

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
About R&P Placement Options
For Recipients of Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs)**

Q: Are SIVs allowed to choose the city to which they would like to be resettled?

A: SIV recipients overseas who declare their intention to participate in the R&P Program will be offered a list of cities from which they may select a resettlement preference. These are cities with Afghan and/or Iraqi communities and the capacity to serve SIVs. SIVs may also request to join family or friends living in the United States, regardless of whether the location is included in the list of cities offered. However, due to extremely high housing costs and limited housing availability, among other challenges, **only SIVs joining a spouse, parent, sibling, child, or grandparent will be placed in the Northern Virginia area.** Unless an SIV has an immediate relative in Northern Virginia, the applicant should choose a location from the list provided or allow a resettlement agency to choose a more suitable location.

Q: How should an SIV select a city from the list?

A: SIV recipients who would like to resettle to a particular city from the list of SIV Placement Options should write the selected city on the DS-0234 SIV Biodata Form under Section E, entitled “Comments.”

Q: How should an SIV select a city if they have family or friends with whom they wish to reunite?

A: If an applicant has a U.S. tie with whom they would like to resettle, they should provide the full name, address, telephone number, and email address of the individual(s) they desire to be resettled near, as well as the nature of his/her relationship to this individual(s) (i.e. mother, daughter, brother, etc.). Applicants should include this information on the DS-0234 SIV Biodata Form under Section D, entitled “U.S. Ties”. If more than one individual is provided in different locations, applicants should indicate their order of preference. Please note the U.S. tie must be currently living in the United States (not living or working overseas), and must be willing to discuss the applicant’s case with a resettlement agency. Due to extremely high housing costs and limited housing availability, among other challenges, **only SIVs joining a spouse, parent, sibling, child, or grandparent will be placed in the Northern Virginia area.** Unless an SIV has an immediate relative in Northern Virginia, the applicant should choose a location from the list of SIV Placement Options or allow a resettlement agency to choose a more suitable location.

Q: What if SIVs have to travel immediately and cannot arrange travel through the International Organization for Migration (IOM)?

A: Under certain circumstances SIVs may not have time to declare their intention to participate in the R&P Program while still overseas. If SIVs elect to arrange their own flight, they may still

be eligible for Department of State resettlement benefits or benefits funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Please note: **Due to extremely high housing costs and limited housing availability, among other challenges, only those SIVs joining a spouse, parent, sibling, child, or grandparent will be allowed to receive R&P benefits in the Northern Virginia area.** To determine eligibility for benefits, SIVs should contact a resettlement affiliate as soon as possible after arrival in the U.S. as **eligibility is time-limited.** The list of resettlement affiliates can be found on <http://www.wrapsnet.org/> or by clicking [here](#).

Q: Where can SIVs find more info about the cities on the list of SIV Placement Options?

A: The list of cities contains links to the official websites of each city. The list can be found on <http://wrapsnet.org/> or by clicking [here](#). SIVs can begin to learn about each city through those websites.