Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA
Secretary

Michael Cole
Commissioner

Report on Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Eligible Noncitizen Status Clients

March 2026

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE
REPORT ON TRANSITIONAL AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN – ELIGIBLE NONCITIZEN STATUS CLIENTS

MARCH 2026

REPORT OVERVIEW

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 18, Section 2(B)(r) requires the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) to file a report detailing the number of Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) clients who are present in the United States under an eligible noncitizen status, as described in 106 CMR 203.675.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE MISSION

DTA's mission is to assist and empower low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, improve their quality of life, and achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency. DTA offers a comprehensive system of programs and supports to help individuals and families achieve economic mobility, including food and nutritional assistance, economic assistance, and employment supports.

ELIGIBLE NONCITIZEN STATUSES FOR TAFDC

A noncitizen's eligibility for TAFDC depends on federal requirements in the section of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)[1] under which the noncitizen is present in the United States, the date that status was granted, and the meeting of additional criteria. There are 12 unique statuses that DTA recognizes in determining noncitizen applicants' eligibility for benefits. Those statuses are as follows:

- Amerasian
- Asylee
- Battered Noncitizen
- Conditional Entrant
- Cuban/Haitian Entrant
- Legal Permanent Resident
- Parolee
- Refugee
- Veteran or Active-Duty Personnel
- Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking
- Withholding of Deportation
- Special Humanitarian Parolee (includes Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrants and Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees)

TAFDC RECIPIENTS WITH ELIGIBLE NONCITIZEN STATUS

[1] 8 USC § 1101, et seq.

The following table, compiled as of **November 29, 2025**, depicts the number of eligible noncitizens TAFDC recipients by each of the 12 unique statuses.

TABLE 1
ELIGIBLE NONCITIZEN RECIPIENTS BY NONCITIZEN STATUS

Noncitizen Status	Recipients
Amerasian	<11
Asylee	180
Battered Noncitizens	68
Conditional Entrant	13
Cuban/Haitian Entrants	6,223
Legal Permanent Resident	2,252
Parolee*	401
Refugee	1,283
Veterans and Active-Duty Personnel	<11
Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking	25
Withholding of Deportation	<11
Special Humanitarian Parolee	155
TOTAL	**10,601**

- For client privacy, all demographic data under 11 is suppressed.
* An Immigration Parolee is a person given legal authorization by US Customs and Immigration Services to temporarily reside in the US.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Additional eligibility criteria for each status can be found below in **Table 2**, as well as 106 CMR 703.430.

TABLE 2
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NONCITIZEN STATUSES

Noncitizen Status	Individual is eligible if…
Amerasian	they are from Vietnam and are present in the U.S. as an Amerasian immigrant, as defined in section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1988
Asylee	they are present in the U.S. as an asylee under section 208 of the INA
Battered Noncitizens	while lawfully residing in the U.S., they or their minor child: a. has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the U.S. by: i. a spouse or a parent, or a member of the spouse's or parent's family residing in the same household as the noncitizen; and

	ii. the spouse or parent consented or did not intervene to stop such battery or cruelty. A noncitizen who actively participated in the battery or cruelty toward his or her child is ineligible; and b. the individual responsible for the battery or cruelty is no longer residing in the same household as the noncitizen or minor child subjected to the battery or cruelty; and c. the noncitizen has been approved or has a pending petition for: i. status as a spouse or a child of a U.S. citizen pursuant to clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 204(a)(1)(A) of the INA; ii. classification pursuant to clause (ii) or (iii) of section 204(a)(1)(B) of the INA; iii. suspension of deportation and adjustment of status pursuant to section 244(a)(3) of the INA; or iv. status as a spouse or child of a U.S. citizen pursuant to clause i of section 204(a)(1)(A) of the INA, or classification pursuant to clause i of section 204(a)(1)(B) of the INA
Conditional Entrant	they are present in the U.S. as a conditional entrant under section 203(a)(7) of the INA as in effect prior to 4/1/80, and if: a. The conditional entrant status was granted before 8/22/96; or b. The conditional entrant status is granted on or after 8/22/96, the noncitizen is eligible after five consecutive years have elapsed from the date the conditional entrant status was granted; or c. The noncitizen who entered the U.S. before 8/22/96, whose conditional entrant status was granted on or after 8/22/96, and who has been continuously present in the U.S. from the latest date of entry prior to 8/22/96 until the conditional entrant status was granted. Continuous presence is interrupted by a single absence from the U.S. of more than 30 days or a total of aggregated absences of more than 90 days.
Cuban/Haitian Entrants	they are present in the U.S. as a Cuban/Haitian entrant under section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 or under section 212(d)(5) of the INA
Legal Permanent Resident	they are present in the U.S. as a legal permanent resident, and if: a. The legal permanent resident status was granted before 8/22/96; b. The legal permanent resident status is granted on or after 8/22/96 and five consecutive years have elapsed from the date the legal permanent resident status was granted; c. The legal permanent resident status, regardless of the date the legal permanent status was granted, was a status adjustment by INS and prior to the status adjustment the noncitizen was (i) a refugee under section 207 of the INA, (ii) an asylee under section 208 of the INA, (iii) a noncitizen

