

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

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Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

The Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) uses federal and state resources to administer 14 different statewide programs to help refugees and other eligible immigrants become self-sufficient and adjust to life in the U.S. Data provided in this section highlights three prominent ORIA programs:

- Limited English Proficient (LEP) Pathway – provides employment services including job skills training, job search and employment placement/retention assistance. The program also provides work experience, community service placements, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.
- Refugee Resettlement Assistance (RRA) – provides educational workshops on a variety of topics from accessing affordable health care options to financial literacy. Information and referral services are provided to help refugees access services such as health care, school enrollment for children, subsidized housing, elder services, and transportation.
- Naturalization Services (NS) – assists with the application and preparation for Naturalization, fee waiver requests, assistance in obtaining test exemptions when appropriate, and interview preparation. Providers offer classes in American history and civics as well as English language training needed for the citizenship test.

Highlights:

- In SFY 2014, LEP Pathway served a total of 4,680 clients. About 56% of Pathway clients are ESL Level 3 or below. Nearly 11% of Pathway clients enter employment each month.
- LEP Pathway data migrated to a new database system in April 2014 in a continuing effort to streamline invoice processing and data collection and reporting.
- In SFY 2014, RRA served a total of 3,374 clients. The most highly used RRA services include Information and Referral Services for medical and immigration services and Educational Workshops on topics such as Health and Safety and Family Self Sufficiency. The increase in medical referral services reflects a new service that provides application assistance to refugees and immigrants who want to access affordable health coverage that they are eligible for through the Washington Health Benefit Exchange.
- In SFY 2014, NS served a total of 3,071 clients. The majority of clients served were female (61.2%), 78.3% have resided in the U.S. for 6 years or longer, and 21.5% were age 65 and over.

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Selected ORIA Program Characteristics

SFY 2013 and SFY 2014

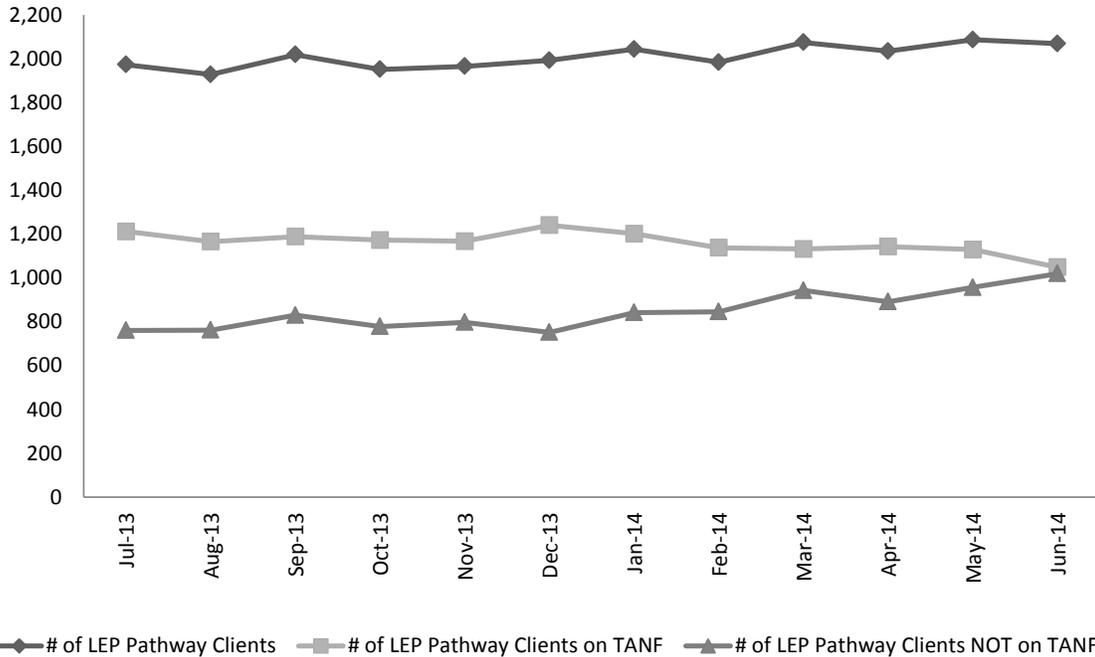
Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES

