



## **Welcoming Washington:**

**Updates from the Office of Refugee & Immigrant Assistance**

**Statewide Refugee Advisory Council**

**Feb. 18, 2025**

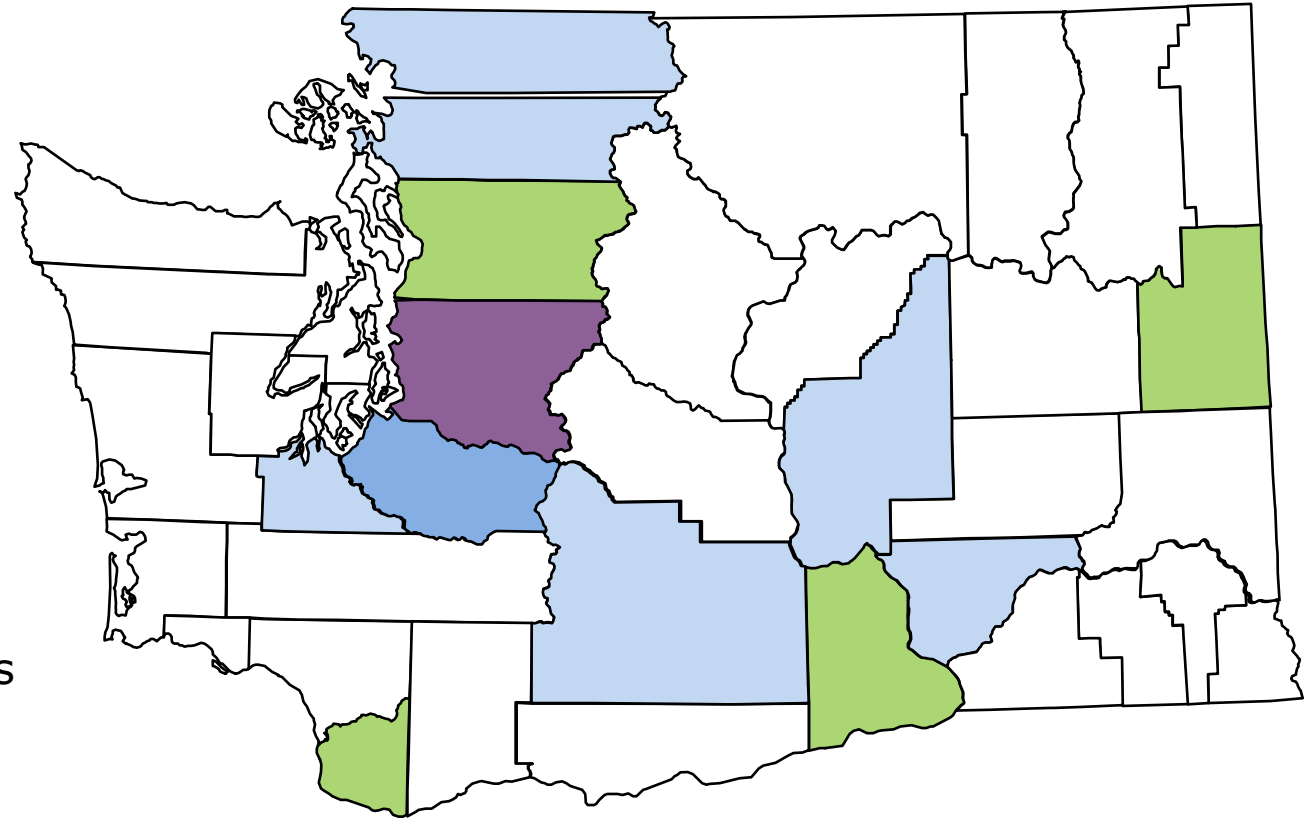
# Welcoming refugees is a collective effort.

## **WA Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance**

invests federal and state funding into local communities across Washington to provide services and resources that help refugees and humanitarian immigrants achieve economic stability and supports long-term integration.

