



Frequently Asked Questions

Cuban Entrants

Please note: The information provided in this document is general information. This does not constitute legal advice and you should consult with a qualified immigration attorney before making any decisions about your case.

Who qualifies as a Cuban Entrant?

To qualify as a Cuban Entrant, an individual must:

- be a national of Cuba
- not have a final, non-appealable, and legally enforceable order of removal, deportation or exclusion entered AND
- be paroled into the United States and have not acquired any other status OR be the subject of removal, deportation or exclusion proceedings OR have a pending application for asylum with DHS/USCIS or with an EOIR Immigration Court or the Board of Immigration Appeals

What immigration relief are Cuban Entrants eligible for?

After continuously residing in the United States for 1 year, some Cuban Entrants may be eligible to adjust to permanent residents. Many Cuban Entrants get different paperwork regarding their release from custody which may impact their ability to secure work permits or apply for Cuban Adjustment.

Cuban Entrants may contact their legal representative or Exodus Refugee to discuss their eligibility for the Cuban Adjustment Act. United States immigration law requires people to apply for asylum within 1 year of arrival to the United States. A person may get more time if they can show extraordinary circumstances for a delay or



changed circumstances that significantly affect their eligibility for asylum.

Exodus Refugee currently does not have the capacity to assist with applications for asylum. If Cuban Entrants would like to apply for asylum, they can contact Indiana Legal Services.

Can Cuban Entrants work?

Authorization to work is not granted at the border, and individuals who are released from the border do not have a guaranteed right to work. In order to legally work in the United States, individuals must receive authorization to work.

Cuban Entrants who are paroled for at least 1 year may be able to immediately apply for a work permit. Or, if a Cuban Entrant is applying for asylum, they may be eligible to apply for a work permit after waiting 150 days from the date of the submitted asylum application.

For Cuban Entrants receiving authorization to work based on the parole status, the work authorization expires when the parole expires. These applications are requests and may be granted or denied. Many applications with USCIS have fees, but Cuban Entrants may be eligible for a fee waiver if unable to pay.

After waiting 150 days after applying for asylum, Cuban Entrants can contact their legal representative or Exodus Refugee to assist with the application for a work permit.



Can Cuban Entrants receive social security cards?

The Social Security Administration will only issue a Social Security card to individuals not authorized to work if they can prove they have a valid non-work reason for needing a Social Security Number.

Cuban Entrants may apply for a Social Security card on the same application as the work permit using Form I-765.

Can Cuban Entrants receive Driver's Licenses?

In order to apply for a driver's license, individuals must provide the following documents:

- Identification
- Proof of lawful status (proof of application for asylum)
- Social Security card
- Two documents proving Indiana residency

Individuals who are ineligible for Social Security cards must provide proof of ineligibility from the Social Security Administration.

Can Exodus provide housing to Cuban Entrants?

Exodus Refugee cannot provide housing to Cuban Entrants. We encourage individuals to reach out to shelters and to see if there are any family or community members who can assist.

What services can Exodus provide to Cuban Entrants?

Exodus Refugee offers English classes, assistance applying for public benefits (Food Stamps, Medicaid, Cash Assistance), if eligible, and a health and mental wellness program that assists individuals with getting connected to care. Exodus Refugee can also provide legal assistance, if eligible.



What is the enrollment process?

Cuban Entrants who are interested in enrolling with Exodus Refugee should call the office 317-921-0836. Staff will write down their contact information, and someone will reach out in the next 3-4 weeks to discuss eligibility and services.

During that phone call, an intake appointment will be scheduled. At the intake, staff will review the individual's documents to confirm eligibility and complete enrollment paperwork.

What if my parole expires?

In general, Cuban Entrants may remain in the United States after their parole expires until a judge orders them deported from the United States.