



Welcoming Washington:

Updates from the Office of Refugee & Immigrant Assistance

**Statewide Refugee Advisory Council Meeting
Nov. 21, 2024**



DSHS

WASHINGTON STATE
**Department of Social
and Health Services**

What is one word
or emoji to
describe how you
are feeling today?



Key Messages



Celebrate
Accomplishments



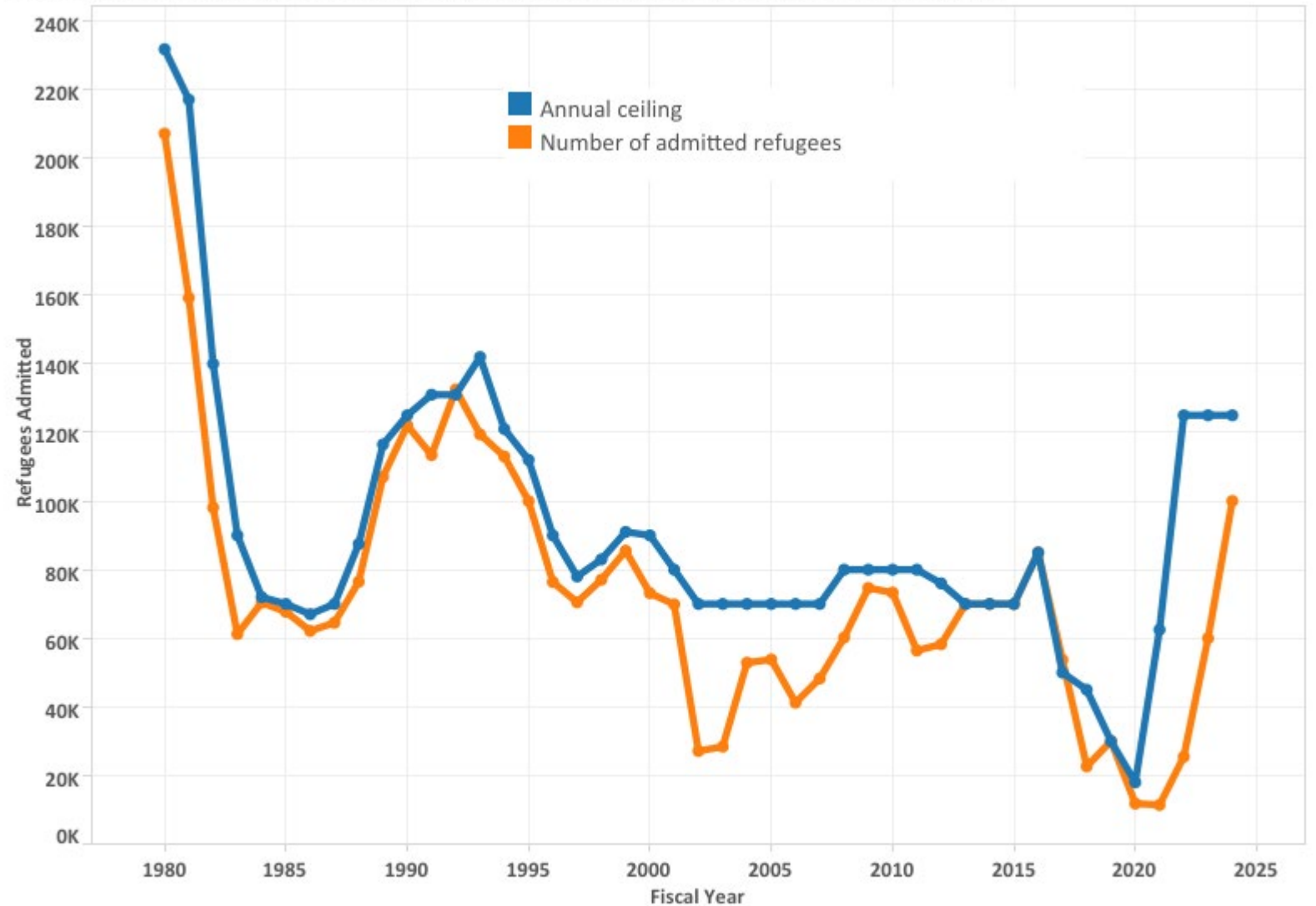
Stay Calm
And
Carry On



Let's work
together!

**U.S. resettled
100,034 refugees
in FFY 2024.**

U.S. Refugee Admissions & Refugee Resettlement Ceilings, FY 1980-2024



National Arrival Numbers for Refugees and Humanitarian Immigrants

Immigration Status	FFY 2020	FFY 2021	FFY 2022	FFY 2023	FFY 2024
Afghan Humanitarian Parolees		2,867	76,284		
Asylees (granted asylum)	33,038	20,772	40,627	70,013	66,806
Cuban/Haitian Entrants	8,776	41,539	251,072	349,139	420,398
Refugees	11,841	11,508	25,638	60,281	100,184
Special Immigrant Visa Holders	11,450	10,094	13,444	18,476	31,096
STS	49	183	1,851	3,527	
Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees			72,241	83,877	89,516
Victims of Human Trafficking	1,088	1,852	2,983	3,053	3,521
Grand Total	66,242	88,815	484,140	588,366	711,521

Data Source: U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services



Washington Refugee and Humanitarian New Arrivals

FFY 2021 to FY 2025
(year to date – Oct. 31, 2024)