	SFY 2013 (July 2012 – June 2013)	SFY 2014 (July 2013 – June 2014)
Average Number of LEP Pathway Clients, Per Month and Range	2,207 (2,134 – 2,266)	2,010 (1,928 – 2,087)
Average Number of LEP Pathway Clients on TANF/SFA, Per Month and Range	1,365 (1,289 – 1,466)	1,162 (1,049 – 1,241)
Average Number of LEP Pathway ESL Clients, Per Month and Range	1,302 (1,177 – 1,431)	1,105 (947 – 1,228)
Average Number of Clients Receiving Resettlement Assistance (RRA) Service, Per Month and Range	554 (196 – 719)	518 (207 – 675)
Average Number of Clients Receiving Naturalization Services, Per Month and Range	450 (38 – 1,085)	437 (96 – 1,099)
Average Number of LEP Pathway Clients Who Received Employment Services, Per Month and Range	1,487 (1,318 – 1,689)	1,338 (1,218 – 1,480)
Average Number of LEP Pathway Clients Who Received Employment Services and Entered Employment, Per Month and Range	141 (81 – 182)	146 (88 – 200)

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LEP Pathway Adult Clients SFY 2014

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES



	Total LEP Pathway Clients	LEP Clients on TANF/SFA		LEP Clients Not on TANF/SFA	
		Total	Percent	Total	Percent
July	1,973	1,212	61.4%	761	38.6%
August	1,928	1,166	60.5%	762	39.5%
September	2,019	1,189	58.9%	830	41.1%
October	1,952	1,173	60.1%	779	39.9%
November	1,966	1,168	59.4%	798	40.6%
December	1,993	1,241	62.3%	752	37.7%
January	2,044	1,202	58.8%	842	41.2%
February	1,984	1,138	57.4%	846	42.6%
March	2,075	1,132	54.6%	943	45.4%
April	2,035	1,143	56.2%	892	43.8%
May	2,087	1,130	54.1%	957	45.9%
June	2,069	1,049	50.7%	1,020	49.3%
Mo. Avg.	2,010	1,162	57.8%	849	42.2%

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LEP Pathway TANF/SFA Adult Clients

By Language

June 2014 Snapshot

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES

Language¹	Number	Percent
Amharic	26	2.6%
Arabic	157	15.9%
Bengali	1	0.1%
Burmese	34	3.4%
Cambodian (Khmer)	4	0.4%
Chinese	3	0.3%
Dari	9	0.9%
English ²	387	39.2%
Farsi	13	1.3%
French	9	0.9%
Haitian-Creole	1	0.1%
Laotian	1	0.1%
Oromo	13	1.3%
Pashto	3	0.3%
Persian	1	0.1%
Punjabi	3	0.3%
Romanian	2	0.2%
Russian	69	7.0%
Somali	135	13.7%
Spanish	50	5.1%
Swahili	4	0.4%
Tigrigna	34	3.4%
Trukese	1	0.1%
Ukrainian	4	0.4%
Urdu	3	0.3%
Vietnamese	20	2.0%
Other Language	62	6.3%
Total	1,049	100.0%

¹ Client self-reported data from ACES.

² There are a number of contributing factors that lead to English being selected as the Primary Language for a client, such as a preference for documents to be written in English.

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LEP Pathway Adult Client Demographics June 2014 Snapshot & Annual Unduplicated

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES

ESL Level ³	June 2014		Annual	
	June 2014	Percent	Unduplicated	Percent
Level 1	568	27.5%	1,090	23.3%
Level 2	385	18.6%	774	16.5%
Level 3	345	16.7%	763	16.3%
Level 4	238	11.5%	572	12.2%
Level 5	108	5.2%	270	5.8%
Level 6	49	2.4%	119	2.5%
ESL Class Only ⁴	93	4.5%	261	5.6%
Other ⁵	283	13.7%	831	17.8%
Total	2,069	100.0%	4,680	100.0%

Immigrant Status ⁶	June 2014		Annual	
	June 2014	Percent	Unduplicated	Percent
Asylee	22	1.1%	38	0.8%
Cuban/Haitian Entrants	0	0.0%	2	0.0%
Non-Refugee	358	17.3%	1,152	24.6%
Refugee	1,658	80.1%	3,447	73.7%
Special Immigrant	16	0.8%	19	0.4%
Victim Of Trafficking	1	0.0%	2	0.0%
Unknown	14	0.7%	20	0.4%
Total	2,069	100.0%	4,680	100.0%

³ English as a Second Language (ESL) proficiency levels are based on Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) standards. ESL Level 1 indicates the client's English proficiency skills are at the low end of the scale, higher ESL levels indicate higher English proficiencies.

⁴ Includes clients receiving ESL instruction who were not tested or whose ESL level was not reported during the reporting period.

⁵ Includes LEP Pathway clients who did not receive ESL services.

