

Supporting Refugee and Immigrant Success in Washington

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA)
Community Services Division
Economic Services Administration

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

ORIA's mission is to transform the lives of refugees and immigrants by providing resources that support a broad range of services that promote self-sufficiency and integration. Services include:

- Cash, Food, and Medical Assistance
- Employment and Training Programs (LEP Pathway, ORIA BFET, CLEVER)
- English Language Programs
- Health Screenings, Mental Health Services and Health Promotion
- Naturalization
- Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility & Empowerment (PRIME)
- Support services for children, youth, and elders

Who is eligible for ORIA's services?

❖ REFUGEE :

Any person who is outside their home country and who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion; and is unable or unwilling to avail him or herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution.

1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees
Immigration and Nationality Act Section 101(a)(42) of 1952

- ❖ ASYLEES
- ❖ SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA (SIV) holders
- ❖ CUBAN/HAITIAN ENTRANTS
- ❖ SURVIVORS OF TORTURE
- ❖ UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE MINORS & SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILES
- ❖ CERTIFIED VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- ❖ LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Who are refugee and immigrants?

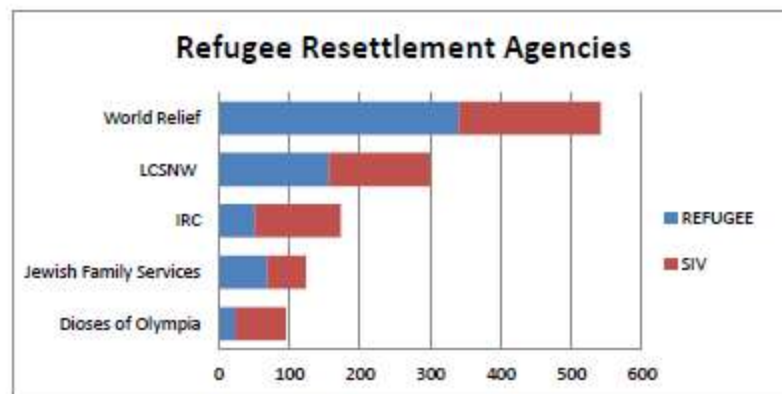
- **Immigrants** voluntarily come to the US to work or reunite with family members and are usually sponsored
- **Refugees** are individuals who are unable to return to their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinions
 - Unlike immigrants, refugees are not coming to the US voluntarily; they have no other place to go
 - The US government allows refugees to come to our country for humanitarian reasons
 - **Includes asylee, victim of trafficking, special immigrants from Iraq & Afghanistan, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and Amerasian.**

Who is coming to
Washington and where are
they living?

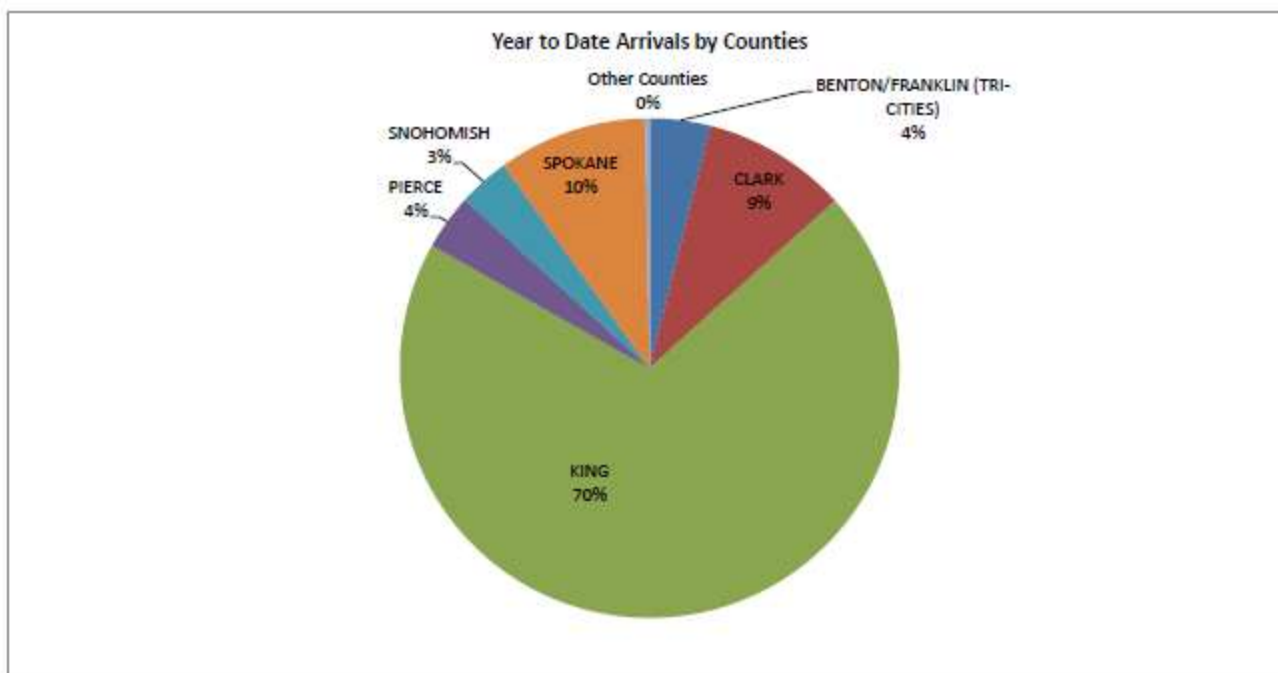
DSHS Office of Refugee Immigrant Assistance

