

What to do after you've been granted asylum?

1. What is your proof of status?

- a. Your white I-94 that you received which includes your A#, name, and country of origin
- b. Your Asylum Approval Letter from the Asylum Officer or Immigration Judge.

2. How to get a work permit?

- a. You can get an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) as soon as you are granted asylum from nearest USCIS office

3. What you need to travel?

- a. You can obtain a travel document by filling out the Application for Travel Document (Form I-131)
- b. You cannot go back to the country from which you fled

4. What to do when your address changes?

- a. If you are moving, or plan to move, it is important (and is the law) that the INS has your address on file. You can obtain a change of address from to do this.

5. Social Security Number (SSN)

- a. A Social Security Number (SSN) is necessary to work and study in U.S.
- b. Fill out an application for a SSN; you will need one of the following documents: I-94, judge's decision, EAD

6. What is a state ID?

- a. This can be a helpful form of identification that has your photo, personal information, and other information
- b. A State ID is issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

7. How to get some support?

- a. Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)
 - i. Includes cash and food stamps
 - ii. You are eligible *as soon as you get your asylum* and remain eligible for *eight months*
 - iii. To apply, go to your local country assistance office; you will need proof of residence and your SSN
 - iv. You will receive an:
 1. EBT Card: it allows you to withdraw money from ATMs and buy food from most supermarkets
 - a. *The Food Stamps Program is a little different from the RCA program; as an asylee, you are eligible for the Federal Food Stamp program for seven years after receiving asylum

- b. Matching Grant
 - i. You must apply within 31 days of receiving asylum
 - ii. You will receive monthly cash assistance and job training/placement

8. How to see a doctor?

- a. Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)
 - i. You are eligible for eight months after your asylum is granted
 - ii. Even if you lose your cash assistance, RMA lasts for eight months from the date you are granted asylum
 - iii. You may also be eligible for Medicaid.

9. Green Card

- a. Asylees can apply for a Green Card one year after being granted Asylum status.
- b. Because only a limited number of asylees can be “adjusted” to permanent resident status each year, *apply as soon as you can* after having had your asylum status for nine months to one year.