



Date: November 14, 2023
Amended November 17, 2023

DMS Operations Memo 23-30

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 | |

From: Jonelle Brom, Bureau Director
Bureau of Eligibility Operations & Training
Division of Medicaid Services

Jori Mundy, Bureau Director
Bureau of Enrollment & Eligibility Policy
Division of Medicaid Services

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

CROSS REFERENCE

- BadgerCare Plus Handbook, [4.3 Immigrants](#) and [4.3.3.1 Qualifying Immigrants](#)
- Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, [7.3 Immigrants](#) and [7.3.3.1 Qualifying Immigrants](#)
- FoodShare Eligibility Handbook, [3.12.1 Citizenship and Immigration Status](#) and [3.12.1.1 Qualified Immigrant or Immigration Status](#).

EFFECTIVE DATES

- January 5, 2023 – Cuban Humanitarian Parolee (CHP), Haitian Humanitarian Parolee (HHP), Venezuelan Humanitarian Parolee (VHP), and Nicaraguan Humanitarian Parolee (NHP)
- September 11, 2023 – Cuban Family Reunification Parolee (RCU) and Haitian Family Reunification Parolee (RHT)

PURPOSE

This memo announces ~~four~~ **six** new humanitarian parolee Class of Admission (COA) codes: Cuban Humanitarian Parolee (CHP), Cuban Family Reunification Parolee (RCU), Haitian Humanitarian Parolee (HHP), **Haitian Family Reunification Parolee (RHT)**, Venezuelan Humanitarian Parolee (VHP),

and Nicaraguan Humanitarian Parolee (NHP) which are returned by the SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements) Program and the Federal Data Services Hub (FDSH). COA codes are used to help establish an applicant's immigration status for Medicaid, Badger Care Plus and FoodShare eligibility determinations.

BACKGROUND

In January 2023, the Department of Homeland Security added four new COA codes to reflect the arrival of immigrants to the United States through a new parole process for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans. This new process permits nationals of these countries and their immediate family members to be paroled on a case-by-case basis for up to two years. Existing policy classifies people with the immigration status of parolee, who are paroled into the United States for one year or more, as qualifying immigrants who are lawfully present under the Immigration and Nationality Act, Section 212(d)(5).

On September 11, 2023, U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services announced the addition of two new COA codes. The Cuban Family Reunification Parolee (RCU), and Haitian Family Reunification Parolee (RHT) codes are used for individuals paroled into the United States under the modernized Cuban and Haitian Family Reunification Parole Processes. This process allows certain eligible U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to apply for parole for their family members in Haiti and Cuba.

Cuban-Haitian Entrants (CHEs) are certain nationals of Cuba or Haiti who have permission to reside in the U.S. based on humanitarian considerations or under special laws that apply to them. The term "Cuban-Haitian Entrant" (CHE) is not an immigration status but relates to these individuals' eligibility for benefits.

POLICY

The Class of Admission codes (COA) of Cuban Humanitarian Parolee (CHP), Cuban Family Reunification Parolee (RCU), Haitian Humanitarian Parolee (HHP), Haitian Family Reunification Parolee (RHT), Venezuelan Humanitarian Parolee (VHP), and Nicaraguan Humanitarian Parolee (NHP) confirm an applicant's immigration status as a parolee who is lawfully present. Eligibility for Health Care and FoodShare for such individuals follows existing policy for all other parolees.

Persons with either the CHP, or HHP, RCU, and RHT COA codes also qualify as Cuban-Haitian Entrants, who are exempt from the five-year waiting period. Cuban-Haitian Entrant (CHE) status must be confirmed for all persons with CHP, and HHP, RCU, and RHT COA codes. All persons holding CHE status are exempt from the five-year waiting period. CHE is a separate benefit eligibility status and is often confirmed through additional verification in SAVE. When Cuban Haitian Entrant status is verified by the Federal Data Services Hub (FDSH), it does not need additional verification from SAVE.

For FoodShare benefits, the CHE status must be confirmed directly through SAVE or the FDSH. If an applicant provides documents for SAVE CHE verification, they must be made eligible for FoodShare as a CHE if all other eligibility criteria are met. FoodShare benefits must not be delayed, denied, reduced or terminated while awaiting SAVE verification. If the additional second or third level SAVE verification does not show CHE status, the member may be subject to an overpayment.

DMS Operations Memo 23-30

November 14, 2023

Page 3 of 3

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEEP/SDB

DHS/DMS/BEOT/