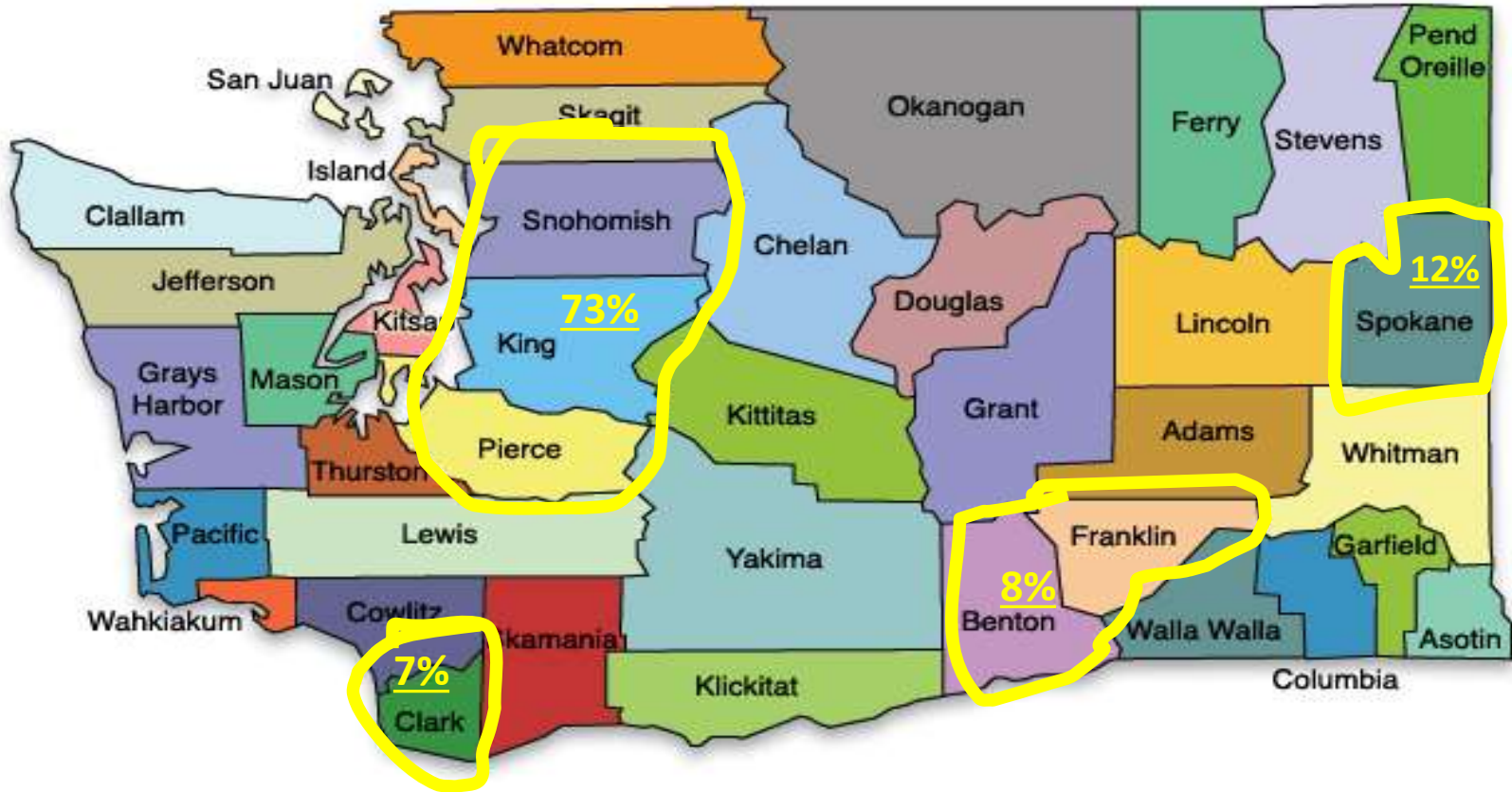
STATE OF WASHINGTON REFUGEE AND SPECIAL IMMIGRANT ARRIVALS