### **Partners with more than 100 organizations:**

- Refugee Resettlement Agencies
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Ethnic Community-Based Organizations
- Public Health Departments and Health Clinics
- School Districts
- Community Colleges
- Other State Agencies



# Role and Responsibility of ORIA

1. Coordinate statewide efforts to support the economic and social integration and basic needs of immigrants and refugees arriving and resettling in WA.
2. Designated lead for the administration of the WA State Plan for Refugee Resettlement.
3. Provide refugee services in accordance with federal act and state plan.
4. Administer services to immigrants who are ineligible for federal refugee services.

[Codified in SHB 2368 in April 2024.](#)

# Washington Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

| HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAMS   | EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING PROGRAMS  | IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION ASSISTANCE           | WHOLE FAMILY SERVICES   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Culturally Relevant and Linguistically Appropriate Services</b> |   |   |   |
| Medical Screenings   | LEP Pathway Program<br>Employment Services  | Naturalization Services                           | PRIME Program<br>(Case Management and Self-sufficiency workshops) |
| Refugee Mental Health Services                                     | LEP Pathway Program<br>ESL Services   | PRIME Immigration Assistance Services             | Refugee School Impact Program                                     |
| Refugee Health Promotion Program                                   | ORIA-Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET) Program                                  | Immigration-Related Legal Services for Afghans    | Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program                               |
| Refugee Elders Program   | CLEVER Program<br>(Career Ladders for Educated and Vocationally Experienced Refugees) | Immigration-Related Legal Services for Refugees   | Refugee Youth Mentoring   |
|  |   |   | Community Outreach, Orientation & Education                       |
|  | State-funded employment services for FAP participants                                 | Immigration-Related Legal Services for Ukrainians | Housing Stabilization Services                                    |



**DSHS**

## **WA Migrant and Asylum-Seeker Support Project Overview**

**Purpose:** Build a statewide network of organizations to deliver a coordinated response to meet the short-term immediate needs of recently arrived migrants and asylum-seekers.

| <b>Service Area</b>  | <b>Objective</b>   | <b>County Locations</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Newcomer Reception &amp; Navigation Hub</b><br>International Rescue Committee | Serve as a central place to conduct eligibility screening, needs assessment and referrals.                                     | King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Skagit, Whatcom, Clark, Yakima, Benton, Franklin |
| <b>Migrant Housing Services</b>  | Provide emergency and transitional housing for up to three months each.  | King, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark, Whatcom, Skagit, Spokane                           |
| <b>Immigration-Related Legal Services</b><br>Lead Organization: NWIRP            | Conduct legal assessment and provide short-term legal assistance to help people find a pathway to employment and stabilization | King, Pierce, Yakima, Chelan, Spokane, Whatcom, Skagit, Clark, Cowlitz             |
| <b>Culturally Responsive Case Management Services</b>                            | Assist participants in developing a plan for economic stability that focuses on their own strengths and resilience.            | King, Thurston, Whatcom, Benton, Spokane, Pierce, Snohomish                        |

# Changes to Federal Policies

Refugee Resettlement

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## **Executive Order 14163: Realigning the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, 1/20/2025**

- This policy will indefinitely pause arrivals for all refugees scheduled to travel to the U.S.
- All travel for overseas refugees has been canceled and suspended indefinitely, including those refugees sponsored through Welcome Corps.
- The executive order requires the Department of Homeland Security submit a report to the President within 90 days to determine if the program will resume. This process will occur every three months until the program resumes.

## **Executive Order 14169: Reevaluating and Realigning U.S. Foreign Aid, 1/20/2025**

- U.S. Department of State Stop Work Order, 1/24/2025
- This order immediately impacts reception and placement funding administered by refugee resettlement agencies.

## **Office of Management and Budget Memo to Freeze Federal Grants, 01/27/2025**

- Rescinded on 01/28/2025
- Federal Judges place two Temporary Restraining Orders

# U.S. Refugee Resettlement Federal Funding



Population, Refugees and  
Migration (PRM)



HHS / ACF / Office of Refugee  
Resettlement (ORR)

## US Refugee Admissions Program

### International Programs

#### Domestic programs:

- Reception and Placement

Domestic programs supporting health, well-being and stability of refugees, unaccompanied children, and other eligible individuals.

#### Domestic programs:

- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Refugee Medical Assistance
- Refugee Medical Screening
- Refugee Support Services
- Preferred Communities
- Matching Grant
- Survivors of Torture
- Other specialty programs



# U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) – Agency Roles



**Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)** – PRM has overall USRAP management responsibility overseas and has lead in proposing admissions ceilings and processing priorities.



