

Refugee
Cash
Assistance
(RCA)

SFY

2023

Provides up to 12 months of cash assistance for newly arrived 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 up to 12 months of cash assistance for newly arrived single and married refugees or humanitarian immigrants who are ineligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Additional information, including the eligibility criteria, funding sources, and services/benefits provided, is available [here](#).

Highlights

The average number of RCA program cases per month in Washington state was **3,779 in SFY 2023**, up from **476 in SFY 2022**. The average monthly cash grant assistance per cases was **\$400**.

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 Ukrainian humanitarian parolees. With Washington being a top destination state for humanitarian parolees who became eligible for RCA, Washington has seen a large increase in the RCA caseload.

TECHNICAL NOTES

DATA SOURCES: Data for this chapter was based on the ESA ACES database as of August 2023.

DATA NOTES:

- Percentages may not add up to expected totals due to rounding.
- The monthly counts of cases and clients for the ABD program are nearly identical. Therefore, only client counts are reported.
- All reports of 10-year client trends reflect the monthly average for each state fiscal year (SFY).

Selected RCA Program Overview, SFY 2022 and SFY 2023

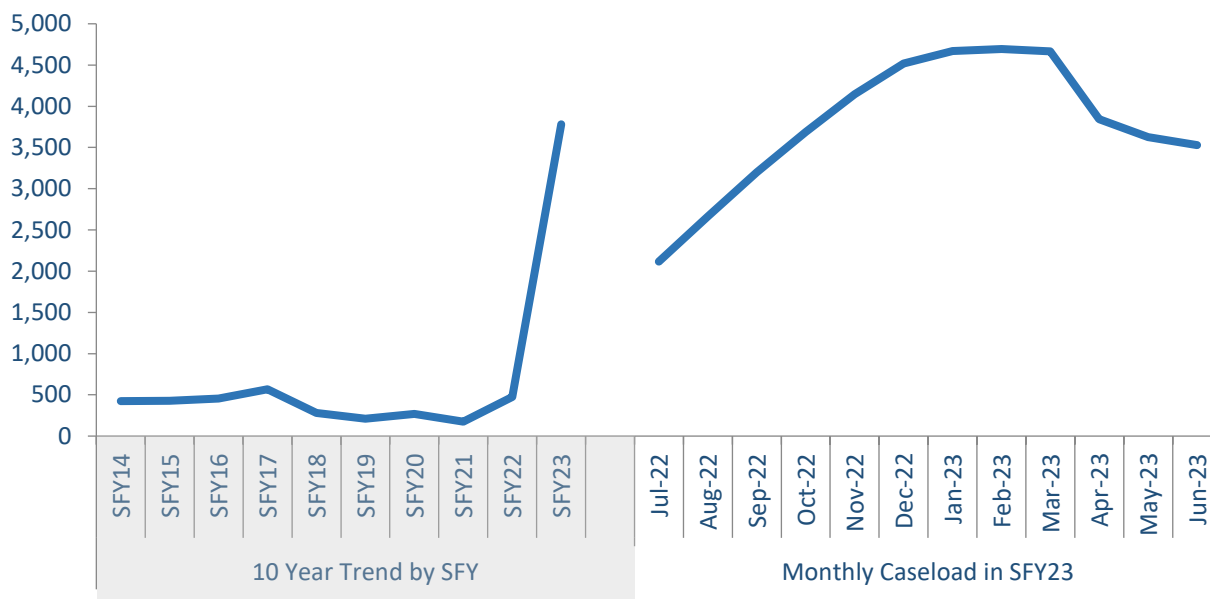
	SFY 2022	SFY 2023	Change	
	(July 2021-June 2022)	(July 2022-June 2023)		
Average Number of Cases Per Month (Range)¹	476 (74 - 1,279)	3,779 (2,116 - 4,694)	693.9% (Increase)	↑
Average Number of Persons Per Month (Range)	519 (93 - 1,392)	4,275 (2,338 - 5,342)	723.7% (Increase)	↑
State Population² Age 18 and Over	6,164,228	6,255,743	1.5% (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)³	\$350.17 (\$239.98 - \$415.73)	\$400.24 (\$347.74 - \$415.20)	14.3% (Increase)	↑

¹ Beginning in August 2021, Washington saw an increase in Afghans eligible to receive Refugee Cash Assistance. There was an even larger increase in Ukrainians eligible to receive Refugee Cash Assistance starting in June 2022.

² Source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) population estimates

³ Payments not adjusted for refunds.

