



Operation Allies Welcome

Fiscal Year 2022

November 24, 2021

Fiscal Year 2022 Report to Congress



**Homeland
Security**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Message from the Director

November 24, 2021

I am pleased to present the following report, "Operation Allies Welcome," for Fiscal Year 2022, which was prepared by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

This document was compiled pursuant to direction in section 2501 of the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-43).

This report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (240) 721-1500.

Sincerely,



Ur M. Jaddou
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services



Executive Summary

This report outlines the USCIS expenditure plan for the \$193,000,000 provided by Congress to support the Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) initiative in section 2501 of the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-43).

The OAW funding will be allocated among some of the USCIS directorates and program offices that play a key role in supporting OAW efforts. The planned funding breakdown in this report provides additional information on how each respective directorate and program office plans to obligate these funds.

USCIS will provide updates to Congress every 30 days, reflecting past expenditures and future funding projections, until September 30, 2026.



Operation Allies Welcome Fiscal Year 2022

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I. Legislative Language

This report responds to the direction set forth in section 2501 of the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-43).

Section 2501 includes the following language:

Provided further, That within 15 days of the date of enactment of this Act, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives an expenditure plan for the funds provided under this paragraph, and every 30 days thereafter shall provide updated execution data to such Committees for such funds: *Provided further*, That the reporting requirement in the previous proviso shall end on September 30, 2026.

II. Background

On August 29, 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration directed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to lead the implementation of ongoing efforts across the federal government to support vulnerable Afghans as they safely resettle in the United States. These coordinated efforts are known as Operation Allies Welcome (OAW).

At the Administration's direction, DHS stood up a unified coordination group to manage efforts under OAW. As a part of this action, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is dedicating some of its workforce to support the OAW initiative by assisting with the immigration process. USCIS has deployed personnel to adjudicate applications for employment authorization. In addition, USCIS is providing immigration services to Afghan nationals and their immediate family members who were evacuated to the United States and who require additional immigration processing after entry. These include Afghan nationals with special immigrant visas; those with a pending petition for a special immigrant visa; and individuals without any current pending applications or petitions, but who may at some point file an application with USCIS when seeking asylum status.

The \$193 million provided by Congress directly supports these efforts as USCIS continues to assist those coming to the United States through the OAW initiative.

III. Expenditure Plan Breakout

Exhibit 1 below outlines the amounts allocated to USCIS’ directorate/program offices to support the OAW operations¹:

Exhibit 1:

Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) Summary Spend Plan				
Directorates	FY22	FY23	Total	Comments
Management	\$ 17,576,961	\$ 927,464	\$ 18,504,425	Office of Information Technology - IT support, Office of Intake and Document Production - card consumables, Office of Security and Integrity – personal protective equipment and covid testing supplies
External Affairs	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000	Translation of printed communications
Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations	\$ 43,523,855	\$ 27,117,380	\$ 70,641,236	Officer salaries, benefits and overtime, travel, interpretation services, reimbursing Department of State for the cost of boarding foils
Immigration Records and Identity Services	\$ 7,067,443	\$ 692,443	\$ 7,759,886	FBI fingerprints, name checks, Application Support Centers, and salary and benefits expenses
Field Operations	\$ 27,261,500	\$ 20,497,116	\$ 47,758,616	Officer salaries, benefits and overtime, travel, salary costs for the adjustment of status process
Service Center Operations	\$ 18,211,951	\$ 15,494,563	\$ 33,706,514	Salary, benefits and overtime
Fraud Detection and National Security	\$ 3,213,205	\$ 3,098,025	\$ 6,311,230	Support for Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations, Service Center Operations, and Field Operations
Office of the Chief Counsel	\$ 2,385,593	\$ -	\$ 2,385,593	Current and future attorney support
Chief Financial Officer	\$ -	\$ 5,432,500	\$ 5,432,500	Agency wide contingency to fund emerging requirements
Total	\$ 119,740,509	\$ 73,259,491	\$ 193,000,000	

Exhibit 2 below is a detailed spend plan with the OMB object class breakdown.

