**Benefits and programs to assist Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees**

**Last updated: July 14, 2022**

This information is for sponsors and their Ukrainian beneficiaries in Vermont who have Humanitarian Parole status. Sponsors who are supporting Ukrainians fleeing war through the Uniting for Ukraine program have agreed to financially provide for the Ukrainians they are supporting. The benefits and services available for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) are similar to those for refugees and are described below. While resettlement agencies can and will assist in case management and access to services, the sponsor agrees to take a lead role in assisting with securing housing and basic needs, applying for federal or state benefits, ensuring healthcare and medical needs are met and accessing education. The information below should guide you through your first steps.

1. **Apply for a Social Security Number by submitting an I-765 form**

A UHP individual or family can apply for federal and state benefits PRIOR to RECEIVING a Social Security Number (SSN). However, for UHPs to be approved for most of those benefits, they may need to show proof that they have APPLIED for an SSN. Therefore, submit an I-765 form first and save confirmation of the submission (electronic or paper receipt, if possible) to show to State of Vermont offices when you are applying for federal and state benefits. The I-765 form also is an application for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), which is a key document utilized by employers for hiring UHP employees. [Application for Employment Authorization | USCIS](https://www.uscis.gov/i-765)

Even if the UHP does not plan to work, it is recommended to apply for an SSN.

1. **Apply for Medicaid**

UHPs can get health insurance through the State of Vermont. If the individual does not yet have an SSN, Medicaid will generate a temporary SSN. Be sure to use this temporary SSN when applying for other benefits so that a duplicate temporary SSN is not generated. This can complicate the benefits enrollment process. Please help individuals and/or families to fill out a PAPER application or to apply by phone:

* Download and complete the [Application for Health Coverage](https://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/sites/vhc/files/doc_library/205ALLMED%20Non-LTC.pdf) (<https://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/sites/vhc/files/doc_library/205ALLMED%20Non-LTC.pdf>) (For faster processing, include a copy of immigration documents with the application)
* Mail the application to:
	+ Vermont Health Connect, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-8100

If the customer needs additional support**:** call 1-855-899-9600 M-F from 8am-4:30pm. Please call with the customer, if possible, to help navigate the process.

Important: Specify that the customer is a Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee.  If the individual is on the phone and would like interpretation services, select this option when you call or indicate this to the call center representative.

Interpretation at health care appointments*:* Health care providers in Vermont that accept Medicaid are required to provide any needed interpretation during appointments. When scheduling an appointment, be sure to notify the clinic of interpretation needs. Clinics often need advanced notice to coordinate this service.

1. **Tuberculosis Screening**

All individuals will be required by the federal government to complete a Tuberculosis (TB) screening within 90 days of arrival to Vermont. TB screenings will be available through local health clinics or physician practices or the local Vermont Department of Health offices. It is likely that you may need to wait several weeks for a first appointment. Please check first with local health clinics in your area to make an appointment with a primary care provider. If you cannot get the help you need, your local health department office can guide you to the appropriate location for TB screenings in your area or will be able to provide a TB screening for you (see contact information below).

Local Vermont Department of Health Office Directory:

If you have trouble getting an appointment through local primary care providers, contact your local state health department office for resources related to required TB screenings, local health care providers, and available health promotion programming and benefits (such as WIC, maternal and child health support, and immunizations).

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| **Barre:** 5 Perry Street, Suite 250, Barre, VT 05601Tel: 888-253-8786 or 802-479-4200  | **Bennington:** 324 Main Street, Suite 2, Bennington, VT 05201Tel: 800-637-7347 or 802-447-3531 |
| **Brattleboro:** 232 Main Street. Suite 3 Brattleboro, VT 05301 Tel: 888-253-8805 or 802-257-2880 | **Burlington:** 108 Cherry Street, Suite 102, Burlington, VT 05402Tel: 888-253-8803 or 802-863-7323 |
| **Middlebury:** 156 So. Village Green, Suite 102 Middlebury, VT 05753 Tel: 888-253-8804 or 802-388-4644  |  **Morrisville:** 63 Professional Drive, Suite #1 Morrisville, VT 05661 Tel: 888-253-8798 or 802-888-7447 |
| **Newport:** 100 Main Street, Suite 220 Newport, VT 05855 Tel: 800-952-2945 or 802-334-6707 | **Rutland:** 300 Asa Bloomer State Office Bldg. 88 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701 Tel: 888-253-8802 or 802-786-5811 |
| **Springfield:** 100 Mineral Street, Suite 104 Springfield, VT 05156 Tel: 888-296-8151 or 802-289-0600 | **St. Albans:** 27 Federal Street, Suite 201 St. Albans, VT 05478 Tel: 888-253-8801 or 802-524-7970 |
| **St. Johnsbury:** 107 Eastern Avenue, Suite 9 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 Tel: 800-952-2936 or 802-748-5151 | **White River Junction:** 118 Prospect Street, Ste 300 White River Jct., VT 05001 Tel: 888-253-8799 or 802-295-8820 |

1. **Apply for Cash Assistance and Food Benefits**

Cash Assistance: Through the State of Vermont, Department of Children and Families, UHPs can apply for the following benefits (using the temp SSNs generated when applying for Medicaid).