Serves all federally eligible immigrants, including:

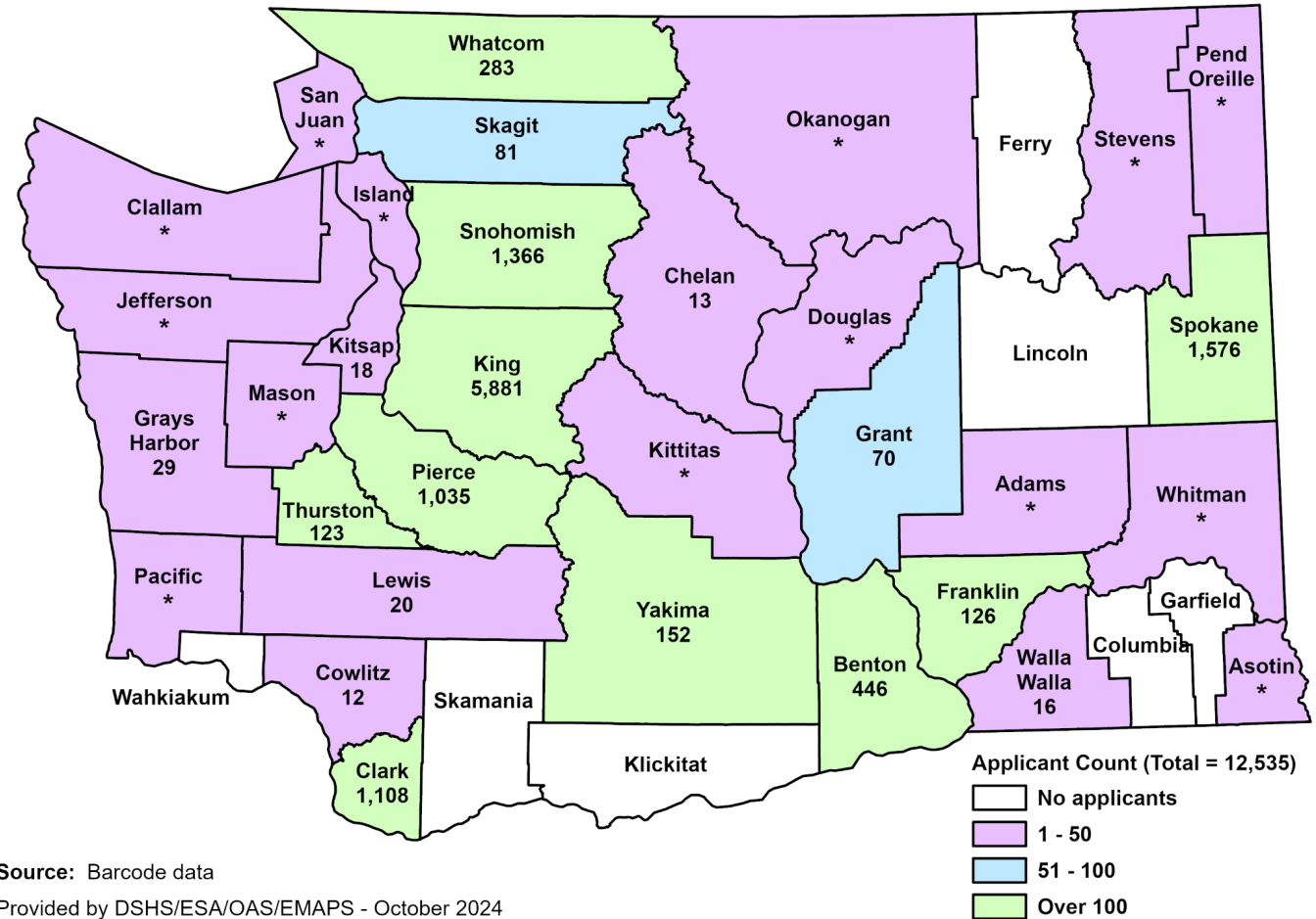
- Refugees admitted under [§ 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act \(INA\)](#)
- People granted asylum [under § 208 of the INA](#)
- Cuban and Haitian entrants
- Amerasians
- Certified victims of human trafficking
- Special Immigrant Visa Holders from Iraq and Afghanistan
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolees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

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 2023 - September 2024

Unduplicated # of Newly Arrived	
September 2024	1,570
FFY 2024 (Oct. 2023 - Sep. 2024)	12,535

Top 10 Newly Arrived Refugee Applicants by Country of Origin		
Country	# of Applicants/month	# of Applicants/total
Ukraine	746	4,291
Afghanistan	278	3,200
Cuba	40	550
Haiti	29	478
Venezuela	104	380
Syria	33	321
Eritrea	26	225
Columbia	18	215
Democratic Republic of Congo	27	213
Guatemala	32	206



Source: Barcode data

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/EMAPS - October 2024

* 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 (*).



DSHS

WASHINGTON STATE
**Department of Social
and Health Services**

What is one
accomplishment
that you would
like to
acknowledge?