RCA Caseload, SFY 2014 – 2023



SFY	Monthly Average Cases	SFY	Monthly Average Cases
SFY14	425	SFY19	211
SFY15	428	SFY20	268
SFY16	454	SFY21	175
SFY17	569	SFY22	476
SFY18	280	SFY23	3,779

SFY 2023	Total # of Cases	Clients	Grant Expenditures	Average Payment Per Case
July	2,116	2,338	\$735,819	\$347.74
August	2,663	2,967	\$984,908	\$369.85
September	3,197	3,585	\$1,224,937	\$383.15
October	3,687	4,166	\$1,449,223	\$393.06
November	4,144	4,694	\$1,657,904	\$400.07
December	4,517	5,126	\$1,828,530	\$404.81
January	4,669	5,315	\$1,904,391	\$407.88
February	4,694	5,342	\$1,948,954	\$415.20
March	4,664	5,292	\$1,926,044	\$412.96
April	3,843	4,366	\$1,584,877	\$412.41
May	3,625	4,113	\$1,477,968	\$407.72
June	3,529	3,992	\$1,426,532	\$404.23
Mo. Avg.	3,779	4,275	\$1,512,507	\$400.24
Annual Undup.⁴	7,473	8,213	\$18,150,084	\$2,428.75

⁴ Expenditures represent total expenditures in the SFY.

RCA Clients by Country of Origin, SFY 2023 Annual Unduplicated

Country	# of Clients	% of Statewide Clients
State Total	8,213	100%
Ukraine	6,400	77.9%
Afghanistan	714	8.7%
Cuba	423	5.2%
Russia	141	1.7%
Haiti	109	1.3%
Moldova	60	0.7%
Iran	44	0.5%
Somalia	38	0.5%
Syria	31	0.4%
Iraq	29	0.4%
Congo, Democratic Republic of	28	0.3%
Eritrea	18	0.2%
Sudan	15	0.2%
Columbia	14	0.2%
Ethiopia	13	0.2%
Guatemala	12	0.1%
Belarus (Belorussia)	10	0.1%
Honduras	10	0.1%
Countries with Less than 10 Clients	104	1.3%

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, SFY 2023 Annual Unduplicated

Overview	Office of Issuance				Office of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
Region 1 CSOs	1,092	14.6%	1,194	14.5%	1,093	14.6%	1,196	14.6%
Region 2 CSOs	4,316	57.8%	4,736	57.7%	4,334	58.0%	4,758	57.9%
Region 3 CSOs	2,028	27.1%	2,240	27.3%	2,035	27.2%	2,247	27.4%
CSCCs	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	N/A			
ALTSA (HCS)	35	0.5%	41	0.5%				
DDA	0	0.0%	0	0.0%				
Tribal Locations	0	0.0%	0	0.0%				
Not Reported / Unidentifiable	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	11	0.1%	12	0.1%
State Total	7,473	100.0%	8,213	100.0%	7,473	100.0%	8,213	100.0%

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, SFY 2023 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

Region 1 CSO	CSO of Issuance				CSO of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
CLARKSTON	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
COLFAX	6	0.1%	5	0.1%	6	0.1%	5	0.1%
COLVILLE	3	<0.1%	4	<0.1%	3	<0.1%	4	<0.1%
ELLENSBURG	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
GOLDENDALE	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
KENNEWICK	308	4.1%	326	4.0%	307	4.1%	324	3.9%
MOSES LAKE	104	1.4%	118	1.4%	106	1.4%	120	1.5%
NEWPORT	4	0.1%	4	<0.1%	4	0.1%	4	<0.1%
OKANOGAN	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
REPUBLIC	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SPOKANE MAPLE	175	2.3%	193	2.3%	186	2.5%	207	2.5%
SPOKANE TRENT	464	6.2%	511	6.2%	454	6.1%	500	6.1%
SUNNYSIDE	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%
TOPPENISH	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
WALLA WALLA	4	0.1%	4	<0.1%	4	0.1%	4	<0.1%
WENATCHEE	13	0.2%	16	0.2%	13	0.2%	16	0.2%
WHITE SALMON	7	0.1%	8	0.1%	7	0.1%	8	0.1%
YAKIMA	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Region 1 Total	1,092	14.6%	1,194	14.5%	1,093	14.6%	1,196	14.6%

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, SFY 2023 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

