



Key information for P1/P2

The most important thing to know: US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) processing is a long process, generally taking a minimum of 12-18 months in a best-case scenario. If you are working with P-1/P-2 referrals, it is imperative that you prepare yourself and them for a long process. Even though someone has been referred, it doesn't mean that s/he will be eligible/accepted into the program or be approved to travel to the U.S. Be honest about the realities of this program with the Afghans with whom you are working so that they can make the best decision for themselves and their families.

General comments

- The P in P-1/P-2 stands for Priority, but P-1 is not a higher priority or faster than P-2.
- P-1/P-2 referrals are not visa applications, but are simply a point of access to the USRAP once/if an individual is able to depart Afghanistan.
- Here's the [basic information on P-1/P-2/P-3](#) from USCIS
- [Here's the best document on P-2](#) - who can submit, how to submit, what happens, etc.
- After submission, this is the [journey map](#) for someone referred to P-1/P-2
- Generally, there is not a way for you to contact PRM or CARE directly to ask what the status of a referral is. Read what is below, especially on who can submit a referral, and you'll probably understand that in 99% of cases, you're not the person who needs to be contacting PRM/CARE. In the 1% (for our 2-3 media/NGO-senior designees), reach out to us directly as you have been and we'll follow up).
- Once an Afghan has traveled to a third country where processing can begin and has completed the relocation Google form provided in their referral acceptance email, they will receive a second email with their ARR (Afghan Referral Record) number and assignment to a Resettlement Support Center (RSC). After this point, all contact will only be between the Afghan and the RSC. The person who referred him/her, PRM itself, their interested allies (us) won't have any communication on the case.
- A referrer should not share an ARR number directly with the Afghan, but should wait for the referred Afghan to receive a referral acceptance email from PRM directly.

Who can submit referrals

- Unfortunately, most of you reading this are NOT eligible to refer people (we know of a few exceptions in the Coalition).
- Afghans cannot self-apply for a P-1 or P-2 referral, someone must refer them to the program, hence the term "P-1/P-2 referral"
- P-1: A current U.S. government federal employee with SES/SFS approval (There is a single person in all of DoD responsible for submitting DoD P-1 referrals.)
- P-2: A current U.S. government federal employee; the most senior person at a U.S.-based media/NGO
- If you are none of these types of people, then your referral is not valid and you may not receive a response telling you that.
- If you are none of these types of people, but you recommended to a USG agency or US-based NGO/media org that someone be referred, then you should follow up with that agency/organization as to whether they have submitted the referral or if there are items requiring correction and resubmission. The agency may or may not agree with you on making the referral

and some have backlogs that they are working through. In other words, just because you asked USAID/DoD/etc. to submit a referral does not mean that it has happened already. Also, some agencies are better than others in the quality of their referral submissions. Incomplete referrals get bounced back to the referring organization for corrections. Therefore, just because a referral has been submitted by an agency, it doesn't mean that it has been, or will be, accepted.

- PRM continues to stay up-to-date in reviewing new P-1 referrals from U.S. government federal employees and P-2 referrals from U.S. government federal employees and U.S.-based media organizations and NGOs.
- If a referral is reviewed and deemed incomplete, PRM will write back to the referrer and tell them that. Only the official referrer and the official who submitted the referral in PRM's system are given this information, and it is the responsibility of the referrer and/or the referral submitter to correct the issues identified by PRM.
- Members of Congress are not eligible to submit referrals to the refugee process. If you worked with a Member of Congress for a referral, it is highly likely that the referral is invalid and would need to be resubmitted through someone eligible to make a referral.

Generally, here's the process map

You ask an eligible organization or agency to refer someone → Organization/agency makes a decision on whether to do that → if they agree, they gather everything up and submit → if it's a complete referral then it is reviewed by PRM → if PRM agrees the person is eligible then PRM emails the Afghan, including the Google form, with BCC to the referrer and submitter (not you, but the designated Department or NGO/media contact) → Afghan travels to another country and completes the Google form telling USRAP they're out of Afghanistan → processing begins (see [infographic](#))

Individuals Eligible for P-1

- An Afghan national known to U.S. government officials through channels other than employment on/for a U.S. government-funded project, who has imminent and compelling protection concerns and who does not qualify for an SIV or a P-2 referral based on his/her past employment status

Individuals Eligible for P-2

- Those who do not meet the minimum time-in-service for a Special Immigrant Visa but who work or worked as employees of contractors, locally-employed staff, interpreters/translators for the U.S. Government, United States Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A), International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), or Resolute Support
- Afghans who work or worked for a U.S. government-funded program or project in Afghanistan supported through a U.S. government grant or cooperative agreement
- Afghans who are or were employed in Afghanistan by a U.S.-based media organization or non-governmental organization
- U.S.-based media organizations may also refer Afghan nationals who worked for them under stringer, freelance, and comparable arrangements

Family member eligibility

- P-1: Spouse and unmarried children under age 21
- P-2: Spouse and married/unmarried children of any age and their immediate family members (spouse and children under the age of 21)

Other Items

- If an Afghan you are assisting is being persecuted or fears persecution in Afghanistan and has relocated to another country, s/he should follow procedures to register for international protection

and assistance as a refugee with the government of the country s/he is in. S/he can also register and seek assistance from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). More information can be found at <https://help.unhcr.org/>.

- The U.S. government is unable to provide protection or financial support to P-1/P-2 applicants while they wait for a decision on their refugee case.
- Someone eligible for the SIV program should not seek a USRAP referral.
- P-1/P-2 referrals are not eligible for entry into the OAW pipeline or relocation from Kabul on USG flights because of their referral to USRAP. They must relocate outside of Afghanistan to a third-country and complete processing there.
- Once outside of Afghanistan, and in a country where USRAP processing is possible, an individual can begin processing his/her P-1/P-2 refugee case. USRAP processing is not possible in Iran, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Somalia or North Korea. Those Afghans being considered for refugee status must demonstrate that they were persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group and meet other eligibility requirements, including security vetting and medical clearances.