

Refugee
Cash
Assistance
(RCA)

SFY

2024

Provides up to 12 months of cash assistance for eligible single and married refugees or humanitarian immigrants who are ineligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

ESA Briefing
Book

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Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) Program Overview

RCA is a federally-funded program that provides up to 12 months of cash assistance for eligible single and married refugees or humanitarian immigrants who are ineligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Additional information, including the eligibility criteria, funding sources, and services/benefits provided, is available in the **Program Descriptions** section of the Briefing Book..

Highlights

The average number of RCA cases per month in Washington state was **2,577 in SFY 2024**, down from **3,779 in SFY 2023**. The average monthly cash grant assistance per case was **\$413**.

In 2021, Congress expanded eligibility for RCA to include certain Afghan humanitarian parolees, and in 2022, Congress expanded eligibility again to include more Afghan humanitarian parolees, as well as certain Ukrainian humanitarian parolees. In 2024, Congress once again expanded eligibility to include Ukrainian humanitarian parolees who had arrived between Oct. 1, 2023, and Sept. 30, 2024. Being a top destination state for humanitarian parolees who became eligible for RCA, Washington state has seen a large increase in the RCA caseload.

TECHNICAL NOTES

DATA SOURCES: Data for this chapter was based on the ESA ACES database as of August 2024.

DATA NOTES:

- Percentages may not add up to expected totals due to rounding.
- All reports of 10-year client trends reflect the monthly average for each state fiscal year (SFY).

Selected RCA Program Overview, SFY 2023 and SFY 2024

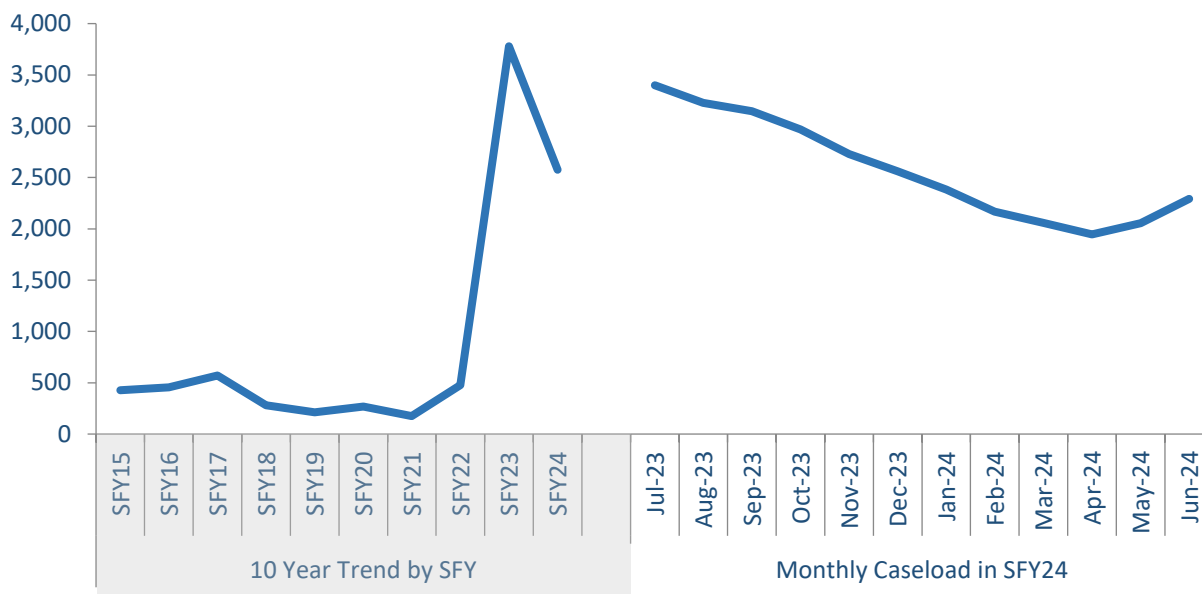
	SFY 2023	SFY 2024	Change	
	(July 2022-June 2023)	(July 2023-June 2024)		
Average Number of Cases Per Month (Range)¹	3,779 (2,116 - 4,694)	2,577 (1,945 - 3,399)	-31.8% (Decrease)	↓
Average Number of Persons Per Month (Range)	4,275 (2,338 - 5,342)	2,888 (2,142 - 3,840)	-32.4% (Decrease)	↓
State Population² Age 18 and Over	6,255,743	6,341,261	1.4% (Increase)	↑
Monthly Average Recipients as a Percent of State Population 18 and Over	<0.1%	<0.1%	No Change	=
Average Persons Per Case	1.1	1.1	No Change	=
Average Monthly Payment Per Case (Range)³	\$400.24 (\$347.74 - \$415.20)	\$412.70 (\$392.62 - \$443.17)	3.1% (Increase)	↑

¹ Beginning in August 2021, Washington saw an increase in Afghans eligible to receive Refugee Cash Assistance. There was an even larger increase in Ukrainians eligible to receive Refugee Cash Assistance starting in June 2022.

