

Repatriate's rights & obligations

The United States (U.S.) Repatriation Program was established by Title XI, Section 1113 of the Social Security Act (Assistance for U.S. Citizens Returned from Foreign Countries) to provide temporary assistance to U.S. citizens and their dependents who have been identified by the Department of State (DOS) as having returned, or been brought from a foreign country to the U.S. because of destitution, illness, war, threat of war, or a similar crisis (http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title11/1113.htm). Also provides services to the Mentally Ill for the care and treatment of legally insane or otherwise mentally ill persons who are returned to the U.S. from foreign countries. This program is authorized under 24 U.S.C. 321 and also 45 CFR 211 and 212. (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/repatriation_guide_section_2_mentally_ill_repatriates_final.pdf).

The Program, through its cooperative agreement with International Social Services (ISS -USA), coordinates with the State of final destination to provide any appropriate temporary assistance for the eligible individual and dependent/s.

- 1- The repatriate has the right as U.S. citizen to travel and to live in any state that he/she may choose. For more information about this please see:
Shapiro v. Thompson, 394 U.S. 618 (1969), more information available at: <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1967/9>
- 2- The repatriate has the right to receive services, because he/she was verified by The U.S. Department of State & the U.S. Department of Health and Human services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response as a person who qualifies for assistance under this program. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/repatriation/about>
- 3- The repatriate can receive services for up to 90 days upon arrival to the US if he/she signs the repayment agreement for the loan. The State coordinator's main responsibility is assisting with notification and coordination of services prior to arrival and timely submission of necessary applications for benefits. Case worker should meet the repatriate and relatives at the airport, and should provide needed services in accordance to Program regulations., such as transportation to the final destination, shelter, food, medical care and financial assistance (according to the TANF rate in the state).
- 4- The repatriate has the right to be treated with fairness and respect as any other citizen of United States in the state in which he/she is resettling. The amount and type of assistance provided is determined by a local social service agency according to the state's standards for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. Repatriates must be advised at all times about the loan and amount they owe.
- 5- The repatriate has the right to receive care and services without discrimination *without regard to race, color or national origin in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.* <http://www.aclu.org/>
- 6- The repatriate has the right to refuse services, because this loan program is voluntary.
- 7- The repatriate is expected to repay the loan within established time. Eligible repatriates can apply for a loan waiver request. For more information about eligibility of waivers contact 443-451-1200 or iss-usa.org@iss-usa.org **Attention: Waiver Department.**
- 8- The repatriate has the right to seek assistance if he/she feels that he/she is being discriminated against by contacting the: Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Health and Human Service: Toll-free:(800) 368-1019

For more information, please contact International Social Services-USA Branch at: www.iss-usa.org