⁶ See pages 23-25 of this section for definitions.

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LEP Pathway Adult Clients by Region

June 2014 Snapshot

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES

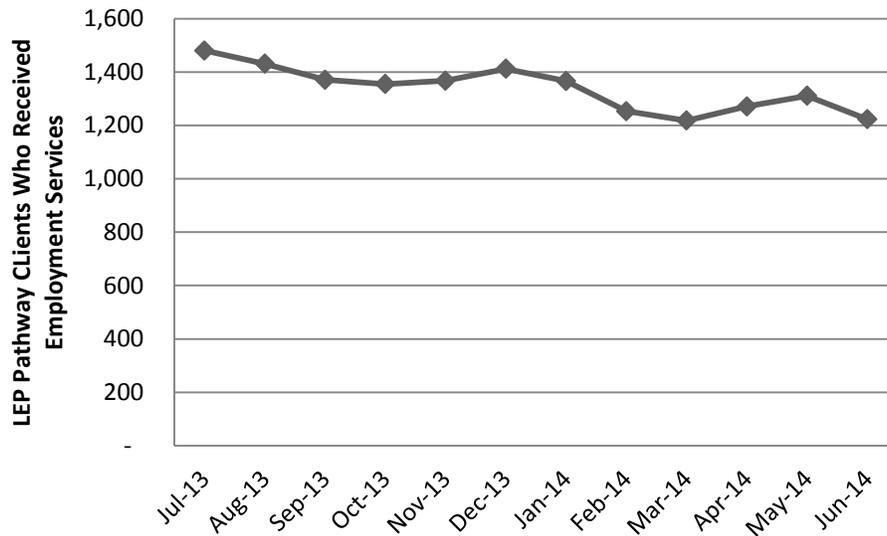
Region⁷	Number	Percent
Region 1	341	16.5%
Region 2	1,592	76.9%
Region 3	136	6.6%
Total	2,069	100.0%

⁷ Data shows the number of clients served by ORIA service providers by region. Clients generally live in the same region as their service provider.

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LEP Pathway Adult Clients Who Received Employment Services SFY 2014

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES



SFY 2014	LEP Pathway Adults	LEP Pathway Adults Who Received Employment Services		LEP Pathway Adults Who Entered Employment	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent ⁸
July	1,973	1,480	75.0%	181	12.2%
August	1,928	1,431	74.2%	137	9.6%
September	2,019	1,371	67.9%	132	9.6%
October	1,952	1,355	69.4%	121	8.9%
November	1,966	1,367	69.5%	140	10.2%
December	1,993	1,412	70.8%	88	6.2%
January	2,044	1,366	66.8%	128	9.4%
February	1,984	1,253	63.2%	107	8.5%
March	2,075	1,218	58.7%	158	13.0%
April	2,035	1,271	62.5%	162	12.7%
May	2,087	1,311	62.8%	200	15.3%
June	2,069	1,223	59.1%	196	16.0%
Mo. Avg.	2,010	1,338	66.6%	146	10.9%

⁸ Percent is based on the number of LEP Pathway clients who received Employment Services.

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LEP Pathway Adult Clients Who Received Employment Services – Demographics June 2014 Snapshot

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES

Characteristic	Number	Percent
TOTAL	1,223	100%
Gender		
Female	583	47.7%
Male	640	52.3%
Time in U.S.		
Less Than 2 Years	640	52.3%
2 - 5 Years	337	27.6%
6 - 10 Years	111	9.1%
> 10 Years	130	10.6%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	5	0.4%
Age		
16 – 24 Years Old	125	10.2%
25 – 34 Years Old	449	36.7%
35 – 44 Years Old	382	31.2%
45 – 54 Years Old	205	16.8%
55 – 64 Years Old	55	4.5%
65 and Older	7	0.6%
Avg. Age of Adults	37.1 Years Old	

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LEP Pathway Adult Clients Who Received Employment Services by Region June 2014 Snapshot

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES

Region⁹	Number	Percent
Region 1	115	12.2%
Region 2	1,008	81.8%
Region 3	100	6.0%
Total	1,223	100.0%

⁹ Data shows the number of clients served by ORIA service providers by region. Clients typically live in the same region as their service providers.

