

Afghan Support and Investment Program

Frequently Asked Questions

This document provides answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the California Department of Social Services' Afghan Support and Investment Program (ASIP).

Program Overview

1. What is the Afghan Support and Investment Program (ASIP)?

ASIP is designed to support the long-term, sustainable housing of recent Afghan newcomers in the State of California. The program provides time-limited housing rental subsidies and housing focused services that help Afghan households to stabilize and move towards self-sufficiency.

2. Who is eligible for ASIP?

The households that qualify for this program include:

- Citizens or nationals of Afghanistan paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022. This includes a spouse and/or children of Afghan humanitarian parolees and parents/legal guardians of humanitarian parolees determined to be unaccompanied children, who are paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2022.
- Citizens and nationals of Afghanistan for whom refugee and entrant assistance activities are authorized (e.g., Special Immigrant Visa holders, Special Immigrants with Conditional Permanent Residency, SQ/SI parolees, refugees, asylees), whose eligibility date is on or after July 31, 2021.
- Those who are **not** enrolled in the Match Grant (MG) program.

3. How long will ASIP be available?

ASIP will run until December 31, 2022 unless funds are exhausted sooner.

4. Who receives the direct ASIP housing subsidy payments?

While a 501c3 organization submits an application for eligible Afghan households for ASIP, the housing subsidy payments are made directly to the landlord or property manager on the household's behalf.

5. Where can I find additional information about ASIP?

Updates will be posted on CDSS website at www.cdss.ca.gov/asip. Additional training and orientation sessions will be held (and recorded for future reference) in the coming weeks.

Application Process

6. How do I apply for ASIP?

An eligible Afghan household should reach out to their refugee resettlement agency case manager, community-based organization contact to apply. The online application will only be accessible by 501c3 organizations (i.e., the public cannot access the link).

If a household is not connected to any of the above organizations, they should reach out to their region's ASIP Lead:

For Northern California counties, including and north of Fresno, please contact:

- International Rescue Committee, Northern California (IRC NorCal)
 - Email: ASIP@Rescue.org

For Southern Californian counties south of Fresno, please contact:

- Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego (CCDSD)
 - E-mail: ASIP@ccdsd.org
 - Phone: (619) 375-5200

7. How long will it take for my application to be evaluated?

Each application will be reviewed and responded to within three days.

8. How do I check the status of my application?

If a household has not heard back from ASIP within 10 days of completing their application, please send an email to the household's regional ASIP Lead.

9. When will my ASIP payments begin?

Once a household has been determined eligible, submitted all requisite paperwork, and a valid lease is in place, the ASIP Lead will initiate a payment. This payment will be made directly to the landlord/property manager according to their requested timeline.

10. What can I do if my application is denied?

...based on a circumstance that has since changed.	The household should reapply for the program.
...incorrectly and I had clarifying information to add.	The household or supporting 501c3 should contact the ASIP Lead in their region and have them review their application.
...improperly and I believe I was not given fair treatment.	The household has the right to file a grievance with the ASIP Lead in their region.

11. Can I apply to ASIP if I am currently living in temporary housing (hotel, Airbnb, with family/friends)?

Yes. However, households that are at immediate risk of homelessness are prioritized in this program.

12. Can I apply to ASIP if I am currently living in permanent housing (house/apartment with a lease in my name, etc.)?

Yes. However, households that are at immediate risk of homelessness are prioritized in this program.

Eligibility Determinations

13. Will other benefits interfere with my eligibility for ASIP?

Yes, some benefits will interfere with eligibility for ASIP. Please see the following table for more information:

Can I apply for ASIP if I am enrolled in....	
<u>Match Grant (MG)</u>	No , those enrolled in Match Grant are not eligible for ASIP. Households can apply once their Match Grant services end.
<u>Preferred Communities (PC)</u>	Yes, ASIP will not adversely affect this program's benefits.
<u>Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)</u>	Yes, ASIP will not adversely affect this program's benefits.
<u>CalWORKs</u>	Yes, ASIP will not adversely affect this program's benefits.
<u>CalFresh</u>	Yes, ASIP will not adversely affect this program's benefits.
Refugee Support Services (RSS) (E.g. employment training programs and Vocational English as a Second Language courses)	Yes, ASIP will not adversely affect this program's benefits.
Community nonprofit or <u>government-administered</u> housing assistance program	No. Those enrolled in community nonprofit or government-administered housing assistance programs will not qualify.

Housing Benefits

14. How long will my ASIP benefits last?

ASIP is intended to be a short-term stabilization program. All eligible household may receive three months of housing assistance. Continued ASIP assistance will be based on a re-evaluation of need.

15. Is there a percentage of rent that will be covered, or is it case by case?

Each family will be assessed on an individual basis. There is no established minimum or maximum level of support. ASIP will use [Fair Market Rent \(FMR\)](#) to determine assistance for a housing unit. The FMR will be utilized by ASIP Leads to determine the amount of assistance available to a household, which in no case shall exceed 20% over a jurisdiction's established FMR.

Families will be asked to contribute a minimum of \$50/month as a rent contribution to ensure continued eligibility for other benefit programs.