

TO: SNAP Coalition Members
FR: Pat Baker and Vicky Negus
Date: 12/21/21

Three updates and resources for Haitian families:

- 1) DTA has clarified that children born in a country outside of Haiti to Haitian parents are eligible for SNAP and cash benefits as “Haitian Entrants” under the same rules as their parents. (And of course, any children born within the U.S. are U.S. citizens). See DTA guidance below.
- 2) Haitian entrants are eligible for **SNAP, DTA cash assistance (TAFDC or EAEDC) and, for some, Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP)** benefits if the person or family:
 - a. was paroled into the U.S., or
 - b. are the subject of removal/deportation proceedings, or
 - c. have an application for asylum pending.

Note - there are other categories of Haitians who may qualify as Cuban/Haitian entrants.

[Refugee Cash Assistance \(RCA\)](#) is a short-term federally funded benefit for individuals and couples without children, administered by the Mass Office of Refugee Resettlement. The individual immigrant does not need to be elderly or disabled to qualify. For those Haitians with for Haitian “entrant” status, RCA eligibility begins the date they receive their status and goes for only 8 months from that date. Note, only refugee resettlement providers, such as the International Institute of New England (IINE) can enroll a person in RCA. You can make referrals to IINE via Alexandra Weber so that their team can process RCA benefits quickly for Haitians that have entrant status so no one eligible loses out on the cash benefits to which they are entitled. Contact Alexandra at: aweber@iine.org

For Haitian entrants with children, DTA **TAFDC benefits** are available for families with children and pregnant women near their third trimester (for example, after RCA ends). And Haitians who are elderly or disabled may qualify for EAEDC benefits after their RCA expires.

- 3) [Here is an update posted by MLRI’s Health Law team](#) about healthcare benefits for Haitian entrants and samples of documents they may have.

From: Noble, Julie (DTA) **On Behalf Of** DTA.Field Operations (DTA)
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 3:04 PM
To: DTA-DL-All Staff List
Subject: SECURE: Children of Haitian Nationals

TO: All DTA Staff

FROM: Brittany Mangini, Director of Food Security and Nutrition Programs

CC: Frantz Monestime, Deputy Commissioner for Field Operations

DATE: December 20, 2021

SUBJECT: Children of Haitian Nationals

Recently, the Department has seen an influx of Haitian applicants for DTA programs. Many of these families provided documentation for children within the household that were born outside of Haiti. The Department is issuing new guidance that children born in a country outside of Haiti to one or more Haitian parent qualify as Cuban/Haitian Entrants for purposes of all DTA programs.

The Department is currently updating the Online Guide with procedures to clarify this change in eligibility. We are also working to identify cases in which children meeting this definition of a Haitian national and were previously denied under the former guidance. These cases will be reviewed to redetermine eligibility and for a related benefit.

If you have any questions or have reviewed a case with Haitian nationals and both you and your supervisor have determined that the applicants are not eligible have your SIS or manager send it to the Procedural Issues Mailbox before denying the case.