Washington's Office of Refugee & Immigrant Assistance

- ✓ +100 community partners
- ✓ Invested \$100 million in 2024 and 2025
- ✓ Expanded partnerships across the state
- ✓ New programs and services:
 - FAP E&T
 - Housing Stabilization Services
 - Immigration Related Legal Services for Afghan/Ukrainians
 - Community Outreach & Education
 - Afghan and Ukrainian Health Promotion Programs
 - Afghan and Ukrainian Refugee School Impact Programs
 - Early Childhood Refugee School Impact Program
- ✓ Increase from 13 to 25 ORIA team members



DSHS

WASHINGTON STATE
**Department of Social
and Health Services**

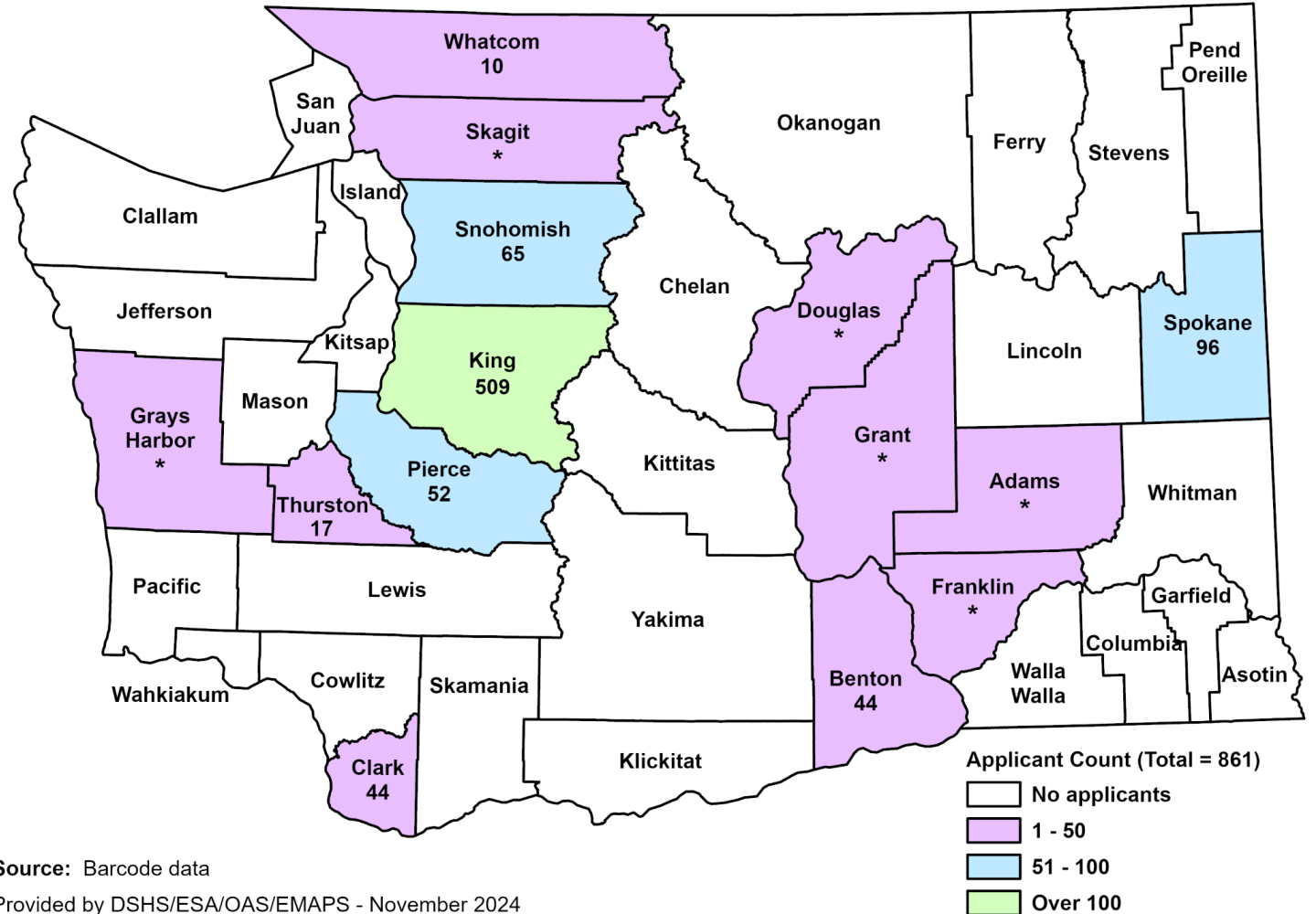
Stay Calm and
Carry On



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

Unduplicated # of Newly Arrived Refugees and Humanitarian Immigrants	
October 2024	861
FFY 2025 (Oct. 2024 - Sep. 2025) To-Date	861

Top 10 Nationalities of Origin		
Country	# of Applicants October 2024	# of Applicants October 2024 - October 2024
Afghanistan	404	404
Ukraine	133	133
Eritrea	40	40
Haiti	35	35
Cuba	28	28
Syria	25	25
El Salvador	20	20
Iraq	17	17
Congo	15	15
Venezuela	13	13
Congo, Democratic Republic of	11	11
Ethiopia	10	10
Somalia	10	10



