



ECE[®] Aid Newsletter

A charitable initiative developed to provide free evaluation reports for vulnerable and displaced populations.



WINTER/SPRING 2023

Welcome to the new quarterly newsletter for ECE[®] Aid!

In this first newsletter of 2023, I wanted to share what we've been up to in assisting ECE[®] Aid recipients over the past few months. Our new funding model, using a percentage of ECE[®] revenue for fee waivers rather than soliciting donations, has been quite helpful in catching up with our backlog of eligible ECE[®] Aid recipients. We should be through everyone on our 2022 waitlist within the next month or so.

In addition, you'll find a bit of a primer on terms we hear about in our daily work and in the news regarding displaced populations. There are various ways a displaced person can find themselves entering the U.S. education and employment pathways. The terms included in this issue may help in your conversations with colleagues, friends, and family.

Finally, you'll read a brief story from an Afghan pursuing a U.S. master's degree. We hope you enjoy this issue. Thank you for reading!

Highlights

Refugee? Asylee?
Parolee? What's the
difference?

ECE[®] Aid story:
Khairuddin from
Afghanistan

Quarterly Updates



Refugee? Asylee? Parolee? What's the difference?

Over the course of the past few years, there have been quite a few terms used in regard to displaced people entering the U.S. ECE® Aid continues to assist those who may fall under any of these statuses. However, to clear up some of the confusion, here are a few of the most widely used terms and the differences between them within the United States.

Refugee

An individual who has fled their home country as a result of being persecuted, or the fear of persecution, due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Refugees usually have not firmly resettled in another country.

Visa pathways in the U.S. for refugees:

- F-1: main student visa accessible to refugees in the U.S. (with intention to return home)

Non-education visas:

- P-1 (Priority 1): referral from UNHCR, U.S. embassy, or certain NGOs
- P-2 (Priority 2): special humanitarian parole
- P-3 (Priority 3): family reunification

Asylee

An individual seeking protection because they have suffered persecution, or fear that they will suffer persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Asylum seekers must be physically present in the U.S. and aren't a U.S. citizen.

Parolee

An individual who is paroled into the U.S. based on urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit reasons (e.g. Afghanistan and Ukraine crises).

Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent individuals from returning safely. TPS may also be granted to eligible individuals of certain countries who are already in the U.S.

Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)

SIVs are available to individuals who have worked as translators, interpreters, or other professionals employed by or on behalf of the United States government.

Based on which visa/immigration status an individual holds, various benefits and restrictions apply. For more comprehensive information, visit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at [Humanitarian | USCIS](https://www.humanitarian.uscis.gov/).

ECE® Aid story

Khairuddin from Afghanistan

I am writing this to thank the ECE and [A26 Backpack](#) teams for what you have done for me. I have been awarded a scholarship to pursue my master's at Indiana University Bloomington and arrived to the U.S. a month ago. I believe it wouldn't be possible without the help of both the ECE and A26 Backpack teams, and the provision of a coupon code for foreign credentials. I contacted several organizations for that, however, I was denied help. I personally thank everyone on your teams for helping Afghans in this difficult situation.



Quarterly Updates

37 completed evaluation reports

10 new participating organizations, including some working directly with recently arrived judges and lawyers from Afghanistan

Recent ECE® Aid activities & outreach:

Beloit, WI School District: "Todos Unidos Educational Opportunities for Adults"

Jewish Family & Community Services Pittsburgh: "Credential Evaluation & Educational Credential Evaluators"

AACRAO 108th Annual Meeting: "Understanding Refugee Student Journeys & Creating Pathways to Higher Education"



Sincerely,

Zachary Holochwost *(he/him)*

ECE® Aid and Market Research Manager



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