Month	FFY 2014	FFY 2015	FFY 2016	FFY 2017	FFY 2018 TOTAL		
					RE	SIV	
October	45	269	292	585	64	134	198
November	376	323	252	517	114	176	290
December	198	255	312	459	109	61	170
January	219	243	251	408	154	104	258
February	281	184	318	384	122	76	198
March	233	182	320	238	83	57	140
April	256	211	298	233			0
May	160	160	269	303			0
June	331	222	343	230			0
July	349	272	289	213			0
August	191	189	459	224			0
September	224	411	504	149			0
Totals	2863	2921	3907	3943	646	608	1254



Nationality	Individuals
Afghanistan	595
Ukraine	392
Russia	71
Moldova	40
Bhutan	19
Belarus	21
Eritrea	19
Iraq	17
Burma	28
Ethiopia	10
Kazakhstan	6
Somalia	9
Iran	3
Dem. Rep. Congo	3
Sudan	3
Pakistan	2
China	1
Senegal	1
El Salvador	1
Syria	0
Colombia	0
Uzbekistan	4
Vietnam	0
Armenia	0
Cameroon	0
TOTAL FFY18	1254





Voluntary Refugee Resettlement Agencies

- Episcopal Migration Ministry
- International Rescue Committee (Seattle, Spokane)
- Jewish Family Services (Seattle, Tacoma)
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest (Tacoma, Vancouver)
- World Relief (Seattle, Spokane, Tri-Cities)

Reception and Placement Program

- Conducted by VOLAGs via Cooperative Agreement with DOS-PRM
- Time limited (bridge) for **30 – 90 days** after arrival.

Each refugee receives an average of **\$1,125** to start their new life in America.

- Core services include:
 - Airport Pick-Up
 - Housing, Furniture, Clothes and Food
 - Registration with Local Government Agencies to Receive Benefits
 - Refugee Health Screening, Primary and Specialty Care
 - School Registration and English Classes
 - Employment Program Referral
 - Cultural Orientation

Refugees are eligible for
Public Assistance Programs
Administered by DSHS

REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE

Single or married adults, no children

Administered by DSHS

Up to 8 Months of Cash
Assistance

Single \$332
Couple \$420

MATCHING GRANT

**Administered by Some
Resettlement Agencies**

4-6 Months Cash Assistance

Single - \$200/mo.
+ 6 mos. Rent
Family of 4 - \$480/mo.
+ 6 mos. Rent

**Temporary Assistance to
Needy Families (TANF)**

Single or married adults with children

Administered by DSHS

Up to five years of Cash
Assistance

Family of 4
\$613

Naturalization Services Program

- Application and Interview Assistance
- Civics and English Language Classes

Special Populations Programs

- Refugee Elderly Services
- Refugee School Impact Grant
- Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program

Health and Mental Health

- Health Screenings
- Refugee Health Promotion Grant
- Refugee Mental Health Grants

PRIME Program

- Comprehensive Case Management
- Workshops on life skills and navigating systems
- Immigration Services

English Language Services (LEP Pathway)

- Levelled English as a Second Language Classes
- Employment Focused
- Intensive ESL with Life Skills Curricula

Employment Services

(LEP Pathway, ORIA-BFET,
Refugees with Special Employment Needs)

