ARC 0719D

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

Notice of Intended Action

Proposing rulemaking related to refugee cash assistance and providing an opportunity for public comment

The Department of Health and Human Services hereby proposes to amend Chapter 60, "Refugee Cash Assistance," Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code chapter 217.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapter 217; 91 Fed. Reg. 43,107 (Jul. 14, 2026); and 91 Fed. Reg. 62,534 (Oct. 1, 2026).

Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking amends rule 441—60.7(217) to reflect federal updates to the eligibility period, or time limit, for receiving refugee cash assistance and refugee medical assistance. The eligibility period is set by the procedures outlined in 40 CFR 400.211. The update to the eligibility period was originally published in the July 14, 2026, Federal Register.

However, since the publication of the Regulatory Analysis on September 30, 2026, the Department became aware of a correction to the July 14, 2026, Federal Register notice. The Office of Refugee Resettlement reviewed the considerations listed in 40 CFR 400.211 and determined that the eligibility period should be 12 months. This determination and correction were memorialized in the October 1, 2026, Federal Register. This Notice of Intended Action reflects that correction.

Regulatory Analysis

A Regulatory Analysis for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on September 30, 2026. A public hearing was held on the following date(s):

- October 20, 2026

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 441—Chapter 2504.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rulemaking, which must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 1, 2026. Comments should be directed to:

Victoria L. Daniels
Department of Health and Human Services

Lucas State Office Building
321 East 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515.829.6021
Email: compliancerules@hhs.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

December 1, 2026 10 to 10:30 a.m.	Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 225 217 179 078 528 Passcode: Rw3KT9yE

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 60.7(1) as follows:

60.7(1) *Assistance.* A refugee may receive assistance, if otherwise eligible:

a. to *c.* No change.

d. For refugees who entered the country on or after January 1, 2026, during the first 12 months the refugee is in the United States, beginning the month the refugee enters the country.

Exception: For asylees, the date of entry is the date asylum is granted. The ~~8-month, 12-month, or 4-month~~ period of eligibility specified in this subrule begins the month asylum is granted. A nonrefugee child in the home with a refugee parent (or refugee parents, if both are in the home) is eligible for assistance until the parent(s) has been in the United States for ~~8, 12, or 4 months~~ the time period specified in this subrule, or until the child reaches 8, 12, or 4 months of age, as applicable, whichever occurs first. For Afghan special immigrant (SI) parolees and Afghan SI conditional permanent residents (CPRs), the date is the date of "entry into the community," which is the date the individual departed a safe haven. For Afghan humanitarian parolees, the date is the latter of October 1, 2021, or the date of entry into the community, which is the date the individual departed a safe haven. "Safe haven" is the term the U.S. government and other relevant stakeholders have used for U.S. military bases in the continental United States that housed Afghans evacuated under Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome (OAR/OAW) as Afghans awaited resettlement to their ultimate state of residence.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 60.7(2) as follows:

60.7(2) *Resources.* The resources of refugees excluded because of the ~~8-month, 12-month, or 4-month limit~~ eligibility time frames specified in subrule 60.7(1) will be considered in the same manner as though these refugees were included in the eligible group.