Source: Barcode data

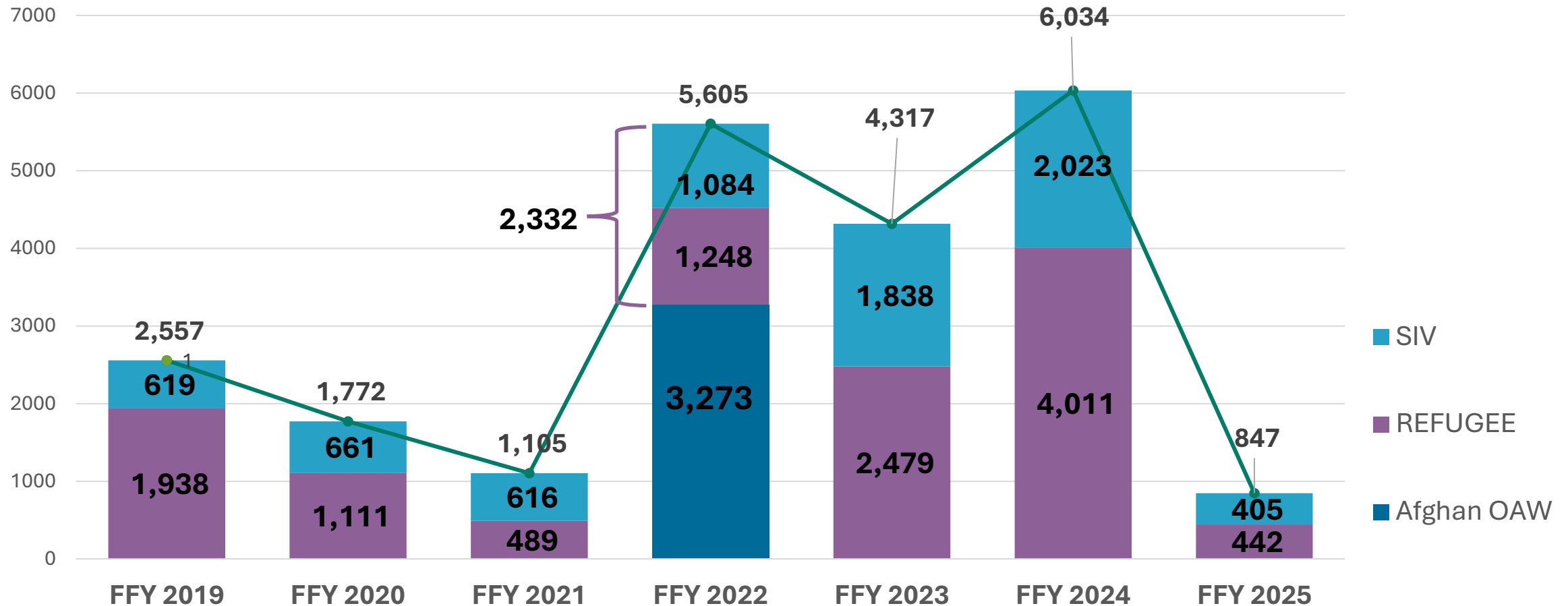
Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/EMAPS - November 2024

* 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 Applicants¹ for DSHS Services, October 2024

Source: DSHS-ESA/EMAPS Assignment M5363 using the Barcode database as of November 18, 2024

Washington State Arrivals U.S. Refugee Admissions Program FFY 2019 to FFY 2025 (YTD: Nov. 15, 2024)



Sources: State Post-Arrival Demographics Report, Dept. of State, Bureau of Populations, Refugees and Migration
Afghan Placement and Assistance Program - Weekly Departure Status Report

County/Region	Resettlement Agency	Total Proposed for FY 2025 (Individuals)	Actual Arrivals for FY 2025 Year to Date (11/15/2024)
Benton-Franklin	World Relief	360	39
Clark	Lutheran Community Services Northwest	400	28
Olympia	World Relief	125	10
Puget Sound Region	Diocese of Olympia	340	105
	Jewish Family Services	525	79
	World Relief	1,300	147
	International Rescue Committee	800	135
	Lutheran Community Services Northwest	600	89
	SUBTOTAL	3,565	555
Spokane	International Rescue Committee	330	56
	World Relief	750	45
Whatcom	World Relief	250	13
Welcome Corps	27 Private Sponsor Groups	369	70
Virtual R&P	International Rescue Committee	unknown	31
	TOTAL	6,149	847



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Department of Social
and Health Services

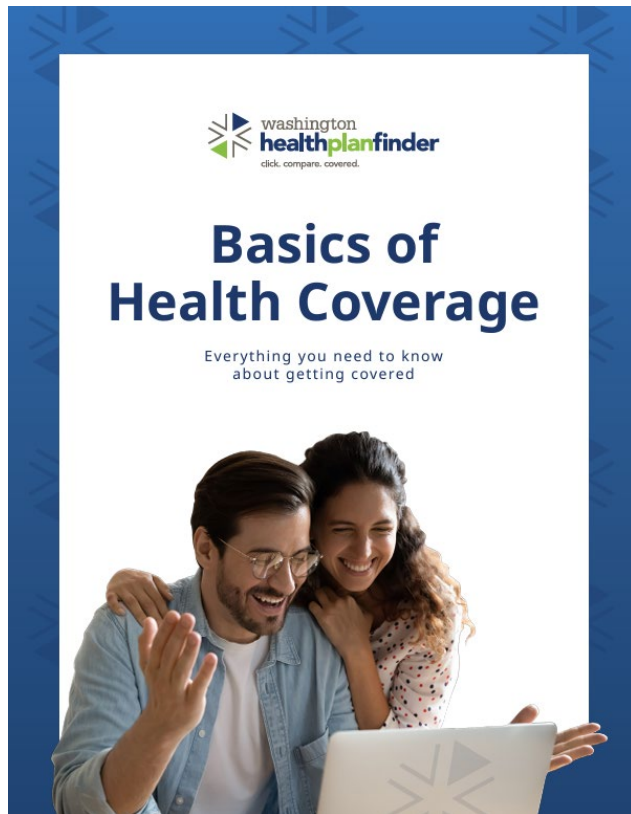
Thank you!



HEALTH UPDATES

Refugee Advisory Council
November 2024

Health Insurance Coverage Information



English

Shqiptar - Albanian

አማርኛ - Amharic

- العربيةArabic

ភាសាខ្មែរ - Cambodian (Khmer)

简体中文 - Chinese
(Simplified)

- دریDari

- فارسیFarsi

Français - French

Deutsch - German

हिन्दी - Hindi

日本語 - Japanese

한국어 - Korean

ພາສາລາວ - Lao

Afaan Oromoo - Oromo

- پښتوPashto

Português - Portuguese

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ - Punjabi

Română - Romanian

Русский - Russian

Af Soomaali - Somali

Español - Spanish

Kiswahili - Swahili

ฟิ่ ด้ - Thai

ትግርኛ - Tigrigna

Türkçe - Turkish

українська - Ukrainian

- اردوUrdu

Tiếng Việt - Vietnamese

Source: Washington Health Benefits Exchange <https://www.wahbexchange.org/resources/media-toolkit/basics-of-health-coverage/#accordion-8d4bcc746a-item-a826a8d915>

Health Insurance Coverage Information



GETTING COVERED AS A NONCITIZEN

Reduce Fear with Facts

It's safe to apply for a health plan

Your information is private. What you share with Washington Healthplanfinder cannot be used against you. It will only be used to find out if you qualify for coverage.

Your situation is unique. Contact us if you have questions. We provide support in more than 200 languages. You can ask for an interpreter by phone, find an assister by language or request translated materials. These services are free to you.

Did you know?

- 1 You do not need a social security number to apply.** People with many different statuses can get covered through Washington Healthplanfinder.
- 2 Laws protect you and your family.** By law, your information can only be used to find a health plan for you.
- 3 You could get free or low-cost coverage.** Many people can get Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) for little to no cost.

Applying is free and confidential

You can apply for a health plan online, over the phone or on our app. To get started, create an account on wahealthplanfinder.org, call 1-855-923-4633 or download the WAPlanfinder app.

Get support where you live. Brokers and navigators around the state provide support with getting coverage. They can answer your questions and help you get enrolled. Visit wahealthplanfinder.org or call 1-855-923-4633 to search for one by language.



wahealthplanfinder.org
1-855-923-4633

Download the
WAPlanfinder app

[English](#)

[简体中文 - Chinese \(Simplified\)](#)

[日本語 - Japanese](#)

[한국어 - Korean](#)

[Русский - Russian](#)

[Español - Spanish](#)

[Tiếng Việt - Vietnamese](#)

Source: <https://www.wahbexchange.org/resources/media-toolkit/basics-of-health-coverage/#accordion-8d4bcc746a-item-a826a8d915>

Washington State Department of Health



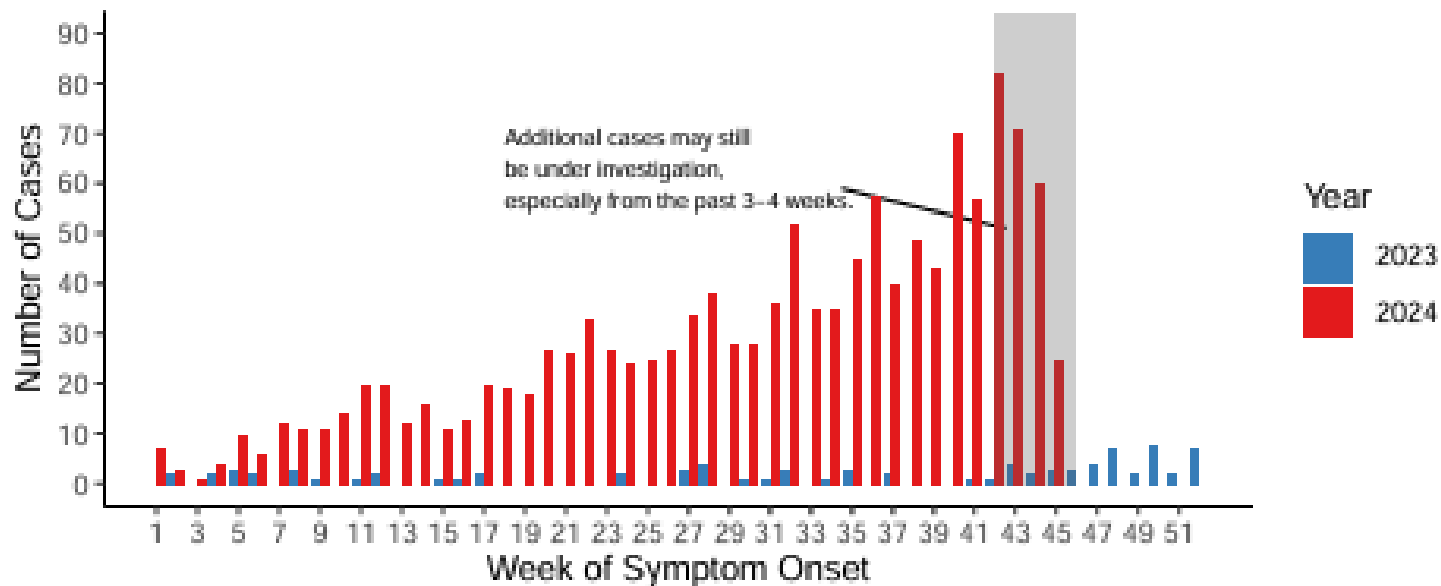
Washington state sees steep increase in whooping cough cases

Nearly 1200 cases reported to date: vaccination key to preventing severe illness.

Source: Washington State Department of Health: <https://doh.wa.gov/newsroom/washington-state-sees-steep-increase-whooping-cough-cases>

Number of Pertussis Cases Reported in Washington State

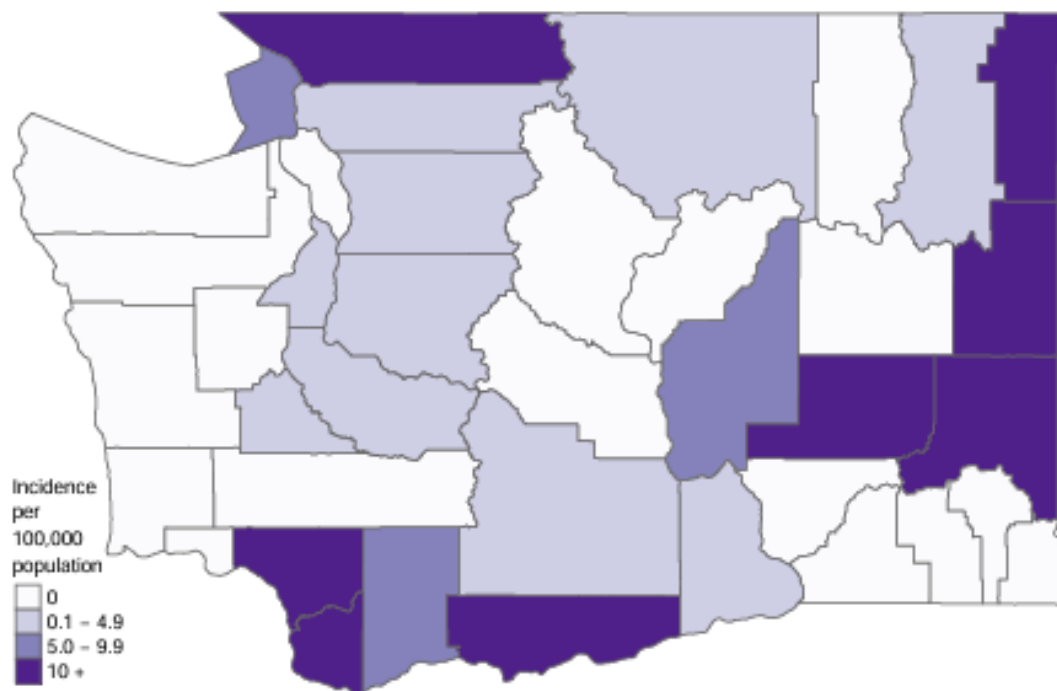
Figure 1: Number of Pertussis Cases Reported in Washington State by CDC Week of Symptom Onset: 2023 (blue) vs 2024 (red)



Source: Washington State Department of Health, : <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/348-254-PertussisUpdate.pdf>

Six-Week Pertussis Incidence Rates by County

Figure 3: Six-Week Pertussis Incidence Rates by County, 2024 weeks 39 - 45



Source: Washington State Department of Health, : <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/348-254-PertussisUpdate.pdf>

What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is caused by bacteria that spreads from person to person in the air. Some signs are:



coughing
fits



vomiting



difficulty
breathing

Who can get very sick?

Babies can get very sick from whooping cough. While some babies do cough, many babies don't cough at all. Instead, they may struggle to breathe.

Whooping cough can lead to hospitalization, pneumonia, brain damage, or even death.



Public Health
Seattle & King County 

Source: Public Health Seattle & King County <https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/dph/documents/health-safety/disease-illness/whooping-cough-pertussis/pertussis-family-friendly-slides-en.pdf>

What can I do to protect myself and others?

People of all ages can get vaccinated to protect themselves and others.



Babies and young children

DTaP

2, 4, and 6 months
15-18 months
4-6 years



Preteens

Tdap

11-12 years



Pregnant people

Tdap

Third trimester
of each
pregnancy



Adults 19+

Tdap

Anytime for
those who have
never gotten it

Source: Public Health Seattle & King County <https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/dph/documents/health-safety/disease-illness/whooping-cough-pertussis/pertussis-family-friendly-slides-en.pdf>

How does vaccination protect babies during pregnancy?



When you get vaccinated, your body makes antibodies that get passed along to your baby. The antibodies protect your baby during the first few months of life.

If you are pregnant, get vaccinated early in the third trimester of your pregnancy. If you are sick with a cough, don't visit babies or pregnant people.

Public Health
Seattle & King County 

Source: Public Health Seattle & King County <https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/dph/documents/health-safety/disease-illness/whooping-cough-pertussis/pertussis-family-friendly-slides-en.pdf>

Translated Health Education Resources

Public Health Seattle & King County <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dph/health-safety/disease-illness/whooping-cough>

Resources for the general public

Please use and share these materials to help spread awareness about whooping cough.



[Whooping Cough information sheet \(171 KB\)](#)

This fact sheet goes over basic information on whooping cough, including how it spreads, symptoms, and vaccination.

Also available in the following languages:

አማርኛ - Amharic (218 KB) | العربية - Arabic (232 KB) | 简体字 - Chinese, Simplified (265 KB) | 繁體字 - Chinese, Traditional (281 KB) | English (171 KB) | 한국어 - Korean (258 KB) | ਪੰਜਾਬੀ - Punjabi (208 KB) | Русский - Russian (229 KB) | Af Soomaali - Somali (180 KB) | Español - Spanish (175 KB) | Wikang Tagalog - Filipino/Tagalog (175 KB) | Українська - Ukrainian (235 KB) | Tiếng Việt - Vietnamese (219 KB)



[Whooping Cough flyer \(147 KB\)](#)

This flyer explains what whooping cough is, how to protect yourself and others, and vaccination information.

Also available in the following languages:

አማርኛ - Amharic (179 KB) | العربية - Arabic (215 KB) | 繁體字 - Chinese, Traditional (206 KB) | Dari (242 KB) | English (147 KB) | 日本語 - Japanese (543 KB) | ភាសាខ្មែរ - Khmer (150 KB) | 한국어 - Korean (192 KB) | Kajin Majeļ - Marshallese (173 KB) | ਪੰਜਾਬੀ - Punjabi (159 KB) | Русский - Russian (219 KB) | Af Soomaali - Somali (144 KB) | Español - Spanish (146 KB) | Wikang Tagalog - Filipino/Tagalog (148 KB) | ትግርኛ - Tigrinya (201 KB) | Українська - Ukrainian (248 KB) | Tiếng Việt - Vietnamese (219 KB)



[What is whooping cough and how do I protect my family? \(624 KB\)](#)

This resource is a series of slides about whooping cough, including information on how it spreads, who is at risk, and vaccination.

Also available in the following languages:

العربية - Arabic (734 KB) | 简体字 - Chinese, Simplified (707 KB) | 繁體字 - Chinese, Traditional (708 KB) | Dari (730 KB) | English (624 KB) | 日本語 - Japanese (624 KB) | ភាសាខ្មែរ - Khmer (633 KB) | 한국어 - Korean (712 KB) | Kajin Majeļ - Marshallese (873 KB) | ਪੰਜਾਬੀ - Punjabi (634 KB) | Русский - Russian (634 KB) | Af Soomaali - Somali (626 KB) | Español - Spanish (628 KB) | Wikang Tagalog - Filipino/Tagalog (835 KB) | ትግርኛ - Tigrinya (848 KB) | Українська - Ukrainian (633 KB) | Tiếng Việt - Vietnamese (628 KB)



[Whooping Cough flyer for pregnant people \(127 KB\)](#)

This flyer explains how to protect you and your baby from whooping cough through vaccination.

Also available in the following languages:

አማርኛ - Amharic (151 KB) | 繁體字 - Chinese, Traditional (284 KB) | English (127 KB) | Русский - Russian (166 KB) | Af Soomaali - Somali (133 KB) | Español - Spanish (131 KB) | Українська - Ukrainian (165 KB) | Tiếng Việt - Vietnamese (157 KB)

Washington State Department of Health



Protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19, flu, and RSV by getting vaccinated before the holidays

Most vaccines are covered by insurance, or available at no cost to underinsured or uninsured people.

Source: Washington State Department of Health <https://doh.wa.gov/newsroom/protect-yourself-and-your-loved-ones-covid-19-flu-and-rsv-getting-vaccinated-holidays>

Contact Information

Refugee and Immigrant Health Program

Washington State Department of Health

206-418-5500

refugeehealthprogram@doh.wa.gov

<https://doh.wa.gov/refugeehealth>





To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.



Washington Migrant and Asylum-Seeker Support Project Refugee Advisory Council

November 21st, 2024



Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of the WA Migrant & Asylum-seeker Support Project
- Introduce Support Project Team
- Connecting Clients to Services
- WA Coalition for Welcoming Newcomers
- Q&A

Definitions

Refugee: an individual that has fled their home country and cannot return because they have a well-founded fear of persecution due to their race, religion, national origin, membership in a social group, or political opinion. Refugees apply for and are granted a stable immigration status by the Department of Homeland Security and are admitted into the United States under that status.

Humanitarian Immigrants (federally-eligible)

- Asylee or someone granted asylum by the U.S. government.
- Certified Victim of Human Trafficking.
- Amerasian.
- Cuban-Haitian Entrant.
- Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIVs).
- Certain Afghan and Ukrainian humanitarian parolees

These individuals do not qualify for WA MASS services.

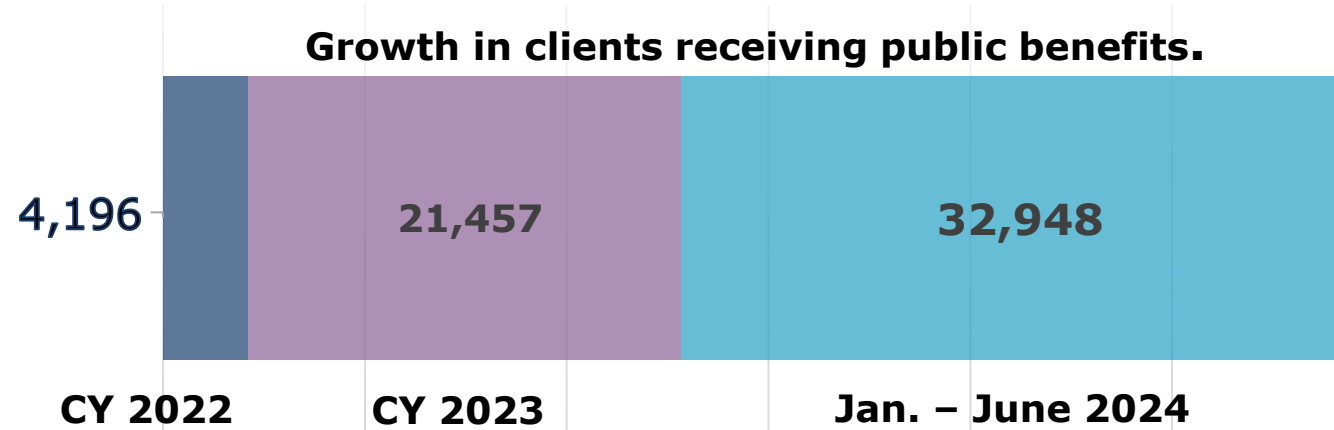
Asylum-seeker: is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution, but who has not yet been recognized as a refugee.

Migrant: is a person who leaves their country of origin to seek permanent or temporary residence in another country.

***The WA Migrant & Asylum-seeker Support Project is intended to serve migrants and asylum-seekers who are ineligible for federal refugee resettlement services.**



Profile of Non-federally Qualified Immigrants Receiving State Benefits



37,105 unduplicated clients

Country of Origin	# of Clients	# of Households
Mexico	7,533	3,342
Venezuela	7,213	4,806
Colombia	3,932	2,385
Russia	3,401	1,776
Nicaragua	1,417	1,108
Honduras	1,242	690
Angola	1,139	579
Peru	1,115	660
Guatemala	1,075	582

County of Residence ⁵	# of Clients 2022-2024
King	17,887
Snohomish	4,219
Clark	3,027
Yakima	2,784
Pierce	2,601
Franklin	1,207
Benton	1,135
Grant	770
Spokane	704
Whatcom	457
Chelan	348
Mason	337
Thurston	291
Skagit	281
Douglas	226
Walla Walla	144

Washington's Response

Substitute House Bill 2368: Assisting refugees and immigrants:

- Coordinate statewide efforts to support the economic and social integration and basic needs of immigrants and refugees arriving and resettling in Washington. Allows services to immigrants who are ineligible for federal refugee resettlement services

Appropriation of \$25,250,000 of State-Funding for SFY 2024 and 2025

- \$22,740,000 to provide support services through the WA MASS Project.
- \$250,000 in FY 2024 and \$750,000 in FY 2025 provided solely for school districts.
- \$700,000 Provided solely for members of the Sub-Saharan African community.
- \$810,000 for ORIA Staff and Administrative Costs

DSHS ORIA Team

TEAM MEMBER	ROLE
Ahmad Omid Sahak WA MASS Project Administrator	Newcomer Reception & Navigation Hub, Project Coordination
Asadullah Mohammadi WA MASS Project Manager	Migrant Housing Services
Dip Singh WA MASS Project Manager	Immigration-Related Legal Services, Case Management
Emily Fenton WA MASS Management Analyst	Reporting, Communications, Coordination of Coalition

**Administering the WA Migrant & Asylum Seeker Support project framework, monitoring and supporting contracts for all program areas, supporting partnership coordination, monitoring project implementation and contracts, and establishing guidelines to ensure quality, transparency, and accountability among service providers.*



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.

Service Area	Objective	County Locations
Newcomer Reception & Navigation Hub International Rescue Committee <u>All prospective participants start here.</u>	Serve as a central place to conduct eligibility screening, needs assessment and referrals.	King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Skagit, Whatcom, Clark, Yakima, Benton, Franklin
Migrant Housing Services	Provide limited emergency housing services and housing subsidies for up to three months.	King, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark, Whatcom, Skagit, Spokane
Immigration-Related Legal Services 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
Culturally Responsive Case Management Services	Assist participants in developing a plan for economic stability that focuses on their own strengths and resilience.	King, Thurston, Whatcom, Benton, Spokane, Pierce, Snohomish



Participant Eligibility and Prioritization

Eligibility Criteria:

- Be a non-citizen residing in WA that entered the U.S. for the first time after Jan. 1, 2022, **and**
- Do not qualify for federal refugee resettlement services and benefits.

Prioritization Criteria:

- Lack federal Employment Authorization Document.
- Have been placed in removal proceedings because they were apprehended in the U.S. or at a port of entry without proper documentation.
- Have been unsheltered, staying in a building illegally, or staying in emergency shelter .
- Are a pregnant person or a member of a family with children under the age of 18.
- Persons with complex medical conditions
- An unaccompanied youth between the ages of 18 and 24
- Single women or single adults over the age of 65 years



Connecting Participants to Services

- All participants are referred or self-refer to Hub first
- [WA MASS Website](#)
- [Access the Hub](#)



Washington's Coalition for Welcoming Newcomers

- Provide an opportunity to build collaboration and coordination
- Bring government, philanthropy, and community together to identify solutions collectively
- Please join us. All are invited!



Q&A Session



DSHS
WASHINGTON STATE
Department of Social
and Health Services

Thank you!

*DSHS Mission: Partner with people to access support, care,
and resources.*