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LEP Pathway Adult Clients Who Received Employment Services by Primary Language June 2014 Snapshot

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES

Primary Language¹⁰	Number	Percent
Amharic	25	2.0%
Arabic	141	11.5%
Burmese	60	4.9%
Cambodian (Khmer)	2	0.2%
Chinese	3	0.2%
Dari	7	0.6%
English ¹¹	497	40.6%
Farsi	17	1.4%
French	8	0.7%
Haitian-Creole	1	0.1%
Laotian	1	0.1%
Oromo	17	1.4%
Pashto	3	0.2%
Persian	2	0.2%
Punjabi	2	0.2%
Romanian	2	0.2%
Russian	76	6.2%
Somali	155	12.7%
Spanish	52	4.3%
Swahili	6	0.5%
Tigrigna	49	4.0%
Ukrainian	4	0.3%
Urdu	3	0.2%
Vietnamese	22	1.8%
Other Language	68	5.6%
Total	1,223	100.0%

¹⁰ Client self-reported data from ACES.

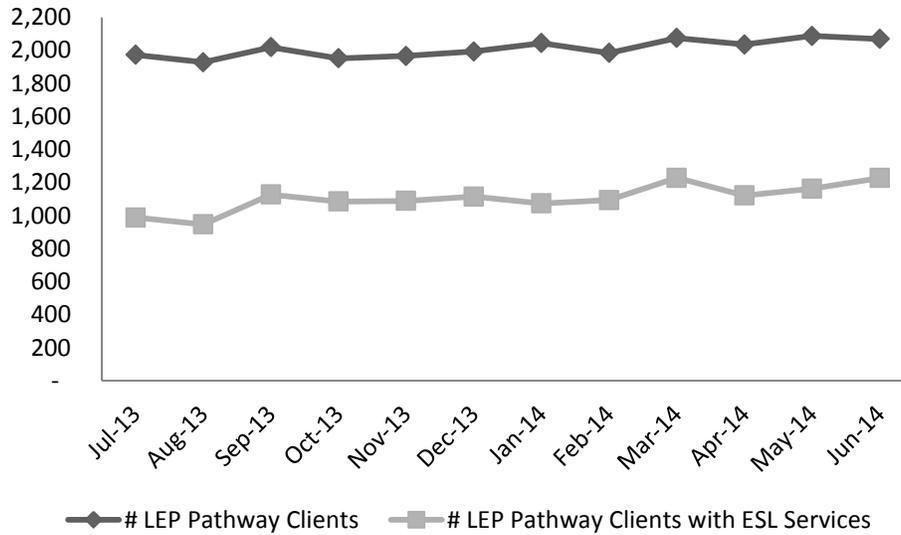
¹¹ There are a number of contributing factors that lead to English being selected as the Primary Language for a client, such as a preference for documents to be written in English.

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LEP Pathway Adult Clients Who Received ESL Services

SFY 2014

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES



SFY 2014	LEP Pathway Clients	LEP Pathway ESL Clients	
		Number	Percent
July	1,973	988	50.1%
August	1,928	947	49.1%
September	2,019	1,127	55.8%
October	1,952	1,085	55.6%
November	1,966	1,089	55.4%
December	1,993	1,115	55.9%
January	2,044	1,073	52.5%
February	1,984	1,094	55.1%
March	2,075	1,228	59.2%
April	2,035	1,121	55.1%
May	2,087	1,163	55.7%
June	2,069	1,227	59.3%
Mo. Avg.	2,010	1,105	55.0%

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LEP Pathway Adult Clients Who Received ESL Services – Demographics June 2014 Snapshot

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES

Characteristic	Number	Percent
TOTAL	1,227	100.0%
Gender		
Female	683	55.7%
Male	544	44.3%
Time in U.S.		
Less Than 2 Years	813	66.3%
2 - 5 Years	292	23.8%
6 - 10 Years	57	4.6%
> 10 Years	61	5.0%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	4	0.3%
ESL level		
Level 1	402	32.8%
Level 2	263	21.4%
Level 3	242	19.7%
Level 4	154	12.6%
Level 5	77	6.3%
Level 6	33	2.7%
English Class Only ¹²	56	4.6%
Age		
16 – 24 Years Old	155	12.6%
25 – 34 Years Old	425	34.6%
35 – 44 Years Old	371	30.2%
45 – 54 Years Old	179	14.6%
55 – 64 Years Old	78	6.4%
65 and Older	19	1.6%
Avg. Age of Adults	37.3 Years Old	

¹² Includes ESL Instruction clients who were either newly enrolled or were not tested during the reporting period.

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

LEP Pathway Adult Clients Who Received ESL Services by Region June 2014 Snapshot

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES

Region¹³	Number	Percent
Region 1	284	23.1%
Region 2	879	71.6%
Region 3	64	5.2%
Total	1,227	100.00%

¹³ Data shows the number of clients served by ORIA service providers by region. Clients typically live in the same region as their service providers.

