

## Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) vs Afghan Priority 2 (P-2)

	<b>Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)</b>	<b>Afghan Priority 2 (P-2)</b>
<b>Who is qualified</b>	<p>Afghan nationals and family members (spouse and unmarried children younger than age 21) who meet certain requirements and who were employed in Afghanistan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. by or on behalf of the U.S. government in Afghanistan</li> <li>2. by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), or a successor mission, in a capacity that required the applicant to serve as an interpreter or translator of U.S. military personnel while traveling off-base with U.S. military personnel stationed at ISAF or perform activities for the U.S. military personnel stationed at ISAF.</li> </ol> <p>SIV program required applicants to have been employed for <b>a minimum of one year</b> between October 7, 2001 and December 31, 2023.</p> <p>Applicants must also have experienced or be experiencing an ongoing serious threat as a consequence of their employment.</p>	<p>Afghan nationals and family members (spouse and children of any age, whether married or unmarried) who fall into the below three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Afghans who do not meet the minimum time-in service for a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) but who work or worked at any time as employees of contractors*, Locally Employed (LE) Staff, interpreters/translators for the U.S. government, United States Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A), International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), or Resolute Support;</li> <li>2. Afghans who work or worked at any time for a U.S. government-funded program or project in Afghanistan supported through a U.S. government grant or cooperative agreement*;</li> <li>3. Afghans who are or were employed in Afghanistan by a U.S. based non-governmental or media organization.</li> </ol> <p><i>*Note: Afghans who work/worked for sub-contractors and sub-grantees do not qualify for P-2. In addition, staff of intergovernmental organizations like the UN do not qualify for P2 referral.</i></p>
<b>Process</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply for Chief of Mission Approval</li> <li>2. File a Petition with USCIS</li> <li>3. Prepare your visa application</li> <li>4. The visa interview</li> <li>5. Arrival in the US</li> </ol> <p>Additional information regarding each of the steps can be found in the below link:</p> <p><a href="#">Special Immigrant Visas for Afghans - Who Were Employed by/on Behalf of the U.S. Government (state.gov)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you qualify under points 1 or 2 above, you must be referred by a U.S. government official involved in that project. You cannot directly refer yourself to the USRAP.</li> <li>- If you worked for a U.S based media organization or U.S. based non-governmental organization (NGO) project that was not funded by a U.S. governmental agency, you <u>must be referred by the senior-most U.S. citizen employee of the media organization or NGO's headquarters in the US</u>. The senior-most citizen employee will need to submit information and supporting documents about you, your eligible employment, and your family members for referral. <b>You cannot directly refer yourself to the USRAP.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Documents to Complete</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you qualify, please fill out recommendation letter, which MSI will provide.</li> <li>- Please also provide the following information:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A full and complete Referral Form</li> <li>- Scans of the following documents               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Identity- passport, national ID, birth certificates</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)	Afghan Priority 2 (P-2)
	Full Name of Applicant: Date of Birth: Afghan Passport Number: Tazkera No: Badge No: Job Title: Start Date: End Date: Job Location: Project Name:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Relationships- marriage, divorce, death, and/or birth certificates</li> <li>o Employment History- employment badges, employer affidavit</li> <li>- Evidence that confirms your current/previous employment with MSI</li> </ul>
<b>Submission</b>	The applicant files the request.	<b><u>Referral packages will only be submitted by referrers described above and referral packages will not be accepted if submitted directly from applicants.</u></b>
<b>Important Notes</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is no resettlement process in Afghanistan and certain neighboring countries such as Iran. If/when you and your family make the difficult choice to leave Afghanistan, you will need to arrange and pay for your own travel to a third country.</li> <li>- Once you arrive in a third country, you must contact the U.S. Department of State to begin processing your case. Case processing can be lengthy (potentially 12-14 months), so please be aware that this process could require living in and supporting yourself and your family in a third country for a substantial amount of time until case processing is complete.</li> <li>- Even if you qualify for the P-2 program and travel outside of Afghanistan, there is no guarantee that you will be approved for resettlement to the U.S. In particular, applicants must pass extensive security checks.</li> <li>- The United States is unable to provide protection or support to you while you await a decision on your refugee case. If you leave Afghanistan, you can register for international protection and assistance as a refugee with the government of the country you are in, if the country has an established asylum process; or you can register with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).</li> </ul>