

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Economic Services Administration | Community Services Division

Notice of Funding Opportunity School Districts Serving Asylum-Seeking McKinney-Vento Students April 22, 2024

Washington has welcomed record numbers of immigrants and refugees over the past two years. While refugees and other many humanitarian immigrants may be able to access federally funded refugee resettlement benefits and services, many of migrants and asylum-seekers do not have access to federally funded programs that assist with resettlement into local communities. Several of these individuals and families with children experience unstable housing and even homelessness. School districts have seen a significant growth in the number of recently arrived children that English Language Learners. Nearly every school district in Washington has experienced at least a 50% increase in this population from the 2020-2021 to the 2022-2023 academic year.¹ Newcomer students experiencing homelessness or other unstable housing situations qualify them for additional supports through the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

To Apply:

School Districts must submit a letter of interest for SFY24 funding by May 15, 2024.

Eligible School Districts must have served a minimum of 25 McKinney-Vento students who have a U.S. school start date from Jan. 1, 2022, to March 31, 2024, **and** who have a home language other than English **and** who were born in a country other than the U.S.

Submit application to ORIANOFO@dshs.wa.gov by May 15, 2024

Learn More:

An information session on this funding opportunity will be offered on April 30, 2024, 1:00 PM, 2024. [Please register to attend.](#)

Questions regarding this funding opportunity may be directed to ORIANOFO@dshs.wa.gov.

What funding is available?

To support the growth in newcomers, the Washington State Legislature has appropriated \$25,250,000 to the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance, also known as ORIA, to serve people who have recently arrived in the U.S. and to Washington that are not eligible for federally funded refugee resettlement services. The Legislature designated \$250,000 for SFY24 and \$750,000 for SFY25 to provide additional education opportunities and family supports for school districts that have seen a significant increase in numbers of McKinney-Vento students seeking asylum.

ORIA invites School Districts in Washington to apply for a funding for to cover immediate needs and expenses that they have incurred during State Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) related to serving McKinney-Vento students seeking asylum. ORIA anticipates expanding to additional districts for SFY 2025, which begins July 1, 2024. The minimum level of funding for SFY 2024 will be \$25,000.

¹ OSPI Report Card for Recently Arrived English Language Learners_20240410

How can the funding be used?

The funding can be used to provide eligible students with additional educational opportunities and family supports.

Priority areas and allowable activities:

1. **Instruction:** Funding additional educational opportunities through school staff, instruction materials, newcomer programs, after-school/summer programs, behavioral health supports, etc.
2. **Parent and Family Support:** Developing and implementing parent engagement and orientation activities, case management.
3. **Community Partnerships:** Facilitating partnerships between districts and community organizations to coordinate planning and implementation of programs that support asylum-seeking McKinney Vento students.
4. **Transportation and Goods:** Transportation and bussing expenses, backpacks and other school supplies, personal hygiene items, laptops, tablets, and other devices that support internet connectivity.
5. **Other:** Other activities that are aligned with the purpose of the funding, but not explicitly named in the list.

Eligible School Districts and Students: In [Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5950](#), the legislature specified that funding should be provided “solely to school districts who have seen a significant increase in McKinney-Vento students seeking asylum.” [Asylum-seekers](#) are individuals who have fled their country due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group, and who have applied for or are planning to apply for asylum from the U.S. government.

To qualify for this funding, Washington School Districts must demonstrate that they have at least 25 or more McKinney-Vento students who have a U.S. School Start Date between January 1, 2022, to March 31, 2024, **and** have a home language other than English, **and** were born in a country other than the U.S.

Timeline and Funding: Applications for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 funding are due May 15, 2024, 5 p.m. This is a competitive application and funding decisions will be announced by May 26, 2024. ORIA anticipates issuing awards with a minimum level of \$25,000 with additional funding availability for SFY25. Funding decisions will be made based on demonstrated need and ability to spend down the available SFY24 funding by June 30, 2024. Districts will be funded using a cost reimbursement model based on actual expenditures. Contracts for this application must be executed by June 30, 2024.

How to Apply:

Please submit a letter of interest electronically to ORIA at ORIANOFO@dshs.wa.gov by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2024. The letter of interest must be on letterhead, single-spaced, and must not exceed five pages, including the budget attachment.

DSSH ORIA will be hosting an information session on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 1 p.m. for School Districts. [Please register to attend.](#)

Please send any questions regarding this funding opportunity to ORIANOFO@dshs.wa.gov.

Notice of Funding Opportunity
School Districts Serving Asylum-Seeking McKinney-Vento Students
Application Requirements
April 22, 2024

Please submit a letter of interest electronically to ORIA at ORIANOFO@dshs.wa.gov by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2024. The letter of interest must be on letterhead, single-spaced, and must not exceed five pages with a budget attachment.

Please include the information below and respond to all of the questions.

Name of the School District:

Name and Title of Person Completing the Application:

Date of the Application:

Demonstrated Need and Estimated Participants	
1. Total percentage of English Language Learners in the district:	
2. Total percentage of McKinney-Vento students in the district:	
3a. Total Number of McKinney-Vento Students:	
3b. To estimate the number of asylum-seeking students, please indicate how many McKinney-Vento students meet these parameters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a U.S. School Start Date between Jan. 1, 2022, and March 31, 2024; and • Have a home language other than English; and • Have a country of birth other than the United States. 	
4. How many of asylum-seeking McKinney-Vento students will be served by this funding?	
5. How many parents/guardians of asylum-seeking McKinney-Vento students will be served by this funding?	

Please respond to the following questions:

1. Which of the program priority areas will your district focus on for state fiscal year 2024? Please note that funding may be used to cover expenses incurred from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.
2. For each program priority area listed in question 1, please describe your plan, objectives, and activities. Please note that funding for 2024 can be used for new activities and past activities that have already occurred. If you are requesting funds for expenses incurred, please provide detail information about the services provided.
3. For each program priority area, identify your timeline/schedule Please include activities or expenses that have already occurred during the state fiscal year.
4. What is your estimated budget for each program priority area? Please include an Excel budget spreadsheet.
5. Do you anticipate seeing additional needs during the next academic year? If so, would you apply for additional funding from DSHS ORIA?
6. There will be one narrative report with qualitative and quantitative data associated with SFY24 funding due August 1, 2024. Will your District be able to fulfill the reporting requirement?