² Source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) population estimates

³ Payments not adjusted for refunds.

RCA Caseload, SFY 2015 – 2024



SFY	Monthly Average Cases	SFY	Monthly Average Cases
SFY15	428	SFY20	268
SFY16	454	SFY21	175
SFY17	569	SFY22	476
SFY18	280	SFY23	3,779
SFY19	211	SFY24	2,577

SFY 2024	Total # of Cases	Clients	Grant Expenditures	Average Payment Per Case
July	3,399	3,840	\$1,377,280	\$405.20
August	3,227	3,642	\$1,278,357	\$396.14
September	3,147	3,542	\$1,235,582	\$392.62
October	2,969	3,341	\$1,200,738	\$404.43
November	2,728	3,075	\$1,122,839	\$411.60
December	2,561	2,879	\$1,045,571	\$408.27
January	2,381	2,668	\$1,045,644	\$439.16
February	2,167	2,417	\$944,070	\$435.66
March	2,057	2,290	\$911,608	\$443.17
April	1,945	2,142	\$842,054	\$432.93
May	2,055	2,269	\$823,241	\$400.60
June	2,291	2,547	\$935,396	\$408.29
Mo. Avg.	2,577	2,888	\$1,063,532	\$412.70
Annual Undup.⁴	6,582	7,371	\$12,762,378	\$1,938.98

⁴ Expenditures represent total expenditures in the SFY.

RCA Clients by Country of Origin, SFY 2024 Annual Unduplicated

Country	# of Clients	% of Statewide Clients
State Total	7,371	100%
Ukraine	4,779	64.8%
Afghanistan	674	9.1%
Cuba	589	8.0%
Haiti	413	5.6%
Russia	94	1.3%
Syria	88	1.2%
Moldova	86	1.2%
Congo, Democratic Republic of	80	1.1%
Somalia	68	0.9%
Iran	62	0.8%
Eritrea	46	0.6%
Iraq	37	0.5%
Columbia	30	0.4%
Ethiopia	27	0.4%
Belarus (Belorussia)	25	0.3%
Venezuela	25	0.3%
Myanmar (Burma)	22	0.3%
Guatemala	22	0.3%
Sudan	17	0.2%
Pakistan	16	0.2%
Honduras	15	0.2%
Kazakhstan	13	0.2%
Nicaragua	12	0.2%
El Salvador	11	0.1%
Georgia	11	0.1%
Countries with Fewer than 10 Clients	109	1.5%

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, SFY 2024 Annual Unduplicated

Overview	Office of Issuance				Office of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
Region 1 CSOs	1,042	15.8%	1,165	15.8%	1,044	15.9%	1,166	15.8%
Region 2 CSOs	3,926	59.6%	4,383	59.5%	3,943	59.9%	4,404	59.7%
Region 3 CSOs	1,578	24.0%	1,782	24.2%	1,584	24.1%	1,789	24.3%
CSCCs	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	N/A			
ALTSA (HCS)	35	0.5%	40	0.5%				
DDA	0	0.0%	0	0.0%				
Tribal Locations	0	0.0%	0	0.0%				
Not Reported / Unidentifiable	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	11	0.2%	12	0.2%
State Total	6,582	100.0%	7,371	100.0%	6,582	100.0%	7,371	100.0%

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, SFY 2024 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

Region 1 CSO	CSO of Issuance				CSO of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
CLARKSTON	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
COLFAX	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	5	0.1%
COLVILLE	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%
ELLENSBURG	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
GOLDENDALE	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
KENNEWICK	376	5.7%	399	5.4%	376	5.7%	397	5.4%
MOSES LAKE	75	1.1%	87	1.2%	78	1.2%	90	1.2%
NEWPORT	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	5	0.1%
OKANOGAN	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
REPUBLIC	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SPOKANE MAPLE	181	2.7%	215	2.9%	196	3.0%	232	3.1%
SPOKANE TRENT	378	5.7%	430	5.8%	363	5.5%	413	5.6%
SUNNYSIDE	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
TOPPENISH	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
WALLA WALLA	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	4	0.1%	5	0.1%
WENATCHEE	8	0.1%	9	0.1%	8	0.1%	9	0.1%
WHITE SALMON	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
YAKIMA	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
Region 1 Total	1,042	15.8%	1,165	15.8%	1,044	15.9%	1,166	15.8%

