Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)

SFY

2025

Provides time limited 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 time-limited cash assistance for eligible single and married refugees and humanitarian immigrants who are ineligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Highlights

The average number of RCA cases per month in Washington state was **2,208 in SFY 2025,** down from **2,577 in SFY 2024**. The average monthly cash grant assistance per case was **$437**.

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 October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024. Being a top destination state for Afghan and Ukrainian humanitarian parolees, Washington state experienced an increase in RCA caseloads during SFYs 2022-2023. Since January 2025, the federal government has made significant changes to the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program that has affected the caseload for the Refugee Cash Assistance program. On January 20, 2025, Executive Order 14163: Realigning the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program indefinitely paused all refugee arrivals through federal fiscal year 2025. On March 21, 2025, the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement announced a reduction in the RCA eligibility period from up to twelve months to up to four months of assistance for individuals whose date of eligibility for refugee benefits is on or after May 5, 2025. While caseloads have declined from their peak in SFY 2023, the RCA caseload in SFY 2025 remains well above historical levels.

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

TECHNICAL NOTES

DATA SOURCES: Data for this chapter was based on the ESA ACES database as of August 2025.

DATA NOTES:

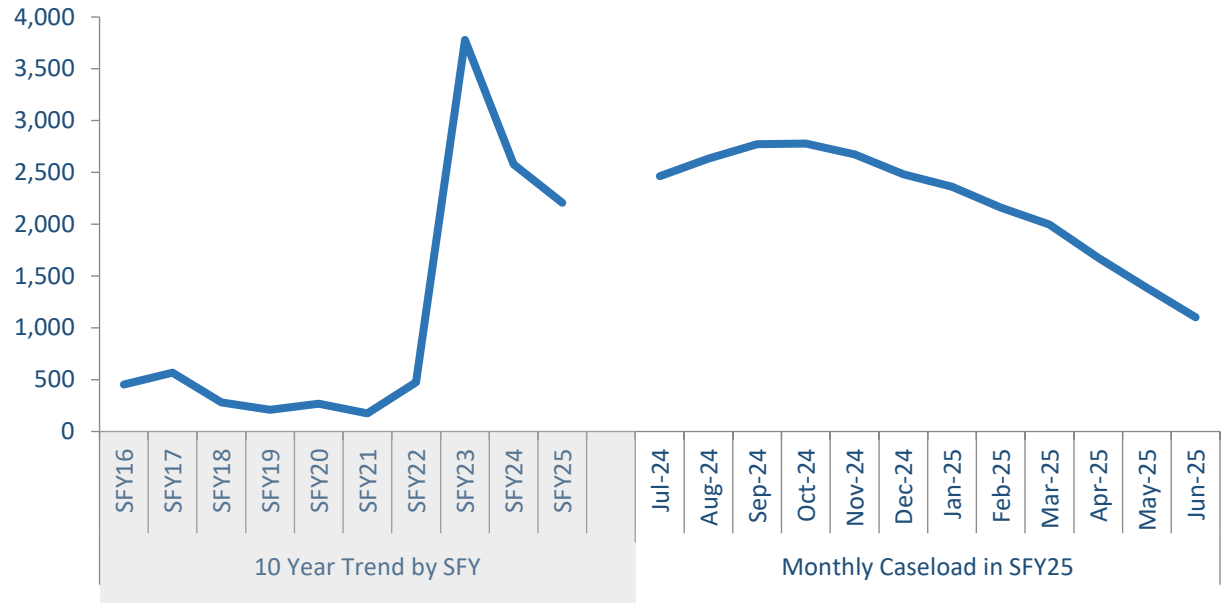
- Percentages may not add up to expected totals due to rounding.
- All 10-year client trend reports reflect the monthly average for each state fiscal year (SFY).

Selected RCA Program Overview, SFY 2024 and SFY 2025

	SFY 2024 (July 2023-June 2024)	SFY 2025 (July 2024-June 2025)	Change	
Average Number of Cases Per Month (Range)	2,577 (1,945 - 3,399)	2,208 (1,102 - 2,779)	*-14.3% (Decrease)*	↓
Average Number of Persons Per Month (Range)	2,888 (2,142 - 3,840)	2,446 (1,194 - 3,102)	*-15.3% (Decrease)*	↓
State Population[1] Age 18 and Over	6,341,261	6,422,811	*1.3% (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)[2]	$412.70 ($392.62 - $443.17)	$437.10 ($415.47 - $447.88)	*5.9% (Increase)*	↑

[1] Source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) population estimates
[2] Payments not adjusted for refunds.

RCA Caseload, SFY 2016 – 2025



SFY	Monthly Average Cases	SFY	Monthly Average Cases
SFY16	454	**SFY21**	175
SFY17	569	**SFY22**	476
SFY18	280	**SFY23**	3,779
SFY19	211	**SFY24**	2,577
SFY20	268	**SFY25**	2,208

SFY 2025	Total # of Cases	Clients	Grant Expenditures	Average Payment Per Case
July	2,465	2,738	$1,045,833	$424.27
August	2,633	2,940	$1,112,939	$422.69
September	2,774	3,099	$1,152,501	$415.47
October	2,779	3,102	$1,233,674	$443.93
November	2,673	2,974	$1,182,920	$442.54
December	2,482	2,752	$1,103,964	$444.79
January	2,363	2,627	$1,039,703	$439.99
February	2,162	2,403	$968,309	$447.88
March	1,997	2,188	$888,018	$444.68
April	1,676	1,828	$749,989	$447.49
May	1,387	1,509	$614,687	$443.18
June	1,102	1,194	$488,822	$443.58
Monthly Average	**2,208**	**2,446**	**$965,113**	**$437.10**
Annual Unduplicated[3]	**4,544**	**5,025**	**$11,581,357**	**$2,548.71**

[3] Expenditures represent total expenditures in the SFY.