**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** – UNHCR refers cases to the USRAP for resettlement and provides important information with regard to the worldwide refugee situation.



**Resettlement Support Centers (RSC)** – Under cooperative agreement with the Department of State, RSCs consist of international organizations or non-governmental organizations that carry out administrative and processing functions, such as file preparation and storage, data collection and out-processing activities.

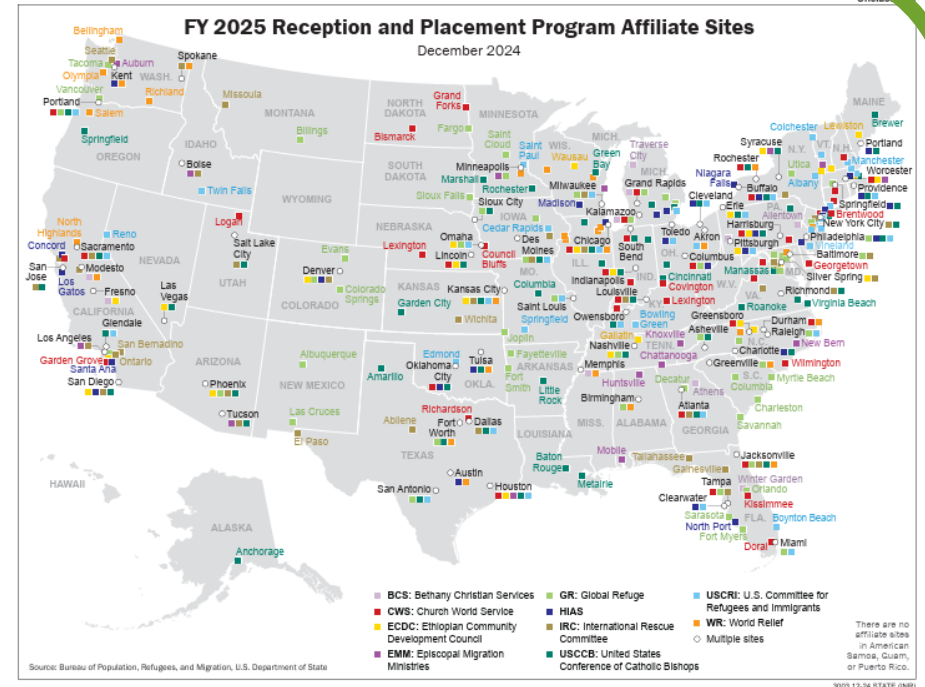


**Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** – Within DHS, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has responsibility for adjudicating applications for refugee status and reviewing case decisions; the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) screens arriving refugees for admission at the port of entry.



**International Organization for Migration (IOM)** – Contracts with DOS to coordinate travel for approved refugee applicants and serves as the RSC in certain overseas processing locations.