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, SFY 2024 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

Region 2 CSO	CSO of Issuance				CSO of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ALDERWOOD	381	5.8%	442	6.0%	389	5.9%	449	6.1%
AUBURN	499	7.6%	563	7.6%	490	7.4%	554	7.5%
BELLINGHAM	122	1.9%	130	1.8%	121	1.8%	129	1.8%
BELLTOWN	26	0.4%	29	0.4%	23	0.3%	26	0.4%
CAPITOL HILL	41	0.6%	44	0.6%	41	0.6%	44	0.6%
EVERETT	463	7.0%	536	7.3%	463	7.0%	537	7.3%
FEDERAL WAY	353	5.4%	394	5.3%	370	5.6%	411	5.6%
KING EASTSIDE	301	4.6%	337	4.6%	301	4.6%	338	4.6%
KING NORTH	88	1.3%	100	1.4%	91	1.4%	104	1.4%
KING SOUTH	725	11.0%	808	11.0%	718	10.9%	801	10.9%
MT VERNON	52	0.8%	58	0.8%	53	0.8%	59	0.8%
OAK HARBOR	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
RAINIER	54	0.8%	62	0.8%	53	0.8%	61	0.8%
RENTON	277	4.2%	301	4.1%	283	4.3%	310	4.2%
SKY VALLEY	60	0.9%	65	0.9%	60	0.9%	65	0.9%
SMOKEY POINT	135	2.1%	149	2.0%	135	2.1%	149	2.0%
WHITE CENTER	348	5.3%	364	4.9%	351	5.3%	366	5.0%
Region 2 Total	3,926	59.6%	4,383	59.5%	3,943	59.9%	4,404	59.7%

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, SFY 2024 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

Region 3 CSO	CSO of Issuance				CSO of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ABERDEEN	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
BREMERTON	14	0.2%	15	0.2%	14	0.2%	15	0.2%
CHEHALIS	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
COLUMBIA RIVER	783	11.9%	879	11.9%	791	12.0%	888	12.0%
FORKS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
KELSO	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	5	0.1%
LAKEWOOD	116	1.8%	130	1.8%	115	1.7%	129	1.8%
LONG BEACH	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
OLYMPIA	55	0.8%	60	0.8%	55	0.8%	60	0.8%
PIERCE EAST	351	5.3%	395	5.4%	347	5.3%	391	5.3%
PIERCE NORTH	125	1.9%	142	1.9%	122	1.9%	139	1.9%
PIERCE SOUTH	126	1.9%	152	2.1%	132	2.0%	158	2.1%
PORT ANGELES	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%
PORT TOWNSEND	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SHELTON	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SOUTH BEND	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
STEVENSON	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Region 3 Total	1,578	24.0%	1,782	24.2%	1,584	24.1%	1,789	24.3%

RCA Caseload by Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC) and Other Locations, Annual Unduplicated

Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC)	Office of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
CSCC Central Sound	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Northeast	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Northwest	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC South Sound	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Southeast	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Southwest	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Virtual Case Management Center	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC WASHCAP	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
CSCC and WASHCAP Total	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%

DDA Locations	Office of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
DDA Behavioral Health Financial Unit	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
DDA Long-Term Care & Special Programs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
DDA Locations Total	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Tribal Locations	Office of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

RCA Caseload by Home and Community Services Offices (HCS), SFY 2024 Annual Unduplicated

ALTA Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 1	HCS of Issuance			
	Cases	% of State Total	Clients	% of State Total
CLARKSTON HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
COLVILLE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ELLENSBURG HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
MEDICAL LAKE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
MOSES LAKE HCS	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
OKANOGAN HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SPOKANE HCS	4	0.1%	4	0.1%
TOPPENISH HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TRI-CITIES HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
WALLA WALLA HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
WENATCHEE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
YAKIMA HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Region 1 Total	5	0.1%	5	0.1%

ALTA Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 2	HCS of Issuance			
	Cases	% of State Total	Clients	% of State Total
ALDERWOOD HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
BELLINGHAM HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
EVERETT HCS	3	<0.1%	4	0.1%
HOLGATE HCS	17	0.3%	20	0.3%
MOUNT VERNON HCS	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
SMOKEY POINT HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Region 2 Total	21	0.3%	25	0.3%

RCA Caseload by Home and Community Services Offices (HCS), SFY 2024 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

