



# **Welcoming Washington:**

**Updates from the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance**

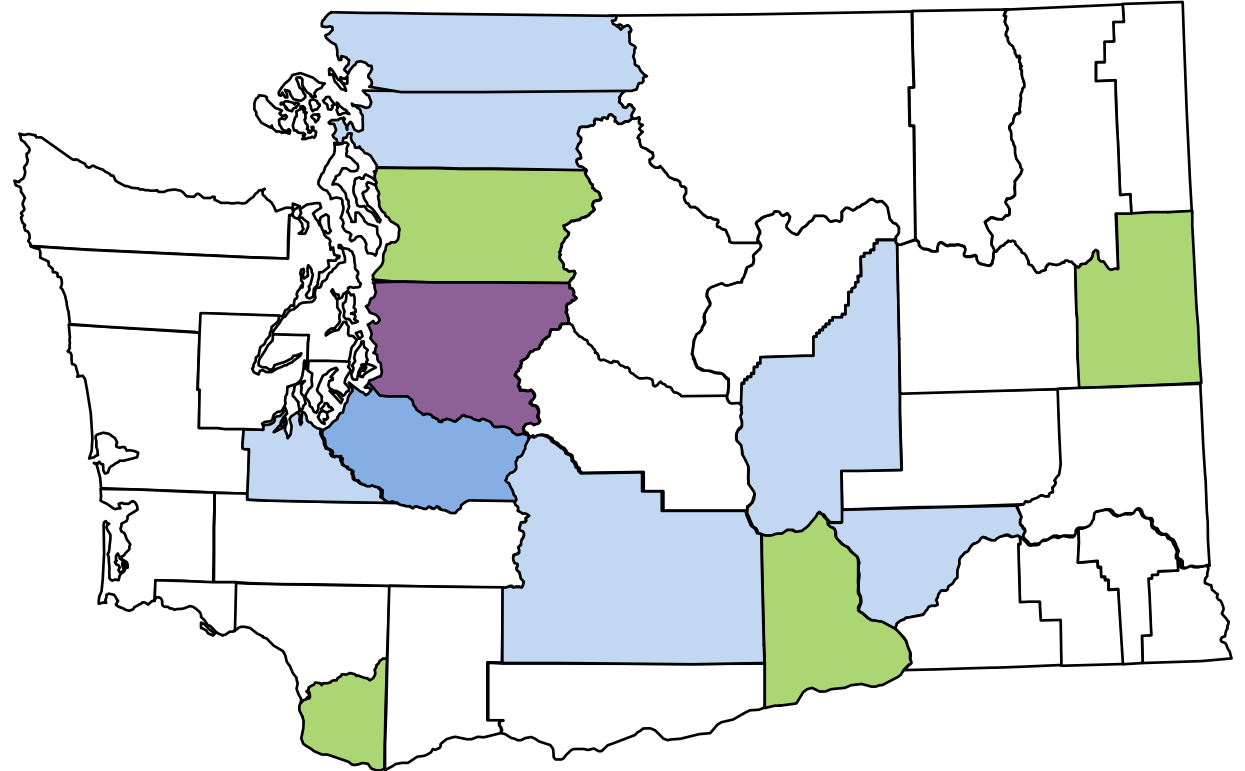
**Statewide Refugee Advisory Council**

**May 29, 2025**

**The Washington Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance** invests federal and state funding into local communities across Washington to provide services and resources that help refugees and humanitarian immigrants achieve economic stability and supports long-term integration.

**Partners with more than 100 organizations:**

- Refugee Resettlement Agencies
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Ethnic Community-Based Organizations
- Public Health Departments and Health Clinics
- School Districts
- Community Colleges
- Other State Agencies



## **Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance: Role and Responsibilities**

1. Coordinate statewide efforts to support the economic and social integration and basic needs of immigrants and refugees arriving and resettling in Washington.
2. Designated lead for the administration of the Washington State Plan for Refugee Resettlement.
3. Provide refugee services in accordance with federal act and state plan.
4. Administer services to immigrants who are ineligible for federal refugee services.

[Revised Code of Washington 74.74](#)

# State and Federal Investment

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**DSHS**

# Welcoming refugees is a community investment.

Between 2005 ,  
refugees and asylees  
brought in  
**\$124 billion**  
more in revenue  
than they received  
in services  
in the  
United States.

Table 2. Expenditures, Revenues, and Net Impact for Refugees and Asylees, and their Immediate Families, 2005-2019

	Revenue	Expenditures	Net
	<i>Refugees and Asylees</i>		
Total	\$581,009	\$457,229	\$123,781
Federal	363,040	331,539	31,501
State/Local	217,969	125,689	92,280
	<i>Refugees, Asylees, and Immediate Families</i>		
Total	\$739,401	\$723,366	\$16,035
Federal	467,450	429,995	37,455
State/Local	271,951	293,371	-21,420

Values expressed in million 2019 dollars.