Region 2 CSO	CSO of Issuance				CSO of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ALDERWOOD	462	6.2%	517	6.3%	476	6.4%	531	6.5%
AUBURN	612	8.2%	680	8.3%	607	8.1%	676	8.2%
BELLINGHAM	137	1.8%	144	1.8%	141	1.9%	149	1.8%
BELLTOWN	46	0.6%	49	0.6%	47	0.6%	50	0.6%
CAPITOL HILL	35	0.5%	36	0.4%	35	0.5%	36	0.4%
EVERETT	599	8.0%	662	8.1%	598	8.0%	663	8.1%
FEDERAL WAY	334	4.5%	361	4.4%	349	4.7%	380	4.6%
KING EASTSIDE	355	4.8%	388	4.7%	347	4.6%	381	4.6%
KING NORTH	96	1.3%	103	1.3%	98	1.3%	105	1.3%
KING SOUTH	739	9.9%	818	10.0%	730	9.8%	806	9.8%
MT VERNON	56	0.7%	59	0.7%	56	0.7%	59	0.7%
OAK HARBOR	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
RAINIER	48	0.6%	50	0.6%	48	0.6%	51	0.6%
RENTON	297	4.0%	326	4.0%	304	4.1%	331	4.0%
SKY VALLEY	90	1.2%	99	1.2%	91	1.2%	99	1.2%
SMOKEY POINT	166	2.2%	181	2.2%	163	2.2%	178	2.2%
WHITE CENTER	242	3.2%	261	3.2%	242	3.2%	261	3.2%
Region 2 Total	4,316	57.8%	4,736	57.7%	4,334	58.0%	4,758	57.9%

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, SFY 2023 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

Region 3 CSO	CSO of Issuance				CSO of Residence			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ABERDEEN	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
BREMERTON	30	0.4%	32	0.4%	29	0.4%	30	0.4%
CHEHALIS	7	0.1%	7	0.1%	7	0.1%	7	0.1%
COLUMBIA RIVER	1,068	14.3%	1,176	14.3%	1,077	14.4%	1,187	14.5%
FORKS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
KELSO	7	0.1%	9	0.1%	7	0.1%	9	0.1%
LAKEWOOD	126	1.7%	138	1.7%	129	1.7%	140	1.7%
LONG BEACH	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
OLYMPIA	34	0.5%	38	0.5%	36	0.5%	40	0.5%
PIERCE NORTH	159	2.1%	181	2.2%	159	2.1%	182	2.2%
PIERCE SOUTH	147	2.0%	160	1.9%	145	1.9%	159	1.9%
PORT ANGELES	4	0.1%	5	0.1%	4	0.1%	5	0.1%
PORT TOWNSEND	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
PUYALLUP VALLEY	444	5.9%	492	6.0%	440	5.9%	486	5.9%
SHELTON	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SOUTH BEND	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
STEVENSON	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Region 3 Total	2,028	27.1%	2,240	27.3%	2,035	27.2%	2,247	27.4%

RCA Caseload by Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC) and Other Locations, June 2023 Snapshot

Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC)	Office of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
CSCC Central Sound	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Northeast	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Northwest	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC South Sound	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Southeast	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Southwest	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC Virtual Case Management Center	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CSCC WASHCAP	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
CSCC and WASHCAP Total	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%

DDA Locations	Office of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
DDA Behavioral Health Financial Unit	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
DDA Long-Term Care & Special Programs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
DDA Locations Total	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Tribal Locations	Office of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

RCA Caseload by Home and Community Services Offices (HCS), SFY 2023 Annual Unduplicated

AL TSA Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 1	HCS of Issuance			
	Cases	% of State Total	Clients	% of State Total
CLARKSTON HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
COLVILLE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ELLENSBURG HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
MEDICAL LAKE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
MOSES LAKE HCS	3	<0.1%	4	<0.1%
OKANOGAN HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SPOKANE HCS	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
SUNNYSIDE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TRI-CITIES HCS	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
WALLA WALLA HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
WENATCHEE HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
YAKIMA HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Region 1 Total	6	0.1%	7	0.1%

AL TSA Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 2	HCS of Issuance			
	Cases	% of State Total	Clients	% of State Total
ALDERWOOD HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
BELLINGHAM HCS	3	<0.1%	4	<0.1%
EVERETT HCS	3	<0.1%	3	<0.1%
HOLGATE HCS	8	0.1%	8	0.1%
MOUNT VERNON HCS	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
SMOKEY POINT HCS	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
Region 2 Total	16	0.2%	17	0.2%

RCA Caseload by Home and Community Services Offices (HCS), SFY 2023 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