Exhibit 2:

Object class codes	Description	Total
11.0 Personnel Compensation	Salary, benefits and overtime for USCIS employees that support OAW. No new hires are included. Includes staff adjudicating I-589's, I-765's, I-360's, I-485's (see "form names" below)	\$ 126,453,893
21.0 Travel	Travel related to OAW related efforts, including visits for biometrics capture, application receipting, responding to inquiries, outreach, operation coordination and adjudications.	\$ 13,439,319
23.0 Rent, Communications, and Utilities	Temporary facilities spaces for additional interviews Arlington, VA and San Francisco, CA. Translation services, and Interpreter costs	\$ 21,228,289
26.0 Supplies and Materials	Card consumables for Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) and Permanent Resident Cards (PRC), form modifications to address OAW workload	\$ 2,284,128
31.0 Equipment	Equipment and development for connecting Department of State and USCIS adjudications	\$ 2,208,500
25.1 Contracts	Reimburse FBI for fingerprints and namechecks. Application Support Center costs for asylum applicants. Reimbursing Department of State for the cost of boarding foils	\$ 12,057,500
25.2 Software Development	To improve I-765/I-131 (see "form names" below) processing for OAW applicants and expand case management capabilities for OAW workload	\$ 15,328,371
		\$ 193,000,000

¹ Figures may not sum to “Totals” due to rounding.

These numbers are broken down to highlight the specific resource needs of the respective USCIS directorate and program offices to support OAW. These estimated costs are subject to change as USCIS progresses through the fiscal year. USCIS does not expect to spend all provided funds in FY 2022; any remaining funds² will be used to adjudicate benefits for this population in future years. In addition, USCIS does not intend to use any of the OAW funds to hire new employees, but will use the funds solely for payroll, overtime, and general expense reimbursement for work performed by current USCIS employees. Approximately 500 employees will handle adjudications, vetting, and legal, policy, and information technology support. USCIS will focus on the following immigration benefit forms for this OAW effort:

- I-765 - Application for Employment Authorization
- I-360 - Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant
- I-131 - Application for Travel Document
- I-485 - Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status
- I-589 - Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal

The following is a description of some of the items supported by USCIS.

Management

Office of Information Technology –

- Initiating technology to ingest the Afghan cases filed from offsite locations into a workflow that currently does not exist.

Office of Intake and Document Production –

- Card consumables for EADs and PRCs.
- Form modifications to accommodate the OAW workload.

Office of Security and Integrity –

- Purchase of personal protective equipment and testing supplies to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019.

External Affairs

- Funding required for the translation of printed communications.

Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations

- Interpreter Costs: The anticipated volume of expedited asylum caseloads would significantly exceed current contracts for interpreters available for relevant languages including Dari/Farsi, Afghan, Pashto, and Urdu.
- Travel Costs: Expedited asylum caseloads will require officers to travel to circuit-ride locations and other USCIS offices to interview a portion of expedited cases.
- Overtime: Expedited asylum cases and high receipts of parole requests will require overtime hours from current officers.
- Temporary facilities space in Arlington, Virginia, and San Francisco, California.
- Completing the I-589 - Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal and the I-131 - Application for Travel Document workload for OAW.

Immigration Records and Identity Services

² The \$193 million provided for OAW will help to offset the cost of adjudicating applications without a fee for this population.

- FBI fingerprints, name checks, Application Support Center costs, and salary reimbursements.

Field Operations

- Salary, overtime, and travel for positions completing OAW workload at identified OAW worksites.
- Equipment and development costs for connecting the Department of State and USCIS adjudications.
- Completing the I-485 - Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status and the I-765 - Application for Employment Authorization workload for OAW.

Service Center Operations

- Salary and overtime for positions completing OAW work.
- Completing the I-360 - Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant and the I-765 - Application for Employment Authorization workload for OAW.

Fraud Detection and National Security

- Salary and benefits for positions dedicated to support refugee, asylum, and international operations; service center operations; and field operations OAW workload.

Office of the Chief Counsel (OCC)

- Attorneys in OCC exclusively or primarily working on OAW.

Office of Policy & Strategy

- Policy analysts and other staff primarily working on policy guidance and implementation in support of OAW.

Chief Financial Officer

- To fund any additional emerging requirements as an agencywide contingency.

IV. Appendix: Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EAD	Employment Authorization Document
FY	Fiscal Year
IT	Information Technology
OAW	Operation Allies Welcome
OCC	Office of the Chief Counsel
PRC	Permanent Resident Card
USCIS	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services