Source: Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement and microsimulation model TRIM3, and additional ASPE analysis of administrative and federal budgetary data.

Source: Ghertner, Robin, Suzanne Macartney, and Meredith Dost. (2014) The Fiscal Impact of Refugees and Asylees Over 15 years: Over \$123 Billion in Net Benefit from 2005 to 2019. [aspe-brief-refugee-fiscal-impact-study.pdf \(hhs.gov\)](https://aspe.hhs.gov/research-and-statistics/publications/aspe-brief-refugee-fiscal-impact-study/pdf)

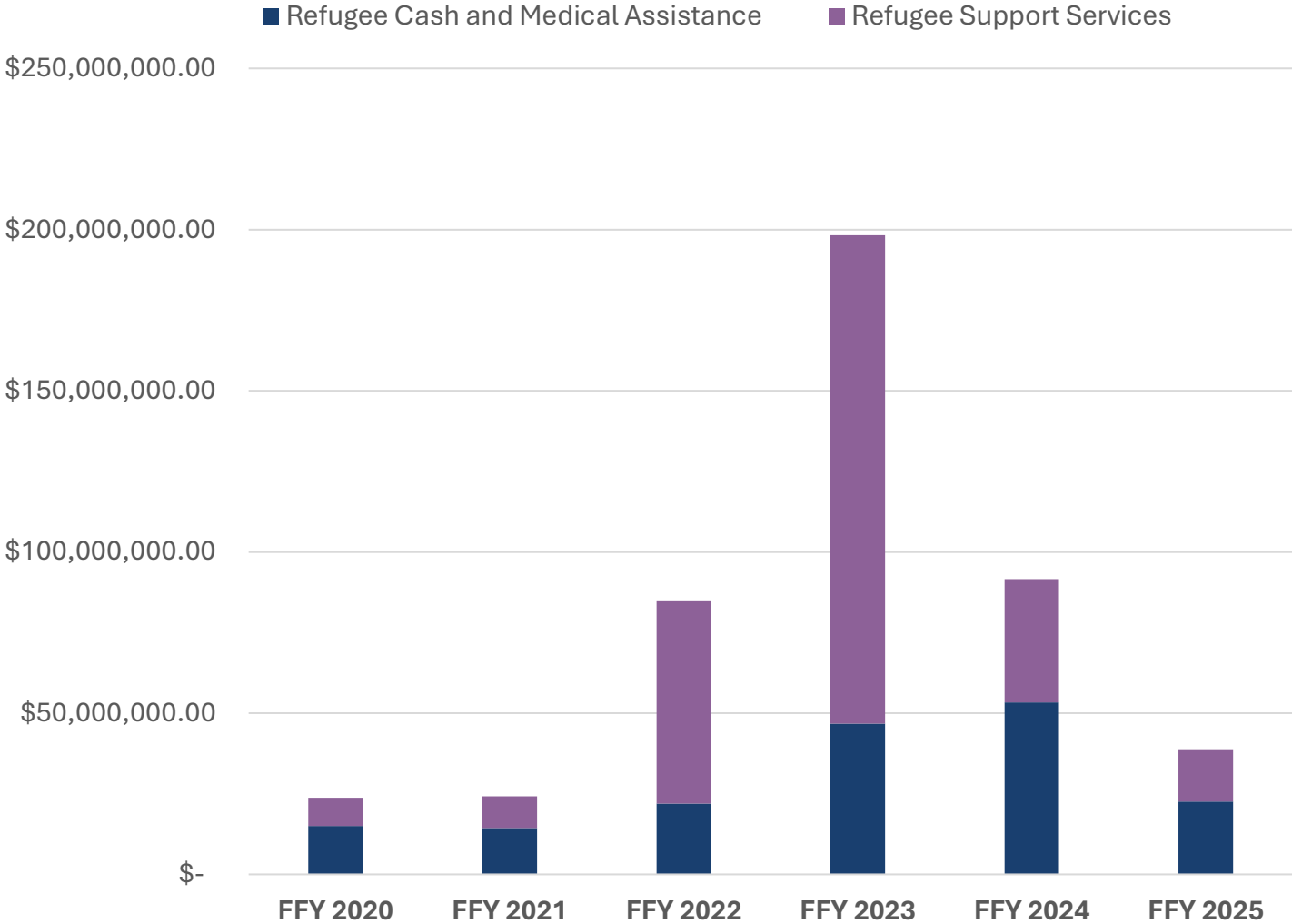
# State Funding for ORIA

Budget Description	SFY 2026	SFY 2027
Naturalization Services	\$ 3,545,000	\$ 3,545,000
Employment services for refugees and immigrants Used for LEP Pathway Program and ORIA BFET	\$ 2,366,000	\$ 2,366,000
Food Assistance Program (FAP) Employment and Training	\$ 560,000	\$ 560,000
Unaccompanied Children's Stabilization Services	\$ 500,000	
Support Services for recently arrived migrants Used for the Washington Migrant and Asylum-Seeker Support Project	\$ 25,000,000	
Total Funding for ORIA	\$ 31,971,000	\$ 6,471,000