	whose deportation was being withheld under section 243(h) or 241(b)(3) of the INA, (iv) a Cuban/Haitian entrant under section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 or under section 212(d)(5) of the INA, or (v) an Amerasian immigrant under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1988; or d. The noncitizen, who entered the U.S. before 8/22/96, whose legal permanent resident status was granted on or after 8/22/96, and who has been continuously present in the U.S. from the latest date of entry prior to 8/22/96 until the legal permanent resident status was granted. Continuous presence is interrupted by a single absence from the U.S. of more than 30 days or a total of aggregated absences of more than 90 days.
Parolee	they are present in the U.S. as a parolee under section 212(d)(5) of the INA, and if: a. The parolee status was granted before 8/22/96 and the noncitizen is being paroled for a period of at least one year; or b. The parolee status is granted on or after 8/22/96, the noncitizen is eligible after five consecutive years have elapsed from the date the parolee status was granted; or (c) The noncitizen who entered the U.S. before 8/22/96, whose parolee status was granted on or after 8/22/96, and who has been continuously present in the U.S. from the latest date of entry prior to 8/22/96 until the parolee status was granted is an eligible noncitizen. Continuous presence is interrupted by a single absence from the U.S. of more than 30 days or a total of aggregated absences of more than 90 days.
Refugee	they are present in the U.S. as a refugee under section 207 of the INA
Veterans and Active Duty Personnel	they are lawfully residing in the U.S. is an eligible noncitizen when he or she is: a. a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces with honorable discharge not related to his or her noncitizen status; b. a person on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, other than active duty for training, who fulfills the minimum active-duty service requirement of 24 months or the period for which the person was called to active duty; c. a spouse of the veteran or person who died during active duty if: a. the spouse has not remarried; and b. the couple was married for at least one year or for any period if a child was born of the marriage or was born before the marriage; d. a spouse or unmarried dependent child of the veteran or person on active duty described in (a) or (b) above. For purposes of this section, an unmarried dependent child is a child who is or could be claimed as a deduction on the veteran's tax return and who meets the definition of a dependent child as specified in 106 CMR 203.560(B);

	e. a Hmong or other Highland Lao veteran who fought on behalf of the Armed Forces of the U.S. during the Vietnam conflict and has been lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence; or a member of the organized military forces of the Government of the Philippines while such forces were in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to the military order dated July 26, 1941, including organized guerrilla forces under commanders organized by the U.S. Army for service prior to 7/1/46.
Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking	they are present in the U.S. having been issued a letter of certification by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as proof of the victim of severe forms of trafficking status, as defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.
Withholding of Deportation	their deportation is being withheld under section 243(h) or 241(b)(3) of the INA
Special Humanitarian Parolee	Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant: Individuals with an Iraq or Afghan passport, their spouse, and their unmarried children under 21 who have one of the following: • immigrant visa stamp Category SI1, SI2, SI3, SQ1, SQ2 or SQ3 and a date of entry • adjustment of status on DHS Form I-551 showing Iraqi or Afghan nationality and a code of SI6, SI7, SI8, SQ6, SQ7, or SQ8 • I-94 noting SQ or SI Parole Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee: • citizen or national of Ukraine who the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2023, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit, known as Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs); • non-Ukrainian individual who last habitually resided in Ukraine, who DHS has paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2023, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit; • spouse or child of a UHP who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2023; or • parent, legal guardian, or primary caregiver of an unaccompanied refugee minor or an unaccompanied UHP child who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2023.