*Status: Funding impacted.*



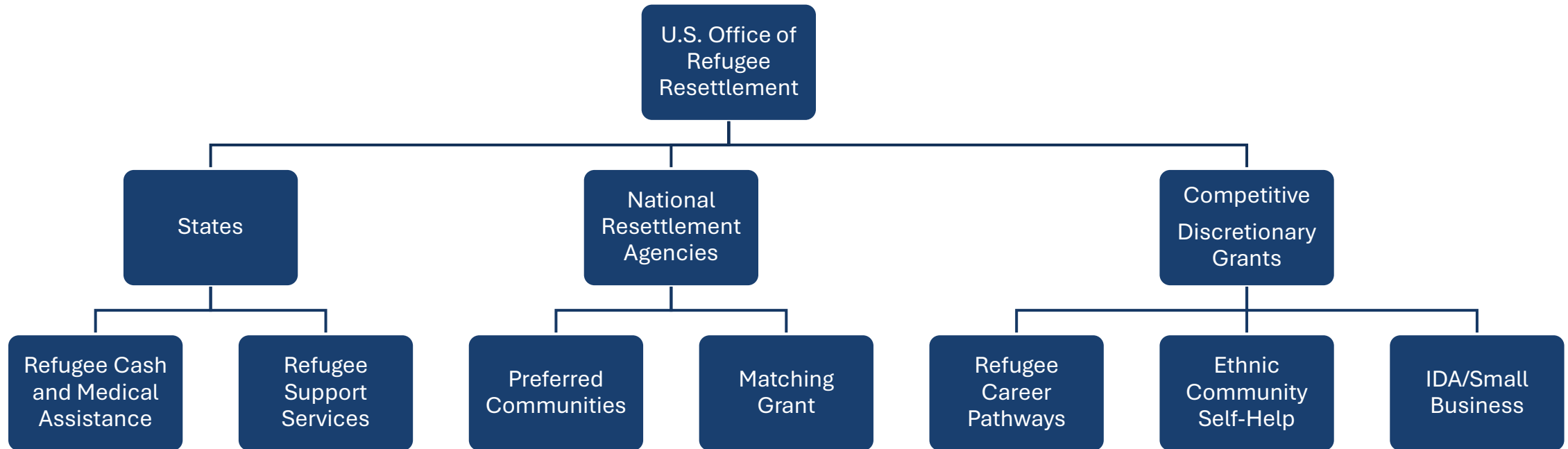
**Non-Governmental Organizations** – Provide resettlement assistance and services to arriving refugees.



Administration for Children & Families  
Office of Refugee Resettlement

**Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)** – ORR administers domestic resettlement benefits for arriving refugees.

# HHS / ACF / Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)



## U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement

### Washington DSHS ORIA

#### Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance

- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Refugee Medical Assistance
- Refugee Medical Screenings
- Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program
- DSHS Administrative

#### Refugee Support Services - Base Funding

- Community Outreach & Education
- Employment & Training
- Housing Stabilization Services
- Immigration-Related Legal Services
- PRIME

#### Refugee Support Services – Set Asides

- Refugee Health Program
- Refugee School Impact
- Refugee Youth Mentoring
- Services for Older Refugees



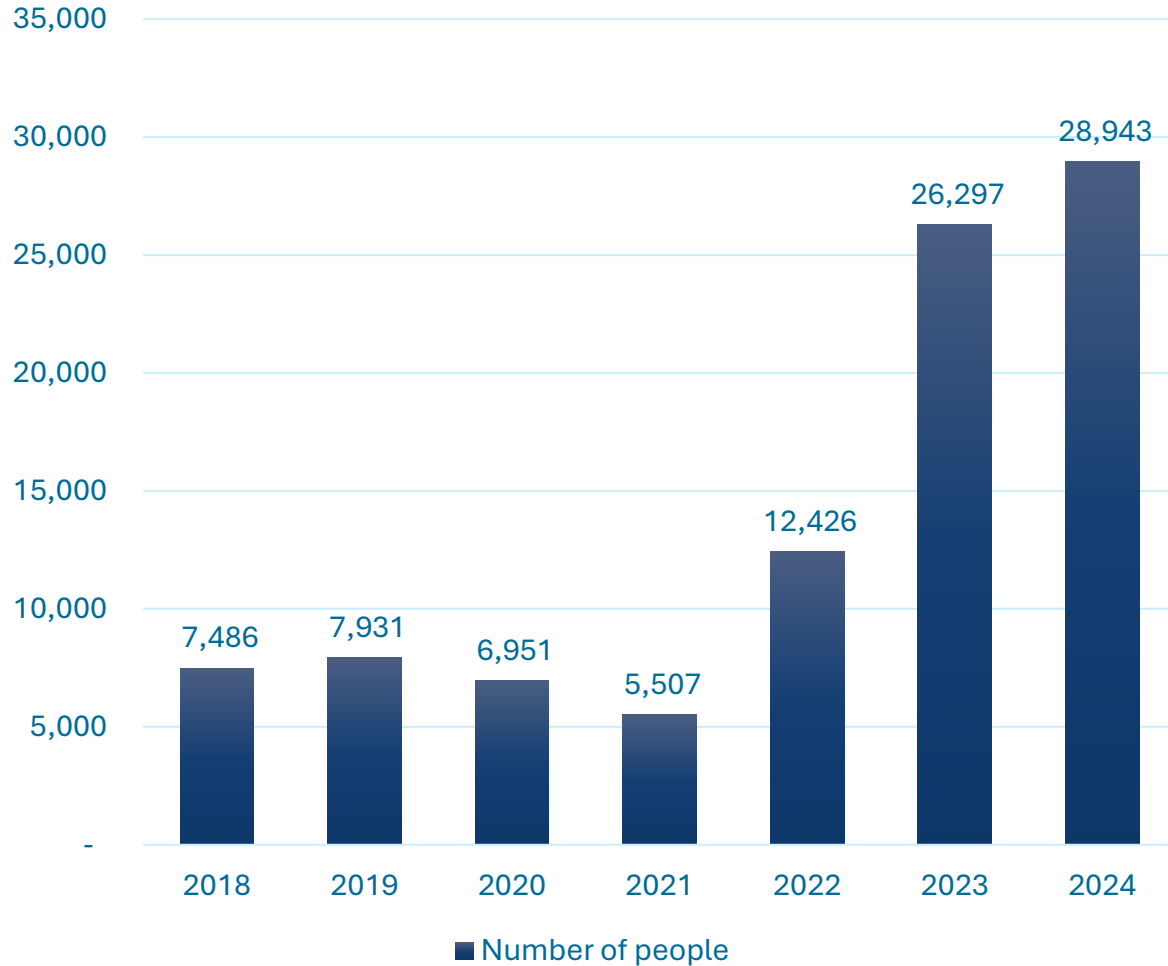
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Carry On