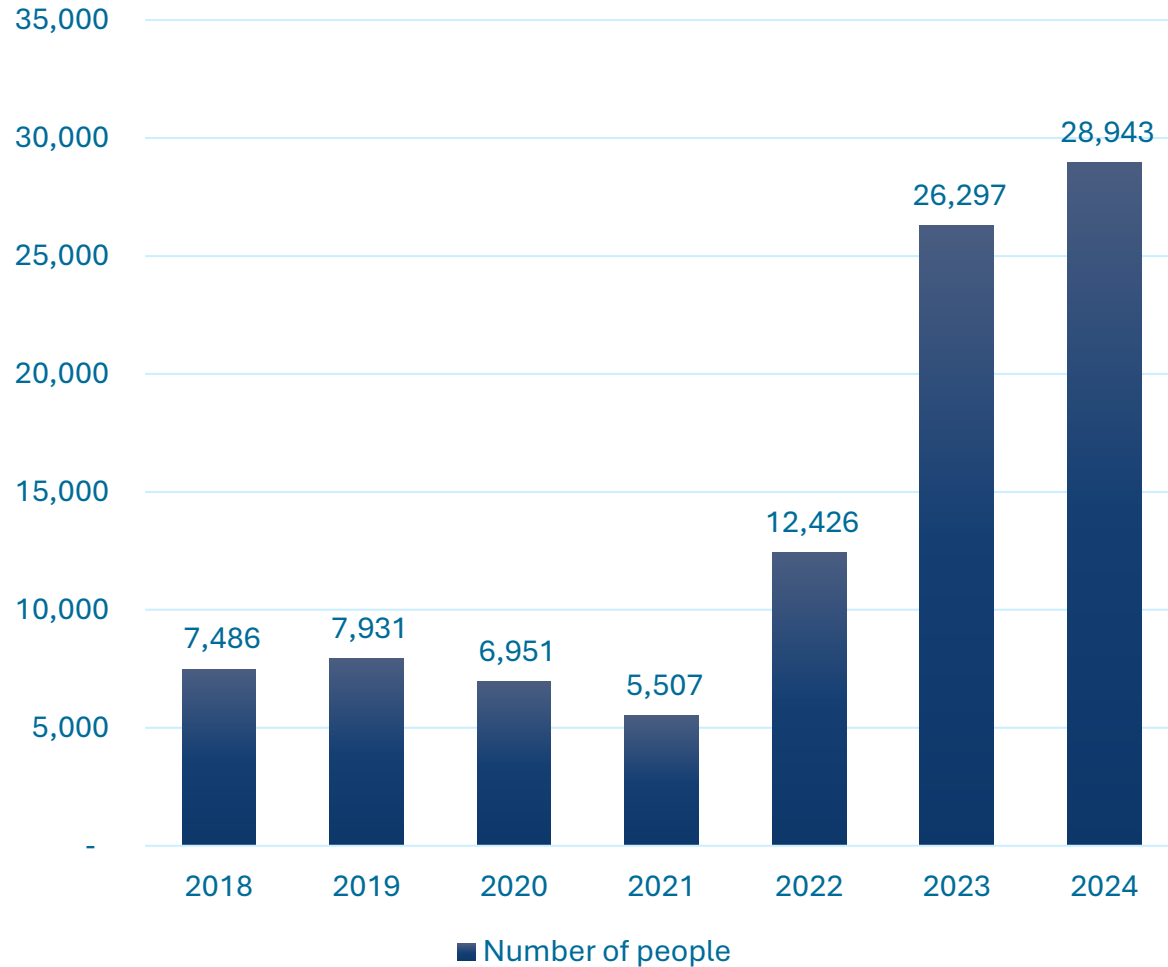


# Federal Funding from the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement Federal Fiscal Year 2020 - 2025

- ✓ Based on number of people eligible for federal refugee programs and service that have resettled in Washington
- ✓ Increase in federal funding by 700% between 2021 and 2023
- ✓ Three-year project period and opportunity to carry forward funding



# People served by ORIA's Refugee Programs



Data collected and reported through the ORR-5.

