574-2677	122 N. Elm St., Suite 1010 Greensboro, NC 27401
	World Relief High Point	(336) 887-9007	155 Northpoint Ave., Suite 102 High Point, NC 27262
	Diocese of East Carolina - Interfaith Refugee Ministry	(252) 633-9009	1913 Trent Boulevard New Bern, NC 28560
	Lutheran Services Carolinas	(919) 832-2620	4020 Wake Forest Rd. Raleigh, NC 27609
	USCRI North Carolina	(919) 334-0072	3824 Barrett Dr., Suite 200 Raleigh, NC 27609
Pennsylvania	Catholic Charities, Erie	(814) 456-2091	329 W. Tenth St. Erie, PA 16502
	International Institute of Erie	(814) 452-3935	517 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504
	HIAS Pennsylvania	(215) 832-0900	600 Chestnut St., Suite 500B Philadelphia, PA 19106
	Acculturation for Justice Access and Peace Outreach	(412) 391-4985	2900 Bedford Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15219
	Jewish Family & Children's Services of Pittsburgh	(412) 904-5976	5743 Bartlett St. Pittsburgh, PA 15217
South Carolina	Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas	(803) 750-9917	1118 Union St. Columbia, SC 29212
	World Relief, Upstate South Carolina	(864) 729-8655	2510 Wade Hampton Blvd., Suite C4 Greenville, SC 29615

STATE	SERVICE PROVIDER	PHONE NUMBER	ADDRESS
Virginia	Catholic Charities, Arlington	(703) 524-2741	80 N. Glebe Rd. Arlington, VA 22203
	Catholic Charities, Arlington	(703) 524-2741	1101 Stafford Ave. Fredericksburg, VA 22401
	Catholic Charities, Arlington	(571) 292-2259	8247 Shoppers Square Manassas, VA 20111
	Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) of Arlington	(703) 685-0510	901 S. Highland St. Arlington VA, 22204
	IRC Charlottesville	(434) 979-7772	609 E. Market St., Suite 104 Charlottesville, VA 22902
	Lutheran Social Services, Falls Church	(703) 698-5026	8922 Little River Turnpike Fairfax, VA 22031
	Lutheran Social Services, Falls Church	(240) 619-9567	15008 Cloverdale Rd. Dale City, VA 22193
	CWS Harrisonburg	(540) 433-7942	250 E. Elizabeth St., Suite 109 Harrisonburg, VA 22802
	Commonwealth Catholic Charities	(757) 247-3600	12284 Warwick Blvd. Newport News, VA 23606
	Commonwealth Catholic Charities	(804) 545-6289	1512 Willow Lawn Dr., Suite A Richmond, VA 23230
	IRC Richmond	(804) 308-9144	8100 Three Chopt Rd., Suite 128 Richmond, VA 23229
	Commonwealth Catholic Charities	(540) 342-7561	820 Campbell Ave. SW Roanoke, VA 24016
West Virginia	Migration & Refugee Services	(304) 343-1036	1116 Kanawha Blvd. East Charleston, WV 25301

Obtaining U.S. Permanent Residency and Citizenship



Asylum



Permanent Residency



Citizenship

Following **one year** of being physically present in the United States after the date of your asylum grant, you may apply for Permanent Residency (also known as a Green Card) by submitting a Form I-485 and paying the required fee or requesting a fee waiver.

Five years after the residency start date listed on your Green Card, you may apply to become a U.S. citizen. If you are married to a U.S. citizen at the time you are granted your Green Card, you are eligible to apply for naturalization after **three years**. As a citizen, you gain the ability to vote, travel with a U.S. passport, and have eligibility for some federal government jobs.

If you are unable to afford an attorney, contact a free to low-cost legal service provider near you by searching the Immigration Advocates Network’s legal directory at immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory. There, organizations assisting with permanent residency and citizenship applications will list “adjustment of status” and “naturalization/citizenship” as areas of legal assistance. In some cases, your local resettlement agency may also be able to offer limited legal services for navigating these processes.