# People served by ORIA's Refugee Programs



Data collected and reported through the ORR-5.

## **Serves all federal eligible immigrants, including:**

- Refugees admitted under [§ 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act \(INA\)](#)
- People granted asylum [under § 208 of the INA](#)
- Cuban and Haitian entrants
- Amerasians
- Certified victims of human trafficking
- Special Immigrant Visa Holders from Iraq and Afghanistan
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (See [ORR Policy Letter 22-01](#) and [22-02](#))
- Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (See [ORR Policy Letter 22-13](#))

## **Federally Funded Refugee Services may include:**

- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Refugee Medical Assistance
- Medical Screenings
- Refugee Support Services, including:
  - Health and Wellness
  - Employment & Training Services
  - Immigration-Related Legal Services
  - Whole Family Programs



# Washington Refugee and Humanitarian New Arrivals

## FFY 2021 to FY 2025

(year to date – Oct. 31, 2024)



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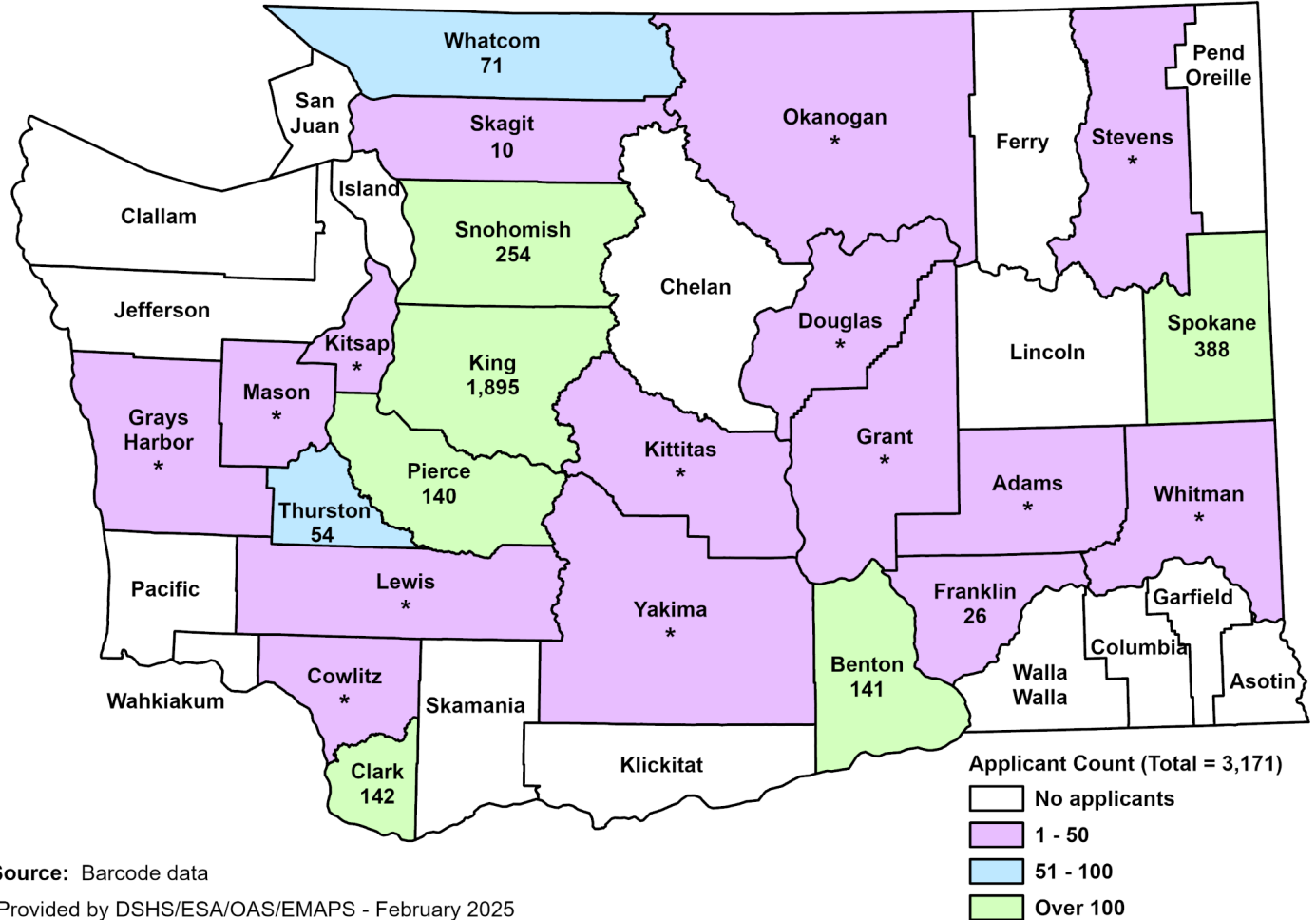
| National Totals for the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement |         |
|---|---------|
| 2021  | 88,815  |
| 2022  | 484,140 |
| 2023  | 588,366 |
| 2024  | 711,521 |
| 2025  | TBD     |



## Newly Arrived Refugee and Humanitarian Immigrant Applicants for DSHS Services by Residential County in Washington State: October 2024 - January 2025

| Unduplicated # of Newly Arrived Refugee Applicants |       |
|--|-------|
| January 2025                                       | 730   |
| FFY 2025 (Oct. 2024 - Sep. 2025) To-Date           | 3,171 |

| Newly Arrived Refugee Applicants by Top 10 Country of Origin |                              |   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Country  | # of Applicants January 2025 | # of Applicants October 2024 - January 2025 |
| Afghanistan  | 333                          | 1,564                                       |
| Ukraine  | 16                           | 339   |
| Eritrea  | 44                           | 121   |
| Venezuela  | 53                           | 117   |
| Cuba   | 21                           | 109   |
| Haiti  | 17                           | 95  |
| Somalia  | 41                           | 83  |
| Sudan  | 49                           | 76  |
| Ethiopia   | 10                           | 65  |
| Syria  | 24                           | 59  |



Source: Barcode data

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/EMAPS - February 2025

\* When necessary, values less than 10 (but greater than zero) are not displayed in order to help protect client confidentiality. These counties are denoted with an asterisk (\*).

### Newly Arrived Refugee Applicants<sup>1</sup> for DSHS Services, January 2025

Source: DSHS-ESA/EMAPS Assignment M5363 using the Barcode database as of February 10, 2025