ALTSA Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 3	HCS of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ABERDEEN HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
BREMERTON HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CHEHALIS HCS	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
KELSO HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
OLYMPIA HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
PORT ANGELES HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
STEILACOOM HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TACOMA HCS	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
VANCOUVER HCS	6	0.1%	7	0.1%
Region 3 Total	9	0.1%	10	0.1%

RCA Caseload by County of Residence, SFY 2024 Annual Unduplicated

County	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total	County	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total
Adams	6	0.1%	7	0.1%	Lewis	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
Asotin	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Lincoln	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Benton	257	3.9%	273	3.7%	Mason	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Chelan	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	Okanogan	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Clallam	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%	Pacific	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Clark	791	12.0%	888	12.0%	Pend Oreille	5	0.1%	5	0.1%
Columbia	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Pierce	717	10.9%	819	11.1%
Cowlitz	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	San Juan	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
Douglas	7	0.1%	8	0.1%	Skagit	51	0.8%	57	0.8%
Ferry	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Skamania	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Franklin	119	1.8%	124	1.7%	Snohomish	1,048	15.9%	1,201	16.3%
Garfield	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Spokane	559	8.5%	645	8.8%
Grant	78	1.2%	90	1.2%	Stevens	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%
Grays Harbor	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Thurston	55	0.8%	60	0.8%
Island	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	Wahkiakum	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Jefferson	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Walla Walla	4	0.1%	5	0.1%
King	2,720	41.3%	3,013	40.9%	Whatcom	121	1.8%	129	1.8%
Kitsap	14	0.2%	15	0.2%	Whitman	5	0.1%	5	0.1%
Kittitas	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	Yakima	5	0.1%	5	0.1%
Klickitat	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	Not Reported/ Unidentifiable	3	<0.1%	3	<0.1%

	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total
State Total	6,582	100.0%	7,371	100.0%

RCA Client Demographics, SFY 2024 Annual Unduplicated

<u>All Clients</u>		
Characteristic	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Total Clients	7,371	100.0%

<u>All Clients</u>		
Gender	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Female	3,531	47.9%
Male	3,840	52.1%
Unknown	0	0.0%

<u>All Clients</u>		
Ethnicity and Race	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Hispanic or Latino	818	11.1%
Not Hispanic or Latino⁵	6,553	88.9%
White	4,789	65.0%
Black/African American	517	7.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	296	4.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	10	0.1%
Two or More Races	48	0.7%
Race Not Reported	893	12.1%

<u>All Clients</u>		
Marital Status	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Separated	63	0.9%
Married	2,447	33.2%
Never Married	4,025	54.6%
Divorced	439	6.0%
Widowed	372	5.0%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	25	0.3%

<u>All Clients</u>		
Immigration Status	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Refugee⁶	6,472	87.8%
Not Refugee	674	9.1%
Cuban/Haitian	134	1.8%
Asylee⁷	55	0.7%
Special Immigrant	23	0.3%
Immigration Status Categories with Fewer than 10 Clients	13	0.2%

⁵ Includes clients not reporting whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

⁶ Refugees includes Afghan and Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees who did not enter the U.S. with refugee status, but were eligible for all federal benefits available to refugees.

⁷ Includes people who have applied for and were granted asylum from the U.S. government.

RCA Client Demographics, SFY 2024 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

Characteristic	All Clients	
	# of Clients	% of Total Clients

Homeless Status		
	All Clients	
Homeless ⁸	599	8.1%

Equal Access		
	All Clients	
Equal Access Needed	1,531	20.8%

Education Status		
	All Clients	
Less than a High School Diploma	1,027	13.9%
High School Graduate or GED	3,088	41.9%
Some College or College Degree	3,013	40.9%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	243	3.3%

Age		
	All Clients	
Under 18 Years Old	N/A	N/A
18 – 24 Years Old	2,184	29.6%
25 – 34 Years Old	2,002	27.2%
35 – 44 Years Old	859	11.7%
45 – 54 Years Old	749	10.2%
55 – 64 Years Old	942	12.8%
65+ Years Old	635	8.6%
Average Age of Adults	37.5 Years	

Length of Stay		
Average Length of Stay ⁹	7.5 Months	

⁸ Homeless is defined (based on the self-reported living arrangement code in ACES) as: homeless without housing, homeless with housing (staying temporarily with family or friends—commonly referred to as "couch surfing"), emergency shelter, or domestic violence shelter.

⁹ Average cumulative number of months clients received RCA since July 1997. RCA provides cash assistance for eligible single and married refugees and humanitarian immigrants who are not eligible for TANF. Effective June 2, 2022, the eligibility period for RCA expanded from eight to twelve months from date of eligibility, for federally eligible populations whose date of eligibility of refugee assistance was on or after October 1, 2021.