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LEP Pathway Adult Clients Who Received ESL Services by Primary Language June 2014 Snapshot

Sources: RIAObj, eJAS, ACES

Primary Language¹⁴	Number	Percent
Amharic	27	2.2%
Arabic	242	19.7%
Bengali	2	0.2%
Burmese	68	5.5%
Cambodian (Khmer)	2	0.2%
Chinese	3	0.2%
Dari	9	0.7%
English ¹⁵	402	32.8%
Farsi	32	2.6%
French	13	1.1%
Haitian-Creole	1	0.1%
Japanese	1	0.1%
Korean	1	0.1%
Oromo	15	1.2%
Pashto	2	0.2%
Persian	1	0.1%
Portuguese	1	0.1%
Punjabi	4	0.3%
Romanian	4	0.3%
Russian	62	5.1%
Somali	144	11.7%
Spanish	40	3.3%
Swahili	14	1.1%
Tamil	1	0.1%
Tigrigna	39	3.2%
Tongan	1	0.1%
Trukese	1	0.1%
Ukrainian	6	0.5%
Urdu	3	0.2%
Vietnamese	11	0.9%
Other Language	75	6.1%
Total	1,227	100.0%

¹⁴ Client self-reported data from ACES.

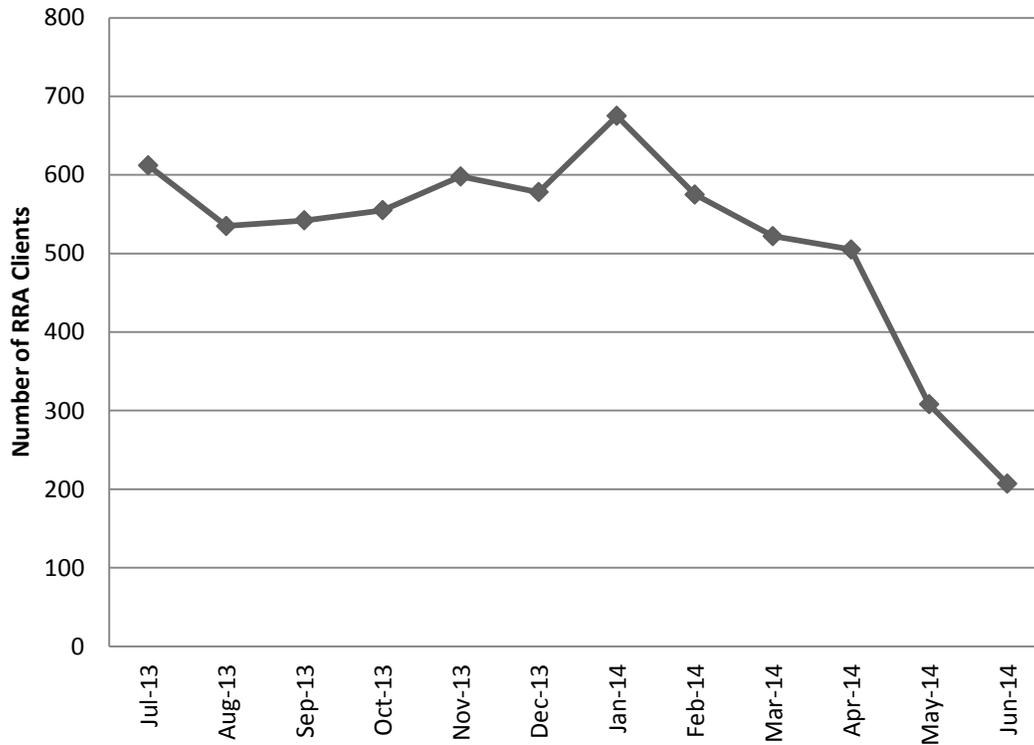
¹⁵ There are a number of contributing factors that lead to English being selected as the Primary Language for a client, such as a preference for documents to be written in English.

