

**County of Orange Social Services Agency
Family Self-Sufficiency & Adult Services Division**

Program/Area: Adult Services/Adult Protective Services
Title: APS Repatriation Program
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PURPOSE To provide an overview of and guidelines for the Adult Protective Services (APS) Repatriation program which provides repatriation and temporary services to eligible United States (U.S.) citizens identified by the U.S. Department of State (DOS).

POLICY The APS Repatriation program provides direct services to APS-eligible U.S. citizens who have returned or been brought back to the U.S. from a foreign country because of destitution, physical or mental illness, war or threat of war, an invasion or similar crisis, and are without available resources.

The APS role in the repatriation process is part of the larger County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) Repatriation Program, SSA Policy & Procedure B-VIII.43 United States Repatriation Program. The APS Repatriation program will provide repatriation services to all adult repatriates arriving in Orange County who are not accompanied by minor children.

BACKGROUND The U.S. Repatriation Program is a federally funded program which was established by Title XI, Section 1113 of the Social Security Act. It is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR). The International Social Services (ISS)-USA is a non-profit agency that has a cooperative agreement with the OHSEPR to assist with the coordination of repatriation activities.

U.S. citizens have the constitutional right to relocate to any destination of their choice within the Continental United States and U.S. territories. The DOS certifies U.S. citizens that are eligible for the Repatriation program and ISS notifies California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the affected county of where and when a DOS-certified repatriate is arriving and what their needs will be. ISS coordinates payment of services with the counties.

DEFINITIONS **Elder:** Any person residing in this state (California), 60 years of age or older.

Dependent Adult:

- A. Any California resident between the ages of 18 and 59 years who have physical or developmental disabilities, or mental limitations that restrict their ability to carry out normal activities or to protect their rights, including, but not limited to, individuals whose physical or mental abilities have diminished because of age.
- B. Any person between the ages of 18 and 59 years who is admitted as an inpatient to a 24-hour health facility such as a hospital or a skilled nursing facility.

Repatriate: A U.S. citizen and their dependents who become destitute or ill in a foreign country and who require assistance to return to and resettle in the U.S.

Repatriation Services

Per SSA Policy & Procedure B-VIII.43 United States Repatriation Program, the designated SSA Repatriation Coordinator will review all repatriation referrals received from ISS for planned arrivals into Orange County, CA, and forward referrals to APS for repatriation services.

If the point of entry into the United States for the repatriate is outside of Orange County Jurisdiction:

- The SSA Repatriation Coordinator is responsible for notifying ISS of the jurisdictional boundaries.
- ISS is responsible for coordinating with the point of entry county regarding the repatriate's initial arrival and subsequent travel to Orange County.

The APS Coordinator is responsible for working with ISS to coordinate the APS response to the repatriate's return to the U.S.

Repatriate assistance includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Financial Assistance based on eligibility.
- Assessing a participant's need and eligibility for benefits and determining the appropriate services.
- Domestic travel assistance to repatriate's destination.
- Food, lodging, and incidentals.
- Medical/mental health care, including counseling.

The Repatriation program is a repayable loan to the U.S. government, not an entitlement. Temporary assistance is provided for up to 90 days (from the date of the repatriate's arrival in the U.S.). Repatriates can request extensions and waivers/deferrals, but these must be filed before the expiration of the 90-day eligibility period. Any case over \$1,500 is considered a high-cost case and must have approval from the ISS representative or County designee before proceeding with the repatriation plan.

Upon arrival to Orange County, APS staff will meet with the repatriate to review and complete all required documentation in the Repatriation Welcome Packet which provides an overview of the Repatriation program including eligibility, services, and repayment of loan.

APS staff will coordinate with the SSA Assistance Program (AP) to process all adult repatriation referrals who do not meet APS criteria.

REFERENCES

- ACIN I-41-15 Social Services Available Under the United States Repatriation Program
- APS Guidelines to Supplemental Regulations, version 2.4 - July 2024
- International Social Services (ISS)-USA
- SSA Policy & Procedure B-VIII.43 United States Repatriation Program
- State of CA HHS DSS Manual of Policies and Procedures
- US Department of Health and Human Services/Repatriation
- Welfare & Institutions Codes (WIC) Section 15750

ATTACHMENTS

- U.S Repatriation Program Welcome Packets
- Form RR-05: Privacy and Repayment Agreement
- Form RR-06: Refusal of Temporary Assistance
- Form RR-07: Temporary Assistance Extension Request