## Serves all federal eligible immigrants, including:

- Refugees admitted under [§ 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act \(INA\)](#)
- People granted asylum [under § 208 of the INA](#)
- Cuban and Haitian entrants
- Amerasians
- Certified victims of human trafficking
- Special Immigrant Visa Holders from Iraq and Afghanistan
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (See [ORR Policy Letter 22-01](#) and [22-02](#))
- Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (See [ORR Policy Letter 22-13](#))

## Federally Funded Refugee Services may include:

- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Refugee Medical Assistance
- Medical Screenings
- Refugee Support Services, including:
  - Health and Wellness
  - Employment and Training Services
  - Immigration-Related Legal Services
  - Whole Family Programs

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# Programs and Services Available for Refugees and Immigrants

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# Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance

- On March 21, 2025, the director of the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) [changed](#) the length of time that eligible people can receive RCA and RMA from up to 12 months to up to four months of benefits.
- The amount of time that someone can receive RCA and/or RMA depends on whether they qualified for refugee benefits on or after May 5, 2025.

Qualified for Refugee Benefits Before May 5, 2025	Qualified for Refugee Benefits on or after May 5, 2025
Still eligible to receive up to <b><u>12 months</u></b> of RCA/RMA	Can receive up to <b><u>4 months</u></b> of RCA/RMA

# Washington Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

HEALTH and WELLNESS PROGRAMS	EMPLOYMENT and TRAINING PROGRAMS	IMMIGRATION and NATURALIZATION ASSISTANCE	WHOLE FAMILY SERVICES
<b>Culturally Relevant and Linguistically Appropriate Services</b>			
Medical Screenings	LEP Pathway Program Employment Services	Naturalization Services	PRIME Program (Case Management and Self-sufficiency workshops)
Refugee Mental Health Services	LEP Pathway Program ESL Services	PRIME Immigration Assistance Services	Refugee School Impact Program
Refugee Health Promotion Program	ORIA-Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) Program	Immigration-Related Legal Services for Afghans	Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program
Refugee Elders Program	CLEVER Program (Career Ladders for Educated and Vocationally Experienced Refugees)	Immigration-Related Legal Services for Refugees	Refugee Youth Mentoring
			Community Outreach and Education
	State-funded employment services for FAP participants	Immigration-Related Legal Services for Ukrainians	Housing Stabilization Services

**DSHS**

## WA Migrant and Asylum-Seeker Support Project Overview

**Purpose:** Build a statewide network of organizations to deliver a coordinated response to meet the short-term immediate needs of recently arrived migrants and asylum-seekers.

Service Area	Objective	County Locations
<b>Newcomer Reception and Navigation Hub</b>  Lead Organization: International Rescue Committee	Serve as a central place to conduct eligibility screening, needs assessment and referrals.	King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Skagit, Whatcom, Clark, Yakima, Benton, Franklin
<b>Migrant Housing Services</b>	Provide emergency and transitional housing for up to three months each.	King, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark, Whatcom, Skagit, Spokane
<b>Immigration-Related Legal Services</b>  Lead Organization: Northwest Immigrant Rights Project	Conduct legal assessment and provide short-term legal assistance to help people find a pathway to employment and stabilization	King, Pierce, Yakima, Chelan, Spokane, Whatcom, Skagit, Clark, Cowlitz
<b>Culturally Responsive Case Management Services</b>	Assist participants in developing a plan for economic stability that focuses on their own strengths and resilience.	King, Thurston, Whatcom, Benton, Spokane, Pierce, Snohomish



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# How are we doing?