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Refugee Resettlement Assistance (RRA) Clients

SFY 2014

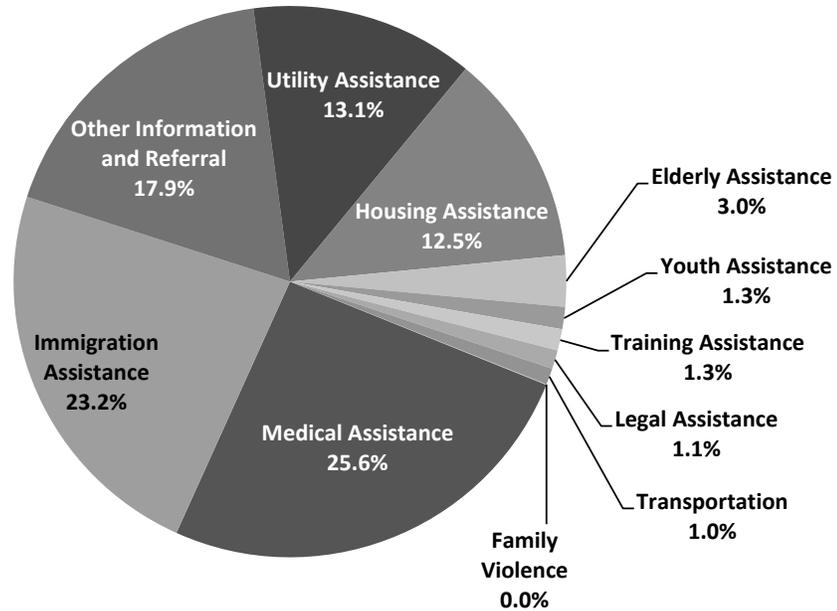
Sources: RIAObj



SFY 2014	RRA Clients ¹⁶
July	612
August	535
September	542
October	555
November	598
December	578
January	675
February	575
March	522
April	505
May	308
June	207
Mo. Avg.	518

¹⁶ Services are provided based on available funding. More services are paid for at the start of the fiscal year when funds are available; as funds deplete towards the end of the year, fewer services are reported.

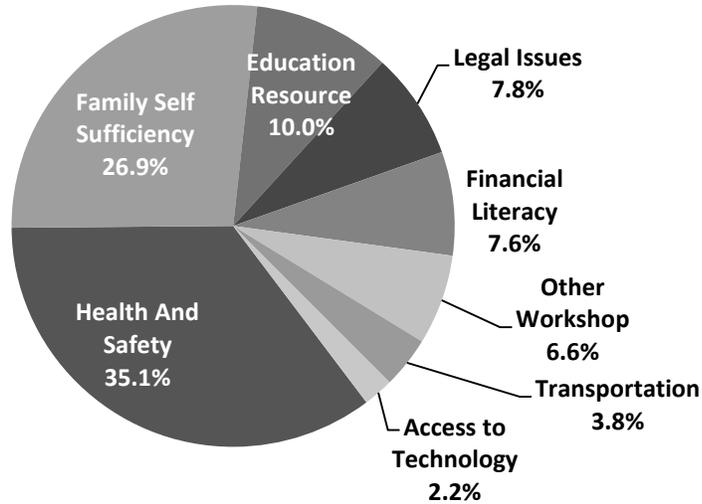
Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance
RRA Services Provided - Information & Referral Services
SFY 2014
 Sources: RIAObj



Information & Referral Service Type	Number of Services	Percent
Medical Assistance	2,246	25.6%
Immigration Assistance	2,036	23.2%
Other Information and Referral	1,569	17.9%
Utility Assistance	1,147	13.1%
Housing Assistance	1,095	12.5%
Elderly Assistance	263	3.0%
Youth Assistance	114	1.3%
Training Assistance	110	1.3%
Legal Assistance	96	1.1%
Transportation	84	1.0%
Family Violence	3	0.0%
Total	8,763	100%

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RRA Services Provided - Home Management Workshops
SFY 2014

Sources: RIAObj



Educational Workshops by Type	Number of Services	Percent
Health and Safety	607	35.1%
Family Self Sufficiency	464	26.9%
Education Resource	173	10.0%
Legal Issues	135	7.8%
Financial Literacy	131	7.6%
Other Workshop	114	6.6%
Transportation	65	3.8%
Access to Technology	38	2.2%
Total	1,727	100%

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Clients Receiving RRA Services by Region Annual Unduplicated, SFY 2014

Sources: RIAObj

Region¹⁷	Annual Unduplicated	Percent
Region 1	642	19.0%
Region 2	2,409	71.4%
Region 3	323	9.6%
Total	3,374	100%

¹⁷ Data shows the number of clients served by ORIA service providers by region. Clients typically live in the same region as their service providers.