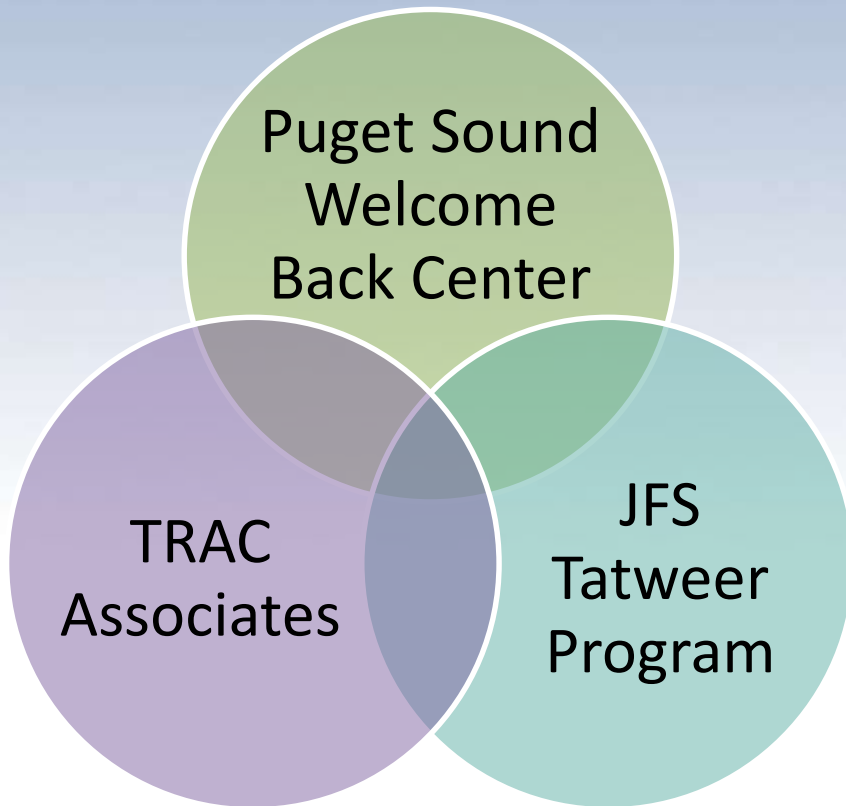
- Employment assessments and pre-employment preparation
- Job search and employment placement
- Skills Training
- Volunteer and subsidized Work Experience opportunities

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services

- Contractors have close ties to ethnic communities
- Employ staff who came to the US as refugees
- Services provided in clients primary language
- Customized to meet the specific needs of each client.

Career Ladder for Educated and/or Vocationally Experienced Refugees (CLEVER)

Transforming
Lives



Services

- Career Pathways Orientation
- Mentorship Services
- Career Counseling Case-Management
- Support services and Assistance with recertification and licensure
- Targeted job placement option in career fields
- Training and Technical Assistance for ORIA Network of Providers

ORIA BFET

- ORIA has been providing services through BFET since October 2012.
- The goal of the program is to increase employment and training opportunities for eligible refugees and immigrants who might not qualify for LEP Pathway services but still need employment and training support to achieve economic stability.
- ORIA BFET offers the same services statewide as the general or mainstream BFET program, but it focuses on providing culturally and linguistically appropriate employment and training services to foreign-born individuals who have not naturalized.

By administering the ORIA BFET program, ORIA leverages general state funding to match additional federal dollars for employment services that help program participants achieve economic stability and successfully integrate into their new communities.

ORIA BFET ELIGIBLE POPULATION

- Receiving federal food benefits
- Refugees and Immigrants
- Age 16 and older
- Not recipients of TANF or Refugee Cash Assistance, and
- Not naturalized U.S. citizens

This program differs from LEP Pathway in that it serves all refugees and immigrants who meet the above criteria regardless of the length of time they have been in the U.S. It complements LEP Pathway by serving refugees and immigrants who do not qualify for LEP Pathway such as non-refugees, non-TANF immigrants and refugees who have resided in the U.S. for over five years.

Resources for Providers Working with LEP Population:

Authorized Representative (AREP):

- An Authorized Representative is someone a client designate to represent them when they apply for or receive benefits with DSHS or HCA. Clients can identify an individual or organization to act on their behalf for eligibility purposes.
- DSHS 14-532 (REV. 11/2014)

DSHS Forms:

- <http://forms.dshs.wa.lcl/>
- Consent Form / DSHS Release of Info Form DSHS 14-012 (REV. 4/2018)
- BFET Tri-fold Brochures

Group Discussions

- What is Limited English Proficiency and how does it affect our services?
Challenges in serving clients?
- Interpreter and Translation Services- How do you address language barriers?
Volunteer Interpreters vs. Certified/Qualified Interpreters
- Continuum of services- How do we maximize clients' time with us?
What are your clients' needs beyond employment and training?
How do we tap into a client base that might not be using our services?
Outreach to community
Follow-up with clients who have exited programs

Thank you!

Jennifer.Malloy@dshs.wa.gov

Ashley.Mai@dshs.wa.gov