

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. ECONOMIC SERVICES 2-2008
(Food and Nutrition Services)**

TO: County Directors of Social Services
ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services Supervisors
DATE: February 5, 2008
SUBJECT: Guidance on Iraqi and Afghani Special Immigrants
EFFECTIVE: **February 1, 2008**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Effective December 26, 2007, Public Law 110-161 of The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 granted Iraqi and Afghan aliens special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Individuals and family members granted this special immigrant status are eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits the same as refugees admitted under section 207 of the INA, except the period of eligibility cannot exceed six months.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

For the Food and Nutrition Services program, Iraqi and Afghan aliens and family members who claim special immigrant status must provide verification that they have been admitted under section 101(a)(27) of the INA.

The effective date of eligibility as a qualified alien is from the date the special immigrant enters the United States. The special immigrant's certification period for Food and Nutrition Services cannot exceed six months from the special immigrant's date of entry as the following illustrates:

Date of Entry	Date of FNS Application	Certification Period
October 11, 2007--Six months from date of entry is October 11th through March 31st.	January 8, 2008	3 months--January 8, 2008 through March 31, 2008.
December 12, 2007--Six months from date of entry is December 12th through May 31st.	February 26, 2008	4 months--February 26, 2008 through May 31, 2008.
September 30, 2008--Six months from date of entry is September 30th through February 28th.	October 16, 2008	5 months--October 16, 2008 through February 28, 2009.

Because this is a provision of an appropriations bill, it is only in effect through the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2008) unless extended by Federal law. States that discover or become aware of any special immigrants who were denied prior to the passage of this bill should reconsider those denials using this current policy.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

This change is effective with each application, change in situation, or recertification taken or processed on or after February 1, 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact your Food and Nutrition Services & Energy Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

/S/

Adonica Hampton, Assistant Chief
Economic Services Section

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