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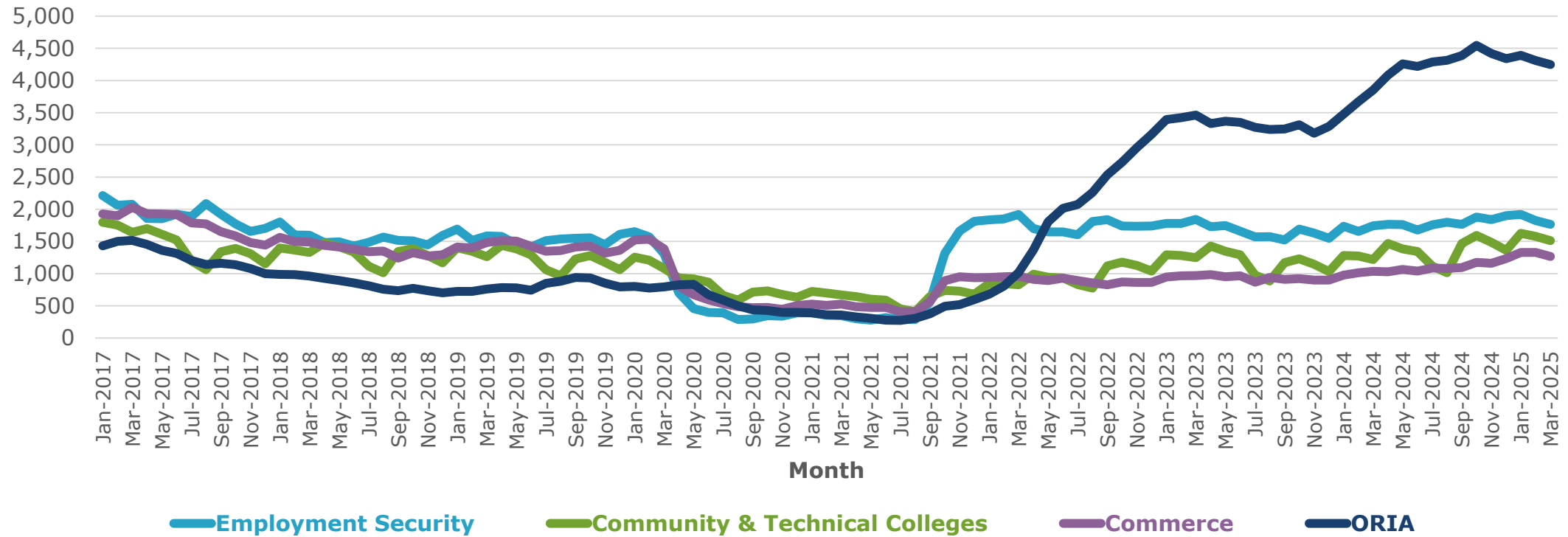
## **Number of People Served in Washington's Refugee Programs Oct. 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025**

- ✓ 700 new arrivals enrolled in Refugee Cash Assistance
- ✓ 3,874 people received Refugee Cash Assistance
- ✓ 6,751 people received ORR-funded employment and training services
  - ✓ 32% of employment participants placed in jobs
  - ✓ \$22.55 average hourly rate
- ✓ 1,461 refugee students and 459 parents participated in the Refugee School Impact Program
- ✓ 147 refugee elders received specialized services
- ✓ 126 refugee youth participated in a mentorship program
- ✓ 2,989 eligible students participated in Afghan Refugee School Impact Program



# WorkFirst Adults – Adults Enrolled by Partner

January 2017 – March 2025



Note: For all partners, enrollment numbers reflect the unique number of clients with enrollment between the component start date and component end date. Employment Security contractors do not have a contractor type; monthly enrollment counts are defined as those in the Job Search (JS), On-the-Job Training (OT), and Work Experience (WE) components without a contractor type and Life Skills Training (LS) with SFS as the contractor. Commerce, Community and Technical Colleges, and ORIA, monthly enrollment counts are based on contractor type as listed in eJAS as well as specific component codes. Included components for Community and Technical Colleges are Vocational Education (VE), Skills Enhancement Training (JT), High School (HS), High School Equivalency (GE), Degree Completion (DC), Working Part-Time (PT), Work Experience (WE), and English as a Second Language (ES). Included components for Commerce are Community Jobs (CJ), Job Connection (JC), Community Works (WC,CW), Work Experience (WE), Skills Enhancement Training (JT), and Life Skills Training (LS). Included components for ORIA are English as a Second Language (ES), Limited English Pathway (LP), Skills Enhancement Training (JT), Work Experience (WE), Job Search (JS), Working Part-Time (PT), or Working Full-Time (FT).