ALTSA Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 3	HCS of Issuance			
	# of Cases	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ABERDEEN HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
BREMERTON HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CHEHALIS HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
KELSO HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
OLYMPIA HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
PORT ANGELES HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
STEILACOOM HCS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TACOMA HCS	3	<0.1%	4	<0.1%
VANCOUVER HCS	10	0.1%	13	0.2%
Region 3 Total	13	0.2%	17	0.2%

RCA Caseload by County of Residence, SFY 2023 Annual Unduplicated

County	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total	County	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total
Adams	3	<0.1%	3	<0.1%	Lewis	7	0.1%	7	0.1%
Asotin	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Lincoln	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Benton	192	2.6%	201	2.4%	Mason	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Chelan	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	Okanogan	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Clallam	4	0.1%	5	0.1%	Pacific	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%
Clark	1,077	14.4%	1,187	14.5%	Pend Oreille	4	0.1%	4	<0.1%
Columbia	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Pierce	873	11.7%	967	11.8%
Cowlitz	7	0.1%	9	0.1%	San Juan	3	<0.1%	3	<0.1%
Douglas	12	0.2%	15	0.2%	Skagit	53	0.7%	56	0.7%
Ferry	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Skamania	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Franklin	115	1.5%	123	1.5%	Snohomish	1,328	17.8%	1,471	17.9%
Garfield	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Spokane	640	8.6%	707	8.6%
Grant	106	1.4%	120	1.5%	Stevens	3	<0.1%	4	<0.1%
Grays Harbor	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	Thurston	36	0.5%	40	0.5%
Island	2	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	Wahkiakum	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Jefferson	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	Walla Walla	4	0.1%	4	<0.1%
King	2,807	37.6%	3,077	37.5%	Whatcom	141	1.9%	149	1.8%
Kitsap	29	0.4%	30	0.4%	Whitman	6	0.1%	5	0.1%
Kittitas	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%	Yakima	2	<0.1%	3	<0.1%
Klickitat	7	0.1%	8	0.1%	Not Reported/ Unidentifiable	7	0.1%	8	0.1%

	# of Cases	% of Total	# of Clients	% of Total
State Total	7,473	100.0%	8,213	100.0%

RCA Client Demographics, SFY 2023 Annual Unduplicated

<u>All Clients</u>		
Characteristic	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Total Clients	8,213	100.0%

<u>All Clients</u>		
Gender	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Female	4,229	51.5%
Male	3,983	48.5%
Unknown	1	<0.1%

<u>All Clients</u>		
Ethnicity and Race	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Hispanic or Latino	558	6.8%
Not Hispanic or Latino⁵	7,655	93.2%
White	6,239	76.0%
Black/African American	196	2.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	299	3.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	7	0.1%
Two or More Races	44	0.5%
Race Not Reported	870	10.6%

<u>All Clients</u>		
Marital Status	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Separated	68	0.8%
Married	2,868	34.9%
Never Married	4,221	51.4%
Divorced	543	6.6%
Widowed	476	5.8%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	37	0.5%

<u>All Clients</u>		
Immigration Status	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Refugee⁶	7,148	87.0%
Not Refugee	900	11.0%
Cuban/Haitian	75	0.9%
Asylee	48	0.6%
Special Immigrant	28	0.3%
Immigration Status Categories with Fewer than 10 Clients	14	0.2%

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.

RCA Client Demographics, SFY 2023 Annual Unduplicated (continued)

Characteristic	All Clients	
	# of Clients	% of Total Clients

Homeless Status		
All Clients		
Homeless ⁷	860	10.5%

Education Status		
All Clients		
Less than a High School Diploma	852	10.4%
High School Graduate or GED	3,481	42.4%
Some College or College Degree	3,619	44.1%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	261	3.2%

Age		
All Clients		
Under 18 Years Old	N/A	N/A
18 – 24 Years Old	2,548	31.0%
25 – 34 Years Old	2,205	26.8%
35 – 44 Years Old	819	10.0%
45 – 54 Years Old	872	10.6%
55 – 64 Years Old	1,029	12.5%
65+ Years Old	740	9.0%
Average Age of Adults		
		37.3 Years

Length of Stay	
Average Length of Stay ⁸	6.7 Months

⁷ 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.

⁸ Average cumulative number of months clients received RCA since July 1997. RCA provides cash assistance for newly arrived single and married refugees and humanitarian immigrants in the U.S. who are not eligible for TANF. Effective June 2, 2022, the eligibility period for RCA and RMA 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.