* A UHP family with children under 18 can apply for TANF (called "Reach Up" in Vermont). If approved, they will receive monthly cash assistance, based upon family size.
* UHPs can apply for SNAP, also known as food stamps (or 3SquaresVT in Vermont). If approved, they will receive monthly food assistance, based upon family size.
* UHPs can apply for WIC, a supplemental nutrition program for pregnant women, infants, and small children, if they meet the eligibility criteria. You may apply for WIC through one of the Department of Health Offices listed in the table above.
* The following links will lead you to applications for these services:

[Reach Up | Department for Children and Families (vermont.gov)](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdcf.vermont.gov%2Fbenefits%2Freachup&data=05%7C01%7C%7C57cab71ba71b451096a108da5e949752%7C9f2ed6ab6faf4adca3469dfe7b888946%7C0%7C0%7C637926289539412212%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WdraRNJr7%2BvkqrC0ESKjBpD5W%2BeXSQXgcUmki0VLN%2B8%3D&reserved=0)

[Read Before You Apply | Department for Children and Families (vermont.gov)](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdcf.vermont.gov%2Fmybenefits%2Fapply&data=05%7C01%7C%7C57cab71ba71b451096a108da5e949752%7C9f2ed6ab6faf4adca3469dfe7b888946%7C0%7C0%7C637926289539412212%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=twBQ%2FTbZwpU9rftAw6Ia6eNVIeKv2Wnrf%2BYgOcN70To%3D&reserved=0)

* If the UHP does not have children with them they may be eligible to apply for refugee cash assistance.  In that case they can receive cash assistance for up to 12 months from their date of arrival in the country depending on their employment status (usually people find work in the first 5-8 months). To apply for Refugee Cash Assistance, contact Matt Thompson at USCRI mthompson@uscrivt.org
1. **Other Services and Programs**

Housing and Utility Assistance for UHPs if/when they rent their own apartment:

UHPs can also apply for the Vermont Emergency Rental [and utility] Assistance Program (VERAP). If a UHP family enrolls in Reach Up, they can apply for Reach Up ERAP with help from their Reach Up caseworker. Utility assistance is separate and would go through the normal State VERAP online portal system <https://erap.vsha.org/> If an individual or family does not enroll in Reach Up, they would also apply for rental assistance directly through the VERAP portal. This process requires coordination with the landlord, who has to respond to an email message from VERAP (that often ends up in their Junk Mail).

Interpretation:

For all states services, the State of Vermont has a contract with interpretation services and, upon request, can provide interpretation at meetings/appointments.

Other Services from Refugee Resettlement agencies and other refugee serving agencies:

While Sponsors are meant to take on the main responsibilities for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees they sponsor, there are other services available at local agencies that might be of benefit. For example, UHPs are also eligible for the same post arrival Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) funded services as refugees including case management, employment services, and English Language Learning. In addition, there may be workforce development programs or other programs that are open to newcomers who have arrived within the past 5 years.

UHPs can contact the nearest resettlement agency to enroll in post-arrival services or to be referred to other services in the community – please see below.

1. **Register with a refugee resettlement agency**

In order for the State of Vermont and the Refugee Resettlement Agencies to best serve your needs, please contact USCRI or ECDC, or the State Refugee Office at your earliest convenience to share your contact information and enroll with a local agency. They can assist if you have further questions or need additional support.

Questions? Please contact one of the following:

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| ***Ukrainian HPs in Northern Vermont*** | ***Ukrainian HPs in Southern Vermont*** |
| Matt Thompson, Coordinator of Programs, USCRI VermontEmail: mthompson@uscrivt.orgDirect phone: 802-654-1705. | Mark Clark, Program ManagerECDC VermontEmail: Mclark@ecdcus.orgDirect phone: 802-451-8891 |
| State of Vermont: contact Tracy Dolan, Director of State Refugee Office at tracy.dolan@vermont.gov |