

Administration of Children and Families - U.S. Repatriation Program

The United States (U.S.) Repatriation Program is committed to helping eligible U.S. citizens and their dependents repatriated from overseas by providing them with temporary assistance upon their arrival to the United States.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The U.S. Repatriation Program (Program) was established in 1935 under Section 1113 of the Social Security Act (Assistance for U.S. Citizens Returned from Foreign Countries), to provide temporary assistance to U.S. citizens and their dependents who have been identified by the Department of State (DOS) as having returned, or been brought from a foreign country to the U.S. because of destitution, illness, war, threat of war, or a similar crisis, and who are without available resources. The Program fiscal year appropriation is currently capped at \$1 million.

SERVICES PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE REPATRIATES

Temporary assistance, which is defined as cash payment, medical care (including counseling), temporary billeting, transportation, and other goods and services necessary for the health or welfare of individuals, is given to eligible individuals in the form of a service loan and must be repaid to the U.S. Government. Failure to repay on a timely manner may result in garnishment of funds by the U.S. Treasury Department. Temporary assistance, which is not an entitlement, is coordinated and directly provided by the Program through established arrangements and is available to eligible individuals for up to 90 days. To determine whether a repatriate is eligible for repatriation assistance, it must be established that necessary services or assistance are unavailable to the requesting individuals via any alternative resources. For instance, the Program may not provide temporary billeting if a public shelter is available to meet the needs of the repatriate. After a case is close, the collection of services provided begins. Repatriates can request assistance with payment plans, deferrals, and/or waivers of their loans. Deferrals and waivers are not automatic; it requires an investigation to ensure the repatriate has no resources or expected to have resources to pay for his/her Federal debt.

REPATRIATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

There are two major activities of the Program, Emergency and Non-Emergency repatriations. Operationally, these Program activities involve different kinds of preparation, resources, and implementation. However, the core Program statute (42 U.S.C. 1313 and 24 U.S.C. Sections 321 through 329), regulations (45 C.F.R. 211 & 212), policies and administrative procedures are essentially the same.

Non-emergency Activities

Individual Repatriation Activity: provision of temporary assistance to eligible individuals and families upon arrival to the U.S.

Mentally Ill Activity: provides for the care and treatment of eligible legally insane or otherwise mentally ill persons.

Emergency Repatriation Activity (53 C.F.R. 47491):

Group and Emergency Evacuations: emergency activities are characterized by contingency events such as civil unrest, war, threat of war or similar crisis, natural disasters, among other incidents. Depending on the type of event, number of evacuees and resources available, ORR will provide assistance utilizing two scalable mechanisms, emergency repatriations and group repatriations. Emergency repatriations assume the evacuation of 500 or more individuals, while group repatriations assume the evacuation of 50-500 individuals. Executive Order 12656, as amended, provides lead responsibility to HHS for developing plans and procedures, in coordination with the heads of Federal departments and agencies, for assistance to individuals evacuated from overseas areas.

CAPABILITIES AND ASSISTANCE FOR THE STATES, TERRITORIES AND TRIBES

The U.S. states, through repatriation agreements with ACF/ORR, carry out the functions of the Program at the local level. Below is a list of services provided to the states and others:

Financial Management and Funding: generally, ORR reimburses states and support agencies and authorized service providers, on a per capita basis, for all reasonable, allowable, and allocable costs associated to the provision of temporary assistance.

Case Management and Mass Care Coordination: ACF/ORR, directly or through arrangements, provides states, support agencies and authorized service providers with guidance, information, and whenever necessary direction on the management of multifaceted repatriation cases and on the temporary services provided at the Emergency Repatriation Center.

Guidance and Policy Decisions: ORR provides states, support agencies and service providers with Program policies and guidelines necessary to carry-out the functions of the Program. States are to utilize the National Emergency Repatriation Plan (NERP) and other applicable Program documents when developing their State Emergency Repatriation Plans (SERPs).

Assistance with the development of the State's Emergency Repatriation Plans (SERP): the National Emergency Repatriation Plan (NERP) and the NERP Operational Guide provide states and other support agencies with guidance and information necessary to develop a SERP and other applicable documents. ORR also approves the state SERPs.

Training, Technical Assistance (TA), General Information and Other Services

For more information on the U.S. Repatriation Program, please visit the Repatriations Program website at [ORR US Repatriation Program](#).

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