Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 441—subrule 60.7(1)
"Refugee Cash Assistance"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 217

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: 45 CFR 400.211; United States Administration for Children and Families, "Office of Refugee Resettlement; Notice of Change of Eligibility," 90 Fed. Reg. 13,370 (March 21, 2025)

Public Hearing

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

August 12, 2025 2:30 to 3 p.m.	Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 248 416 779 229 0 Passcode: Qq9Qh2zT

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Department of Health and Human Services no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Victoria L. Daniels
321 East 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515.829.6021
Email: compliancerules@hhs.iowa.gov

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 from 12 months to 4 months. The eligibility period is set by the procedures outlined in 40 CFR 400.211. The update to the eligibility period was published in the March 21, 2025, Federal Register.

Analysis of Impact

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**

- **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

There are no costs associated with the proposed rulemaking.

- **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

Refugees new to Iowa will benefit from the guidance provided in this proposed rulemaking.

2. **Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**

- **Quantitative description of impact:**

There is no data available for this proposed rulemaking.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

This proposed rulemaking changes the eligibility period for refugee cash assistance from 12 months to 4 months.

3. **Costs to the State:**

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

The Department incurs personnel and other administrative costs to implement the proposed rulemaking.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

This proposed rulemaking will have no effect on State revenues.

4. **Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:**

Amending the existing rule is the appropriate course of action to comply with the federal change.

5. **Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:**

Amending the existing rule is the appropriate course of action to comply with the federal change.

6. **Alternative methods considered by the agency:**

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

Not applicable.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Not applicable.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

This rulemaking has no impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

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

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

a. For refugees who entered the country prior to October 1, 2021, during the first eight months the refugee is in the United States, beginning the month the refugee enters the country.

b. For refugees who entered the country on or after October 1, 2021, and for whom eligibility for refugee cash assistance was determined on or before May 4, 2025, during the first 12 months the refugee is in the United States, beginning the month the refugee enters the country.

c. For refugees who entered the country on or after October 1, 2021, and for whom eligibility for refugee cash assistance was determined on or after May 5, 2025, during the first four 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, ~~or~~ 12-month, or 4-month period of eligibility 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, ~~or~~ 12, or 4 months, or until the child reaches 8, ~~or~~ 12, or

4 months of age, 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, ~~or~~ 12-month, or 4-month limit will be considered in the same manner as though these refugees were included in the eligible group.