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Naturalization Services (NS) - Clients by Category¹⁸

SFY 2014

Sources: RIAObj, ACES

SFY 2014	Number of Reported NS Clients	Number of Naturalization Application Assistance Reported	Number of Clients Who Reported Naturalization ¹⁹	Number of Outreach Naturalizations Reported	Outreach Clients who had Pre-Screening Services
July	1,099	292	506	44	18
August	706	248	143	13	7
September	641	198	114	6	15
October	640	163	106	11	17
November	385	138	48	2	12
December	324	111	60	1	3
January	352	108	55	1	3
February	377	95	61	7	12
March	311	109	45	5	17
April	171	83	17	2	14
May	146	73	25	0	4
June	96	30	26	3	6
Mo. Avg.	437	137	101	8	11
Unduplicated	3,071	1,656	1,206	98	128

¹⁸ Monthly counts are based on service billing report month. Services are provided based on funding available, more services are paid at the start of the fiscal year when funds are available; as funds deplete towards the end of the year, so do the reports of services provided to clients.

¹⁹ Naturalized: U.S. citizenship is conferred.

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Naturalization Services - Client Demographics

SFY 2014

Sources: RIAObj, ACES

Characteristic	Number	Percent
TOTAL	3,071	100%
Gender		
Female	1,878	61.2%
Male	1,193	38.8%
Immigrant Status²⁰		
Amerasian	10	0.3%
Asylee	40	1.3%
Cuban/Haitian Entrants	3	0.1%
Deportation Withheld	5	0.2%
Refugee	1,717	55.9%
Non-Refugee	1,235	40.2%
Other ²¹	55	1.8%
Time in U.S.		
Less Than 2 Years	1	0.0%
2 – 5 Years	661	21.5%
6 – 10 Years	1,199	39.0%
More than 10 Years	1,206	39.3%
Unknown	4	0.1%
Age		
Under 18 Years Old	3	0.1%
18 – 24 Years Old	343	11.2%
25 – 34 Years Old	612	19.9%
35 – 44 Years Old	540	17.6%
45 – 54 Years Old	468	15.2%
55 – 64 Years Old	445	14.5%
65 and Older	660	21.5%
Avg. Age of Adults	47.5 Years Old	

²⁰ See pages 23-25 of this section for definitions.

²¹ This primarily includes U.S. Nationals (born in American Samoa or in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). It can also include individuals who report naturalization within the SFY.

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Adult Clients Who Received Naturalization Services by Region SFY 2014

Sources: RIAObj, ACES

Region²²	Number	Percent
Region 1	495	16.1%
Region 2	1,901	61.9%
Region 3	675	22.0%
Total	3,071	100.0%

²² Data shows the number of clients served by ORIA service providers by region. Clients generally live in the same region as their service providers.

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Naturalization Services - Clients by Country of Origin

SFY 2014

Sources: RIAObj, ACES

Country	Number of Clients	Percent
Armenia	11	0.4%
Belarus (Belorussia)	17	0.6%
Bhutan	39	1.3%
Bosnia-Herzegovina	18	0.6%
Burundi	13	0.4%
Cambodia Kampuchea	114	3.7%
Canada	21	0.7%
Chile	32	1.0%
China	65	2.1%
El Salvador	25	0.8%
Eritrea	30	1.0%
Ethiopia	57	1.9%
Guatemala	10	0.3%
India	27	0.9%
Iran	56	1.8%
Iraq	113	3.7%
Kazakhstan	13	0.4%
Kenya	11	0.4%
Korea (North)	11	0.4%
Korea (South)	78	2.5%
Kosovo	12	0.4%
Laos	39	1.3%
Liberia	10	0.3%
Mexico	384	12.5%
Moldova	110	3.6%
Morocco	11	0.4%
Myanmar (Burma)	59	1.9%
Nepal	12	0.4%
Russia	364	11.9%
Somalia	218	7.1%
Sudan	33	1.1%
Thailand	18	0.6%
Ukraine	362	11.8%
Uzbekistan	11	0.4%
Vietnam	284	9.2%
Western Samoa	10	0.3%
Not reported/Unidentifiable	86	2.8%
Countries with 9 or Fewer Clients ²³	199	6.5%
Total	3,071	100.0%

²³ Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Columbia, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, England, Estonia, Fiji, France, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Micronesia, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Martin, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Venezuela, Zaire, Zambia

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Glossary

Definitions of Immigrant and USCIS Entry Status

Amerasian – U.S. citizen-fathered child born in Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia or Thailand after 1950 and before Oct 22, 1982.

Asylee – A person granted protection from removal from the U.S. by the Department of Homeland Security who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group.

