



Refugee Advisory Council of Washington State  
Innovative Practices for Welcoming Newcomers in Washington

*Public Forum*

Thursday, October 26, 2023

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

**Agenda**

Time	Topic	Presenter/Moderator
10:00 to 10:15	Welcome and Introductions	<b>Patricia Castaneda</b> Refugee Advisory Council Chair Executive Director, Manzanita House in Spokane
10:15 – 10:35	WA State Refugee Assistance Updates	<b>Sarah Peterson</b> State Refugee Coordinator Chief - <a href="#">Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance</a> , Department of Social and Health Services
10:35 – 11:55	Roundtable Discussion: To Share About Innovations Organizations Are Doing In Spokane For New Arrivals	<b>Madison Beal</b> , Health and Wellness Programs Manager, International Rescue Committee Spokane <b>Andrea Simpson</b> , Director of Integration and Wellness Services, World Relief Spokane <b>Mark Finney</b> , Executive Director, Thrive International <b>Kathryn Garras</b> , Executive Director, Refugee and Immigrant Connections (RICS) <b>Samuel Smith</b> , Immigration Attorney, Manzanita House Spokane
11:55 – 12:00	Wrap-up and close the Main Event	<b>Theresa Roosendaal</b> Refugee Advisory Council Member, Benton- Franklin Counties Founder and Executive Director, B5 Learning Center, Tri-Cities
12:00 – 12:30	Networking and Connections - Open Time	<b>All Participants and RAC Members</b> Refugee Advisory Council King County Deputy Director for Business Operations, IRC WA