

****OSCA will continue to review requests from interested individuals through April 30, 2024. Refer to the “Instructions and Information” section for guidance on how to contact OSCA.****

Instructions for Interested Individuals

The Department of Defense places a high priority on identifying U.S. military personnel and DoD civilian employees with Afghan family members who may be eligible for resettlement assistance through the President’s Enduring Welcome (EW) program. Enduring Welcome is the U.S. Government’s long-term resettlement program which relies on standard immigration pathways for immigrant visa (IV), Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV), and refugee admissions programs. Enduring Welcome is a high-priority, multi-year effort that requires DoD component coordination, involvement, and active oversight to effectively manage the health of the force. **For this policy, an “interested individual” refers to a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR) who is active duty military, or a member of the Reserve or National Guard, or a DoD civilian employee.**

Program Eligibility.

a. *Interested individuals* must be:

1. A U.S. citizen or an LPR; **and**
2. A DoD civilian employee or member of the active duty, Reserve Component or the National Guard who was actively employed between the specific period of January 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021.

b. Eligible family members of the requesting U.S. military person or DoD civilian employee are strictly defined as:

1. Parents;
2. Spouse;
3. Biological sons and daughters of any age or marital status (including their spouses and/or unmarried children under age 21);
4. Biological brothers and sisters (including that sibling’s spouse and/or unmarried children under age 21).

c. This policy is not applicable to DoD contractors.

Instructions and Information.

a. An individual who meets the eligibility criteria in 2a shall notify the Office of the Special Coordinator for Afghanistan (OSCA) in the Office of the Under Secretary for Policy of their interest by January 2, 2024, via email at osd.pentagon.ousd-policy.mbx.dod-afghan-

relocations@mail.mil with “DoD Interested Individual – Enduring Welcome” in the subject line for further information. OSCA will respond within 5 working days with instructions on how to complete a Request for Relocation Assistance (RRA) for family members who meet the eligibility criteria in 2b.

b. Individuals must submit an RRA to OSCA endorsed by the first O-5 commander or GS-14 deputy director equivalent in the chain of command to validate the individual’s eligibility per 2a.

c. A completed RRA does not constitute a guarantee of any U.S. Government assistance for relocation and does not constitute a decision on eligibility for admission to the United States. All family members who meet eligibility requirements must clear screening and vetting by U.S. Government agencies prior to resettlement in the United States.

d. U.S. military personnel or DoD civilian employees with open requests for relocation with OSCA do not need to submit an RRA but they shall notify their chain of command for tracking purposes. The family members that OSCA managed prior to this message remain eligible for the EW program and U.S. Government relocation assistance.