

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Economic Services Administration | Community Services Division

Extension of Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance Programs

The Department of Social and Health Services is extending eligibility for Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance benefits to help immigrant individuals and couples affected by COVID-19.

Recipients are generally eligible to receive RCA/RMA benefits for a maximum of eight months from their documented date of arrival in the United States (for refugees, Special Immigrant Visa/SIV holders and Cuban-Haitian Entrants) or eight months from the date of the grant of their immigration status (for asylees, victims of trafficking and other humanitarian immigrants).

DSHS automatically extended benefits for clients currently receiving RCA and RMA benefits to receive assistance through September 30, 2020. Clients who stopped receiving benefits may be eligible to receive an extension and can reapply.

This extended assistance is available to individuals and couples who:

- arrived in the United States or received their immigration status between April 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020;
- do not have children;
- have an eligible immigration status; and
- meet income and resource limits.

Eligible immigration statuses for RCA and RMA include: Refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa Holders from Iraq or Afghanistan and their qualifying family members, Amerasians, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, victims of trafficking and their qualifying family members, and other humanitarian immigrants.

Eligible recipients will receive extended benefits until September 30, 2020. Benefit amounts range from \$221 a month for a single person with no shelter costs to \$459 a month for a couple who has to pay shelter costs.

People will receive their RCA benefits on an existing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card or DSHS will issue a new EBT card via U.S. Mail.

People can call 877-501-2233 to complete the entire application process over the phone. Telephonic interpretation services are available. People can also complete an application for benefits at WashingtonConnection.org.