

Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration · Community Services Division

Refugee Cash Assistance is a federally funded program that provides up to 12 months of cash assistance to single and married adults with an eligible immigration status who do not have dependents.

Refugee Medical Assistance is a federally funded medical assistance program available to refugees and eligible immigrants for up to 12 months for those who are ineligible for Washington Apple Health (Medicaid). Since the expansion of Medicaid, less than 1% of all refugee and humanitarian immigrant individuals and families are ineligible for Washington Apple Health. In an average year, fewer than 100 arrivals a year receive RMA.

DSHS seeks to improve the lives of clients receiving RCA by ensuring all participants receive consistent referrals to employment, education and social service providers to support them in enhancing their English skills, finding and maintaining employment and moving toward independence.

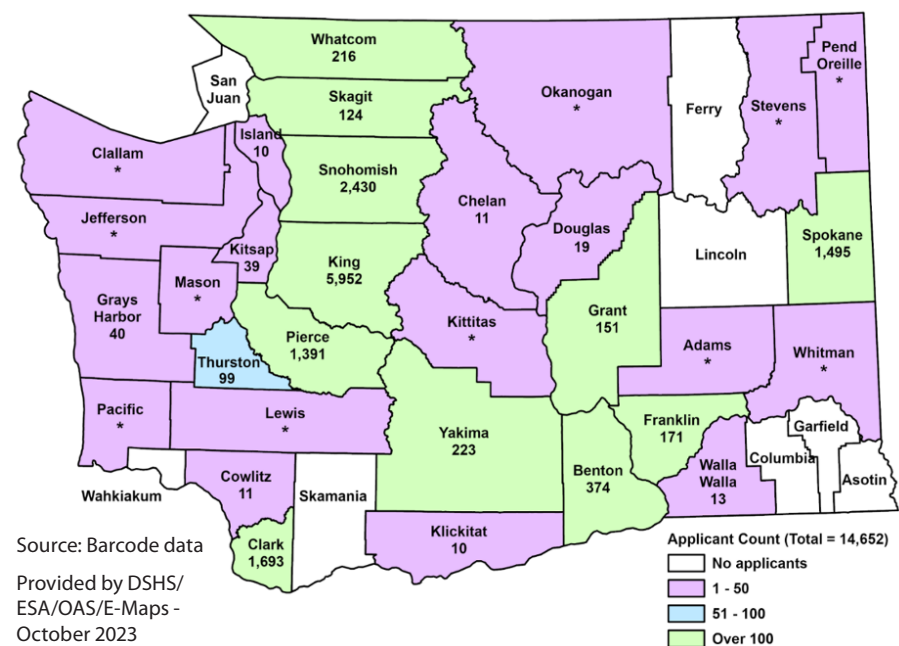
Who is eligible for RCA?

- Refugees
- People granted asylum (“asylees”)
- Certified Victims of Human Trafficking
- Citizens and nationals of Afghanistan paroled¹ into the United States between July 31, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2023.
- Citizens and nationals of Ukraine paroled into the United States between Feb. 24, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2024.
- Amerasians.
- Cuban-Haitian entrants.
- Special Immigrant Visa holders from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Who are refugees?

Refugees are people who are unable to return to their country of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

Newly Arrived Refugee and Humanitarian Immigrant Applicants for DSHS Services by Residential County in Washington State: October 2022 – September 2023



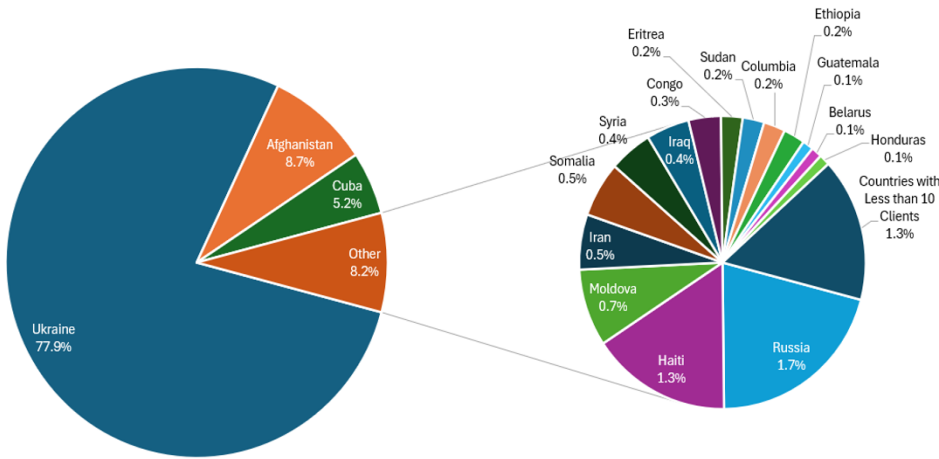
More information:

Sarah Peterson, MSW - Chief, Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance - State Refugee Coordinator
Phone: 360.890.0691 | Email: sarah.peterson@dshs.wa.gov

¹A parolee is a person granted authority to enter the United States in an emergency, or because it serves the humanitarian or public interest.

Refugee Cash Assistance Facts 2023

RCA Clients by Country of Origin



RCA Caseload 2014-2023

State Fiscal Year	Monthly Average Cases
2014	425
2015	428
2016	454
2017	569
2018	280
2019	211
2020	268
2021	175
2022	476
2023	3,779

Expenditures for State Fiscal Year 2023

Month	Total Caseload	Grant Expenditures	Average Payment Per Case
July	2,116	\$735,819	\$347.74
August	2,663	\$984,908	\$369.85
September	3,197	\$1,224,937	\$383.15
October	3,687	\$1,449,223	\$393.06
November	4,144	\$1,657,904	\$400.07
December	4,517	\$1,828,530	\$404.81
January	4,669	\$1,904,391	\$407.88
February	4,694	\$1,948,954	\$415.20
March	4,664	\$1,926,044	\$412.96
April	3,843	\$1,584,877	\$412.41
May	3,625	\$1,477,968	\$407.72
June	3,529	\$1,426,532	\$404.23
Average	3,779	\$1,512,507	\$400.24

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and Community Service Office of Issuance