RCA Clients by Country of Origin, SFY 2025 Annual Unduplicated

Country	# of Clients	% of Statewide Clients
State Total	**5,025**	**100%**
Ukraine	2,392	47.6%
Afghanistan	867	17.3%
Cuba	444	8.8%
Haiti	369	7.3%
Eritrea	96	1.9%
Somalia	83	1.7%
Venezuela	74	1.5%
Syria	73	1.5%
Congo, Democratic Republic of	73	1.5%
Russia	58	1.2%
Countries with Fewer than 50 Clients[4]	496	9.9%

[4] Includes countries not on the ACES country of origin list as well as unknown countries of origin.

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region, SFY 2025 Annual Unduplicated

Overview	Office of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
Region 1 CSOs	706	15.5%	787	15.7%
Region 2 CSOs	2,895	63.7%	3,174	63.2%
Region 3 CSOs	932	20.5%	1,051	20.9%
CSCCs	N/A			
HCLA/HCS				
HCLA/DDCS				
Tribal Locations				
Not Reported / Unidentifiable	11	0.2%	13	0.3%
State Total	**4,544**	**100.0%**	**5,025**	**100.0%**

RCA Caseload by County of Residence, SFY 2025 Annual Unduplicated

County	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total	County	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total
Adams	<50	-	<50	-	**Lewis**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Asotin	<50	-	<50	-	**Lincoln**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Benton	196	4.3%	212	4.2%	**Mason**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Chelan	<50	-	<50	-	**Okanogan**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Clallam	<50	-	<50	-	**Pacific**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Clark	485	10.7%	552	11.0%	**Pend Oreille**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Columbia	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	**Pierce**	409	9.0%	458	9.1%
Cowlitz	<50	-	<50	-	**San Juan**	<50	-	<50	-
Douglas	<50	-	<50	-	**Skagit**	<50	-	<50	-
Ferry	<50	-	<50	-	**Skamania**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Franklin	73	1.6%	75	1.5%	**Snohomish**	557	12.3%	621	12.4%
Garfield	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	**Spokane**	399	8.8%	458	9.1%
Grant	<50	-	<50	-	**Stevens**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Grays Harbor	<50	-	<50	-	**Thurston**	<50	-	<50	-
Island	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	**Wahkiakum**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Jefferson	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	**Walla Walla**	<50	-	<50	-
King	2,213	48.7%	2,408	47.9%	**Whatcom**	89	2.0%	104	2.1%
Kitsap	<50	-	<50	-	**Whitman**	<50	-	<50	-
Kittitas	<50	-	<50	-	**Yakima**	<50	-	<50	-
Klickitat	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	**Not Reported/ Unidentifiable**	4	0.1%	4	0.1%

	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total
State Total	**4,544**	**100.0%**	**5,025**	**100.0%**

RCA Client Demographics, SFY 2025 Annual Unduplicated

Characteristic	All Clients # of Clients	All Clients % of Total Clients
Total Clients	**5,025**	**100.0%**

Gender	All Clients	
Female	2,276	45.3%
Male	2,749	54.7%
Unknown	0	0.0%

Ethnicity and Race	All Clients	
Hispanic or Latino	**706**	**14.0%**
Not Hispanic or Latino[5]	**4,319**	**86.0%**
White	2,479	49.3%
Black/African American	568	11.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	340	6.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	<50	-
Two or More Races	<50	-
Race Not Reported	885	17.6%

Marital Status	All Clients	
Separated	<50	-
Married	1,630	32.4%
Never Married	2,900	57.7%
Divorced	237	4.7%
Widowed	189	3.8%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	<50	-

Immigration Status	All Clients	
Refugee[6]	4,428	88.1%
Not Refugee	345	6.9%
Cuban/Haitian	111	2.2%
Asylee[7]	71	1.4%
Special Immigrant	57	1.1%
Immigration Status Categories with Fewer than 50 Clients[8]	13	0.3%

[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.
[8] Includes Other/Not Reported.

RCA Client Demographics, SFY 2025 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

Characteristic	All Clients # of Clients	All Clients % of Total Clients

Homeless Status	All Clients	
Homeless[9]	314	6.2%

Equal Access	All Clients	
Equal Access Needed	1,247	24.8%

Education Status	All Clients	
Less than a High School Diploma	869	17.3%
High School Graduate or GED	2,129	42.4%
Some College or College Degree	1,852	36.9%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	175	3.5%

Age	All Clients	
Under 18 Years Old	N/A	N/A
18 – 24 Years Old	1,538	30.6%
25 – 34 Years Old	1,472	29.3%
35 – 44 Years Old	661	13.2%
45 – 54 Years Old	445	8.9%
55 – 64 Years Old	521	10.4%
65+ Years Old	388	7.7%
Average Age of Adults	36.1 Years	

Length of Stay	
Average Length of Stay[10]	7.5 Months

[9] 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.

[10] 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. In March 2025, the eligibility period shifted from twelve months to four months of assistance for federally eligible populations whose date of eligibility for refugee assistance was on or after May 5, 2025.