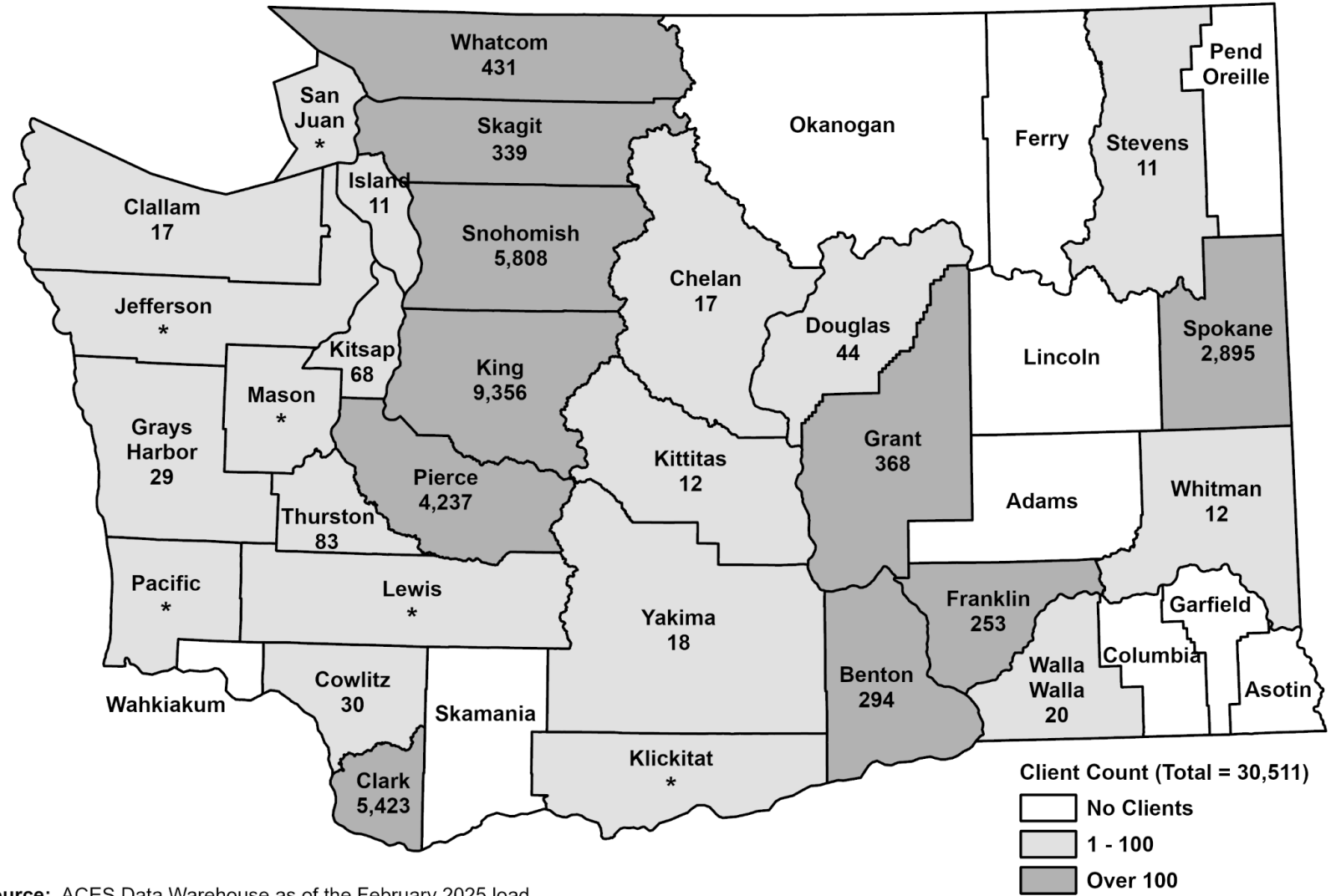
This report was produced on February 10, 2025



# Ukrainian Clients on Select Cash, Food, and Apple Health Medical Programs by County in Washington State, January 2022 - January 2025

## Ukrainian Arrivals in Washington

**30,511 Ukrainians** have arrived in Washington and received cash, food, and/or medical assistance from DSHS.



Source: ACES Data Warehouse as of the February 2025 load  
Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/EMAPS Assignment #M5655 - February 2025

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## Things we are doing...

- [EO 25-04 Protecting Immigrant Families and Responding to Family Separation](#)
- WA Coalition for Welcoming Newcomers: Feb. 26, 2025
- Commitment to communication and updates
  - Resources –
    - [DSHS Website Planning for Changes in Federal Immigration Policies and Practices](#)
    - [WA Office of Attorney General- Know Your Rights: Civil Immigration Enforcement in WA](#)



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Thank you!