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## Frequently Asked Questions Haitian Entrants

Please note: The information provided here 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 Haitian Entrant?

To qualify as a Haitian Entrant, an individual must:

- be a national of Haiti
- 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 are be 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 Haitian Entrants eligible for?

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 Haitian Entrants would like to apply for asylum, they can contact Indiana Legal Services.



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Some Haitian Entrants may be eligible to apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). One eligibility factor is the Haitian Entrant's date of arrival to the United States.

## Can Haitian 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.

Haitian Entrants who are paroled for at least 1 year may be able to immediately apply for a work permit. Or, if a Haitian 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 Haitian Entrants receiving authorization to work based on the parole status, the work authorization expires when the parole expires. Many Haitian Entrants get different paperwork regarding their release from custody which may impact their ability to secure work permits.

These applications are requests and may be granted or denied. Many applications with USCIS have fees, but Haitian Entrants may be eligible for a fee waiver if unable to pay.

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



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## Can Haitian 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.

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

## Can Haitian 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 Haitian Entrants?

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



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## What services can Exodus provide to Haitian 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?

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