Citizen of Marshall Islands/Micronesia – These individuals are not U.S. citizens or nationals but they may enter the U.S. as non-immigrants without visas and may stay without a time restriction. They may work, travel and apply for permanent residency status in the U.S. during their stay. Admission to the U.S. is not guaranteed and the U.S. has the right to set terms and conditions on the stay.

Conditional Entrant - An individual who is admitted to the U.S. under a provision of the pre-1980 immigration law because of persecution or fear of persecution in his or her home country.

Cuban / Haitian Entrant – A national of Cuba or Haiti who was paroled in the U.S., whether the parole document expressly stated “Cuban/Haitian entrant” or not, or was granted any other special status. Includes nationals of these countries who are in the U.S. under a variety of circumstances, including persons paroled on any basis, those involved in deportation proceedings, asylum applicants, those granted adjustment to lawful permanent resident status under the Cuban Adjustment Act, Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act, or Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act, or those granted “special status” under the Refugee Education Assistance Act.

Deportation Withheld –The formal removal of an alien from the U.S. when the alien has been found removable for violating the immigration laws. Deportation is ordered by an immigration judge without any punishment being imposed or contemplated.

Lawful Permanent Resident – A person who has been granted the legal right to live and work in the U.S. and travel outside the U.S. without interference.

Non-Refugee -- Immigrants served in the LEP Pathway and Naturalization Services who do not meet the definition of refugee (see next page) are considered to be a “non-refugee”. These groups include: Citizen of Marshall Islands/Micronesia, Conditional Entrant, Lawful Permanent Resident Alien, Parolee Paroled One Year or More, Permanent Residing Under Color Of Law, Temp Resident Ineligible (Not Valid After 10/15/06), Temporary Protected Status Individuals, Temporary Residents as Amnesty Beneficiaries, and the spouse or child of a U.S. citizen whose Visa petition has been approved and has a pending application for adjustment of status

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Outreach Participants for Naturalization Services – Individuals who meet one of these criteria: (1) refugees who arrived in the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996, who are currently receiving SSI, have been in the U.S. for at least four years and have not naturalized; (2) refugees who are currently receiving Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) cash assistance; or (3) lawful permanent residents whose only barrier to receipt of SSI is naturalization, including those who are currently receiving ABD and unable to meet the federal requirement of 40 work quarters or have been in the U.S. for less than 10 years.

Parolee – An alien allowed entry to the U.S. by the Department of Homeland Security for urgent medical or humanitarian reasons or other emergencies.

Permanently Residing Under Color of Law – Noncitizens who are not considered "qualified aliens" under federal law, who are residing in the U.S. indefinitely, and USCIS is aware of their presence but is not taking steps to enforce their departure.

Refugee – A noncitizen who has been given permission to live in the U.S. because he or she was persecuted, or has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group, in his or her home country. Refugee categories under federal law include: persons who enter the U.S. as refugees, Cuban-Haitian Entrants, Amerasians, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa holders, and victims of human trafficking.

Special Immigrant - A person who qualifies for a green card (permanent residence) under the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) due to particular reasons. In recent years, this status has been given to Afghanistan or Iraq nationals who support the U.S. Armed Forces as translators and Iraq nationals who worker for or on behalf of the U.S. Government in Iraq, In order to apply for immigration documents under this status, an individual must fill out a petition documenting his or her circumstances and submit the petition to USCIS.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Individuals – The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately. During a designated period, individuals who are TPS beneficiaries or who are found preliminarily eligible for TPS upon initial review of their cases are not removable from the U.S., may obtain work authorization and may be granted authorization to travel. TPS does not lead to permanent residency status but in TPS individuals may apply for nonimmigrant status, file for an adjustment to his or her immigration status and apply for other immigration benefit or protection to which he or she is eligible to receive.

Temporary Residents as Amnesty Beneficiaries – Lawful temporary residents under the amnesty program of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), including those admitted under Sections 210 ("special agricultural workers") and 245A of the INA.

Victim of Human Trafficking - Individuals who are or were subject to a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers lure them with false promises of employment and a better life. Traffickers often take advantage of poor, unemployed individuals who lack access to

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social safety nets. There are two types of immigration relief provided to victims of human trafficking and other crimes: (1) T Nonimmigrant status (T visa) and (2) U nonimmigrant status (U visa). Victims of severe forms of human trafficking are eligible for a T visa. The T nonimmigrant visa allows victims to remain in the U.S. to assist in the investigation or prosecution of human traffickers. Once a T nonimmigrant visa is granted, a victim can apply for permanent residence after three years. U nonimmigrant status provides immigration protection to crime victims who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse as a result of the crime. The U visa allows victims to remain in the U.S. and assist law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity.