

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration • Community Services Division

Washington state has a long legacy of welcoming people who are refugees and immigrants. The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance offers programs and services that help people who are refugees and immigrants reach their full potential and contribute to thriving and diverse communities in Washington state.

DSHS serves individuals and families by providing client services that meet the needs of our communities

Culturally responsive: ORIA contracts with more than 80 providers across Washington state to offer culturally specific and linguistically appropriate services. These providers include refugee resettlement agencies, nonprofit organizations, ethnic-community-based organizations, state agencies, public health departments, federally qualified health centers and colleges.

Ensuring success in resettlement: ORIA helps support the resettlement process for individuals and families coming to Washington through a variety of different programs and client services in four core areas:

- **Refugee Health and Wellness** supports new arrivals with medical screenings, culturally responsive mental health services, and access to immediate medical care and intensive case management through the Refugee Health Promotion Program.
- **Employment and Training** services are available to help people learn English, gain employment related skills and get jobs. ORIA offers five distinct employment and training programs, including the Limited English Proficiency Pathway Employment and English Language Training Program, ORIA Basic Food Employment and Training Program, Food Assistance Program Employment and Training and Career Ladder for Educated and Vocationally Experienced Refugees

Who is eligible for ORIA services?

- People who are eligible for federal refugee resettlement services.
- People with certain immigration statuses receiving cash, food or medical assistance.
- People who are English language learners receiving cash assistance.

Who are refugees?

The term "refugee" is a legal immigration status given to people who resettle in the United States as part of a federal Refugee Admissions Program. These individuals have been forced to flee their countries of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular group, or political opinion.

- **Immigration Assistance and Naturalization Services** offered by specialized immigration legal services organizations, accredited by the Department of Justice, assist refugees and immigrants with federal applications to become lawful permanent residents (green card holders) or United States citizens.
- **Whole Family Services** include the Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility and Empowerment program, which provides case management, education and immigration-related legal services; Community Outreach and Education, which supports individuals to integrating into their local communities; Housing Stabilization Services, which offers short-term, urgent housing assistance for newly arrived refugees and humanitarian immigrants; the Refugee School Impact program, which supports school-aged children and helps their families improve academic performance

More information:

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and integration; Services for Older Refugees, which supports integration and wellness by offering elders over 60 opportunities to connect with communities and peers; and specialized child welfare and youth services through the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor program and the Refugee Youth Mentoring program (ages 18-24).

State Fiscal Year 2022 Highlights

- Over 10,000 refugees and immigrants participate in services through ORIA's three largest programs (LEP Pathway, Naturalization Services and PRIME).
- 4,383 refugees and immigrants participated in employment and English as a Second Language services through the LEP Pathway Program.
- 3,826 people received services through the Naturalization Services Program, and 1,287 people became U.S. Citizens through the program.
- 2,324 people participated in case-management services, self-sufficiency workshops or immigration assistance through the PRIME Program.
- 534 people participated in the ORIA BFET Program.

Who is eligible for federal refugee resettlement services?

U.S. Congress has granted these immigrations statuses as qualified for services:

- Refugees
- People granted asylum
- Certified Victims of Trafficking
- Citizens and nationals of Afghanistan paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2023.
- Citizens and nationals of Ukraine paroled into the U.S. between Feb. 24, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2023.
- Amerasians.
- Cuban-Haitian Entrants.
- Special Immigrant Visa holders from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Newly Arrived Refugee and Humanitarian Immigrant Applicants for DSHS Services by Residential County in Washington State: October 2021 – September 2022