Additional Important Information

Are you planning on moving? If you move, you must notify USCIS within 10 days using the Form AR-11 and notify the U.S. Post Office within 30 days to update your mail delivery address. USCIS will not necessarily forward mail, including receipt notices or even green cards, even if you have changed your address with the U.S. Post Office. You should also notify your employer, your state's motor vehicles office, and the resettlement or social services agency helping you access services.

Are you, your son, or your husband with asylum status, a man between the ages of 18 and 25?

In the United States, all men aged 18-25 are required by law to register for the military's selective service, though they will most likely never have to serve. You can register online at sss.gov or at your local U.S. Post Office. Make sure to keep a copy of proof of registration.

Are you planning on traveling internationally? If you travel, do not use your home country passport. Instead, you will need to apply for a Refugee Travel Document (please see page 9). And remember—traveling to your home country could result in you losing your asylum status.

Remember to pay your taxes. Not only is paying taxes required by law, it also benefits you. By paying for taxes, you may qualify for stimulus checks, tax credits, and tax refunds. Your tax documents may also serve as a proof of your eligibility for different fee waivers. If you need help filing your taxes, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the U.S. agency responsible for collecting taxes, offers free tax help for taxpayers who qualify. You can learn more here: irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will accessing public benefits affect my immigration status or my applications for permanent residency and citizenship?

No. Applying for and receiving benefits will not affect your asylum status or your ability to file for permanent residency and citizenship.

I had a professional career prior to coming to the U.S. that I would like to resume, how do I do so?

Resettlement agencies offer degree evaluation services and can provide further guidance on re-credentialing programs. They also offer employment support services that can help you find a job or if you already are employed, a better job.

How can I get free or low-cost medical care as an asylee?

If you received your asylum grant less than 8 months ago, you may qualify for Refugee Medical Assistance which provides health insurance for asylees that are unable to access Medicaid. Contact your local resettlement agency to learn more. If you need immediate medical care and have been unable to access medical coverage, you can search for “sliding scale” care near you, meaning the clinic will work with you to pay only what you can afford. There also may be a limited number of free clinics near you, run by non-profit organizations.

You also may qualify for Medicaid in your state, which helps low-income individuals and their families pay for medical care. Call 211 to find the office closest to you and apply online on your state’s website. You can also search for additional affordable health care options here: [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). Children may also be eligible for Children’s Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) that provides no-cost or low-cost coverage.

I received my asylum grant some time ago and no longer qualify for cash assistance programs, but need financial assistance. What are my options?

If you are behind on your rent and utilities payments, you may qualify for rental assistance programs in your county of residence. Outside of rental assistance, you may be eligible for federal public benefit cash assistance programs which you may apply for with help from your resettlement agency or directly through your local department of social services.

I already received my asylum grant a while ago, am I still eligible for any resettlement agency services?

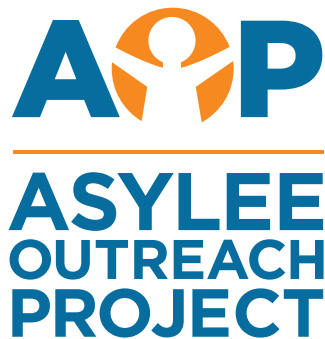
As long as you received your asylum grant less than five years ago, you may still be eligible for some programs, such as employment support services and English classes. Please see page 11 to find out how to contact your local resettlement agency to learn more.

Contact Us

The Asylee Outreach Project is an initiative to connect asylees and T visa holders to the benefits and resources available to them in the State of Maryland. The project also works to promote access to post-asylum grant information nationwide.

We are here to help! If you are a Maryland asylee or would like to refer a client who is a Maryland asylee, please contact us for additional information and to be connected to resources and benefits in Maryland. **Text, call, or WhatsApp (240) 284-3306 or email asyleeoutreach@hias.org to get in touch.**

For additional information, please visit our website, asyleeoutreach.org and follow us on Facebook at [@asyleeoutreach](https://www.facebook.com/asyleeoutreach). Visit asyleeoutreach.org/events/ to sign up for an upcoming **Asylee Benefits Orientation webinar**. The Asylee Outreach Project holds these events online every other month. These are **open nationwide** to asylees, attorneys, and any others interested in post-asylum grant next steps. We hope to see you there!



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asyleeoutreach@hias.org



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