

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Economic Services Administration | Community Services Division

Frequently Asked Questions Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund

1. Why do we need a special fund for the Washington immigrant community?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of Washingtonians have been adversely impacted and have endured economic hardships. The state and federal government have offered substantial relief packages that have helped support many Washingtonians. Unfortunately, nearly a quarter of a million people are unable to access unemployment insurance compensation and federal stimulus packages due to their immigration status. These Washingtonians substantially contribute to Washington's economy and often work in industries that have been hardest hit by COVID-19.

2. What is the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund?

In an effort to support all Washingtonians, Governor Inslee has created the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund. This fund will provide a one-time cash grant of \$1,000 to Washington residents who have experienced hardship due to COVID-19 and are ineligible for federal stimulus and unemployment insurance due to their immigration status.

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services is partnering with the Legal Foundation of Washington to administer \$40 million in CARES Act funding. The LFW will work with a number of immigrant-run organizations, including Asian Counseling and Referral Service, Colectiva Legal del Pueblo, Fair Work Center, Nuestra Casa, Raiz of Planned Parenthood, Scholarship Junkies, Washington Census Alliance and the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, to distribute the funds.

3. When will the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund be available?

The Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund will accept applications from Oct. 21, 2020 to Dec. 6, 2020. Grants will be distributed to eligible and approved applicants no later than Dec. 28, 2020.

4. Who will be eligible?

To be eligible to receive funds under this program, applicants must establish that they:

- Are a Washington state resident, AND
- Are at least 18 years of age, AND
- Have experienced hardship due to the pandemic, AND
- Are ineligible to receive unemployment insurance compensation or federal stimulus dollars due to immigration status.

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5. What documentation will I need to provide to prove eligibility?

To confirm identity and prove that you reside in Washington state, applicants need to have a clear copy of **one** item from List A **or** one item from **both** List B **and** List C.

List A Residency and Identity Documents	List B Identity Documents	List C Residency Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Washington State Identification Card showing full name and Washington state address ● Washington State Driver License showing full name and Washington state address ● Current student identification card from a school located in Washington state ● Any utility bill showing your full name and Washington state address ● Cell phone bill or internet bill showing your full name and Washington state address ● Insurance statement showing your full name and Washington state address ● Bank statement showing your full name and Washington state address ● 2019 tax return showing your full name and Washington state address ● Paystub from employer showing your full name and your Washington state address ● Rent receipt showing your full name and Washington state address 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student identification card from any school ● Passport from any country ● Consulate Card ● International Driver's License ● Metro card with photo 	<p>Signed and dated letter from the following entities stating their full name and phone number:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Landlord acknowledging Washington state residency ● A representative from your place of worship acknowledging Washington state residency

6. How much will an individual receive from the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund? How many people in the home can receive the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund assistance?

Approved recipients will receive a one-time payment of \$1,000 per applicant. A household cap has been set at \$3,000.

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7. Where can I apply for the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund?

Applications will be reviewed and processed on a first-come-first-serve basis. Eligible community members can apply to the fund by:

- Visiting the website: www.immigranreliefwa.org
- Calling the hotline 844-727-3737 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Print the application and mail it to the P.O. Box #84327, Seattle, WA 98124.

8. What community based organizations can I reach out to for more information?

- Asian Counseling and Referral Services
- Colectiva Legal del Pueblo
- Fair Work Center
- Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
- Nuestra Casa
- Raiz of Planned Parenthood
- Scholarship Junkies
- Washington Census Alliance
- Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network

10. If someone receives the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund assistance, will money from this prevent them from getting a visa or green card in the future because of the public charge rule?

No. This fund is considered one-time disaster relief assistance and should not be considered under the public charge rule. Receiving assistance from the fund should not impact someone's ability to obtain a green card.

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