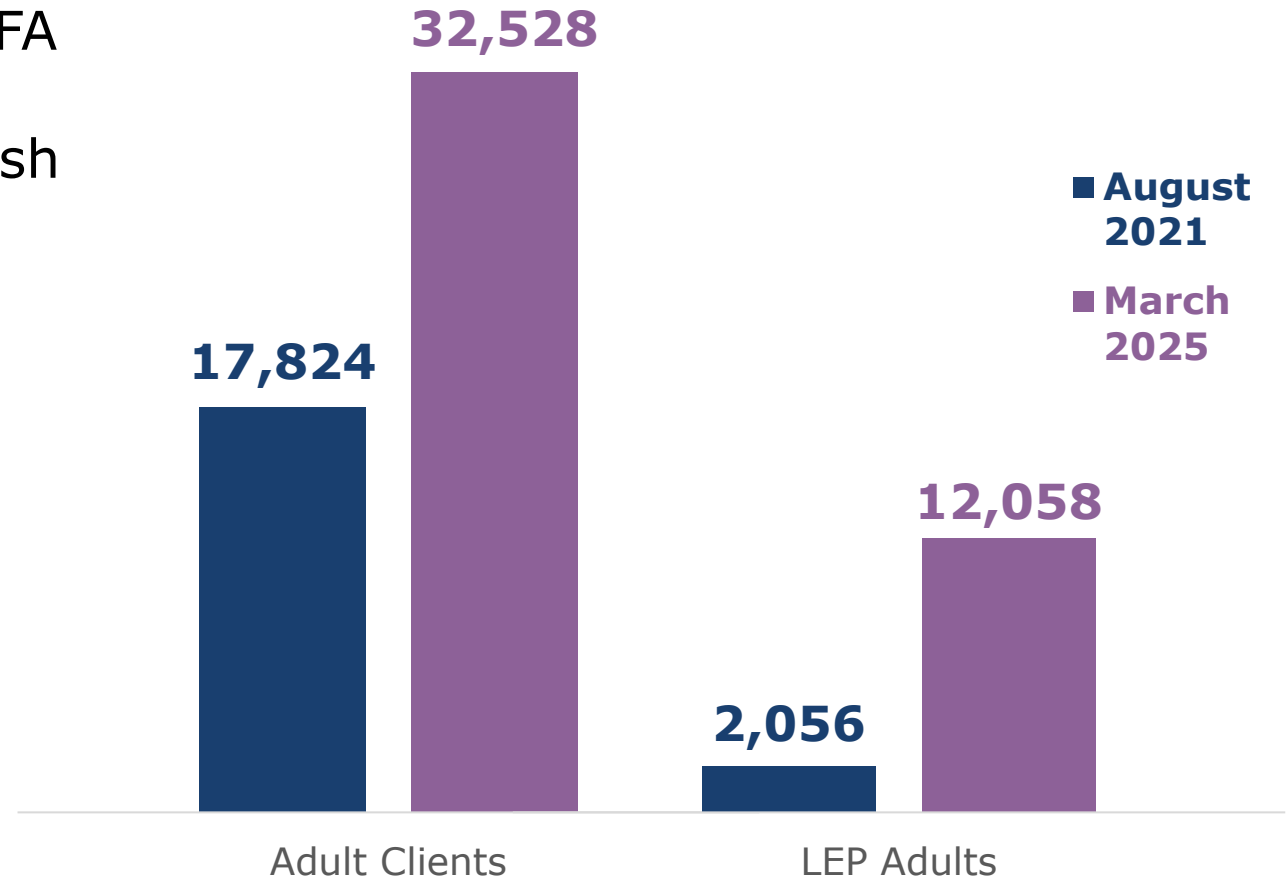
Source: ESA-EMAPS using the ACES Data Warehouse as of April 2025

Between August 2021 and March 2025, there were substantial increases in the number of TANF/SFA adult clients and in the number of TANF/SFA adults with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

The number of adult clients increased by **82%**.

The number of LEP clients is about **6 times greater** in February 2025 than it was in August 2021. LEP clients were **37%** of all adults in March 2025, compared to **12%** of all adults in August 2021.

Source: EMAPS DataWeb, TANF LEP Adult Clients, April 2025



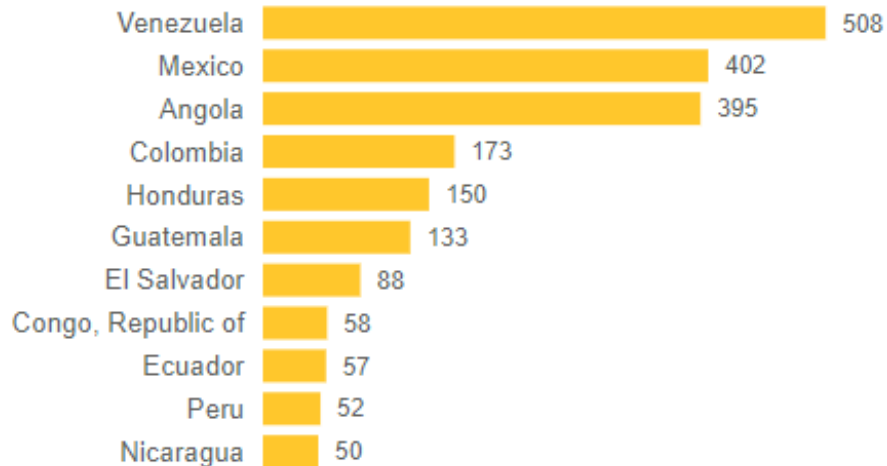


# Washington Migrant and Asylum-Seeker Support Project

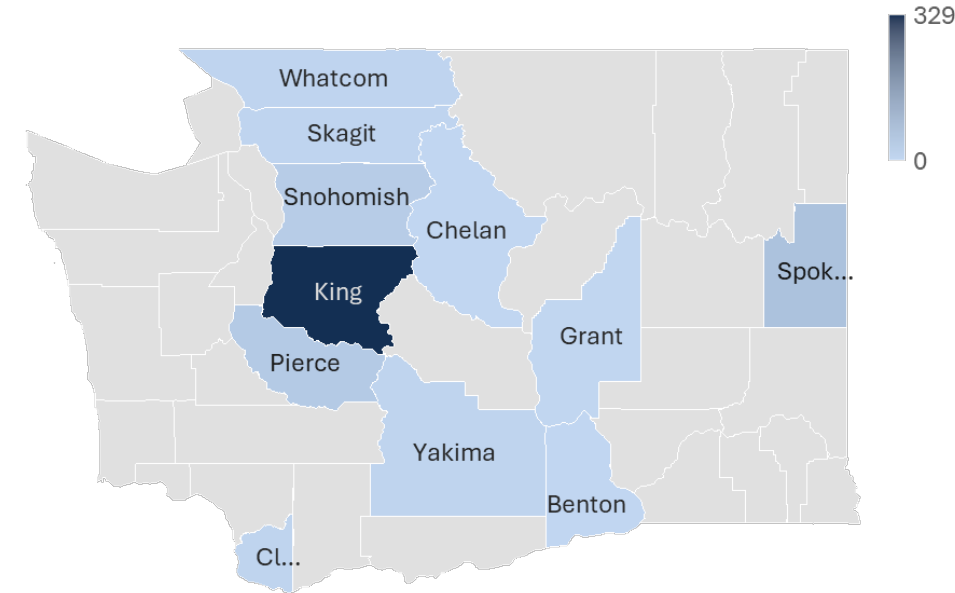
October 2024- March 2025

- **4,237 unique individuals and 1,633 households** served by the Newcomer Reception and Navigation Hub
- **383 unique households** and **1,009 individuals** received housing services.
- **2,773 individuals** completed legal intake and referred for legal services
- **1,807 individuals representing 436 households** received Case Management Services

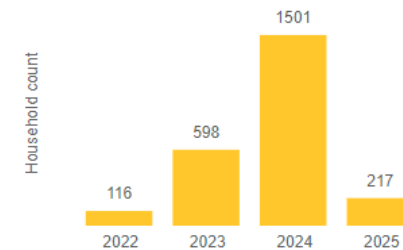
Nationality



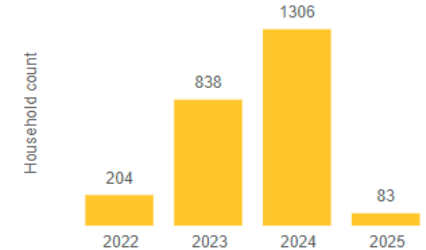
WA MASS Participants



Year of entry into WA



Year of entry into U.S.



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# Resources and Supports for Community

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## Resources that are available:

- EO 25-04 Protecting Immigrant Families and Responding to Family Separation
  - Department of Children, Youth and Families website:  
<https://dcyf.wa.gov/EOTaskForce>
- DSHS: Planning for Changes in Federal Immigration Policies and Practices
- Rapid Response Hub — Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- [WA Office of Attorney General: Know Your Rights: Civil Immigration Enforcement](#)

**Thank you for all that you do  
to make Washington a welcoming place.**







**DSHS**  
WASHINGTON STATE  
Department of Social  
and Health Services

# Thank you!

Sarah Peterson, MSW  
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Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance  
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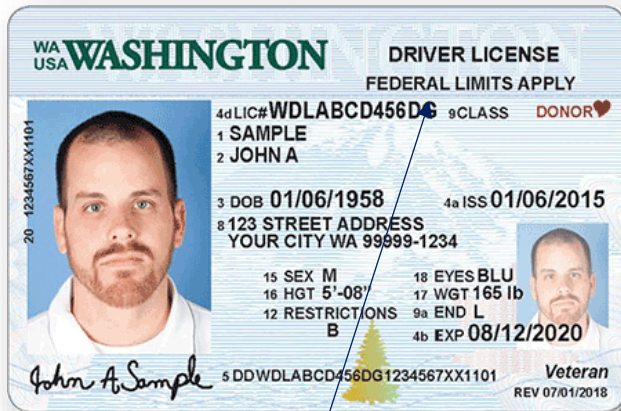


WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**LICENSING**

**Statewide Refugee Advisory Council – REAL ID**  
**May 29, 2025**

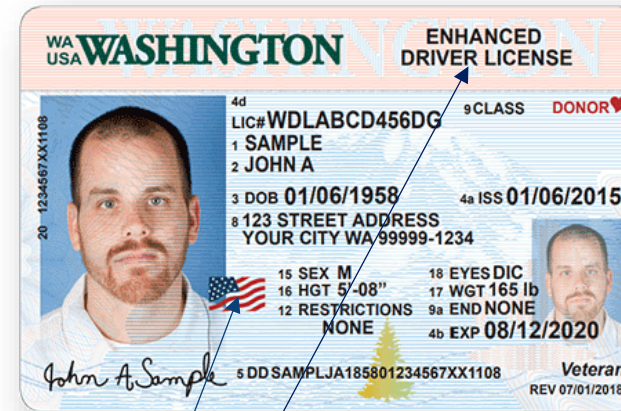
Washington state issues two types of identity documents through the Department of Licensing:

### Standard Driver's License and ID



"Federal Limits Apply"

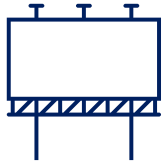
### Enhanced Driver's License and ID



American flag and "Enhanced" markers



DOL has led a robust REAL ID campaign since 2018 focusing on options

**PRR**

Media asset  
creation and ad  
buys

**TDW+Co.**

Non-English  
assets and ad  
buys in ethnic  
media

**Outreach Partners**

Engagement from  
small community  
non-profits

**ID2025 Website**

Website  
explaining  
options

**DOL Outreach**

Outreach team  
presents on  
REAL ID to  
communities



## Discover REAL ID Options

Here are some of the options that will work for air travel when REAL ID goes into effect on May 3, 2023. [Find the full list here.](#)



Foreign Passport



Enhanced Driver's License (EDL)



U.S. Passport



Enhanced Identification Card (EID)



Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)



U.S. Military ID



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)



Federally Recognized, Tribal-Issued Photo ID



U.S. Passport Card



## Maneras de viajar con licencias de conducir y tarjetas de identificación estándar

*Spanish language page directing the reader to options*

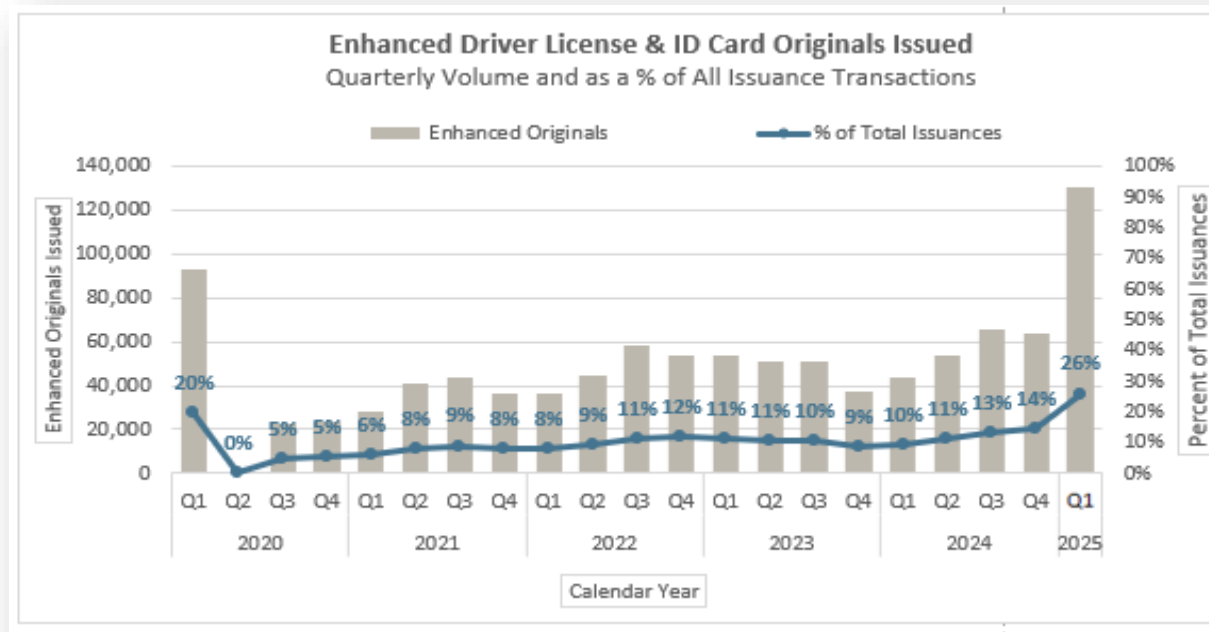


The Department of Licensing tracks the number of EDL and EID holders. As of May 2025:



**1,962,723** individuals possess an EDL or EID, up from **1,603,429** in May 2024

**4,248,168** individuals possess a standard DL or ID



# Immigration Updates

May 2025

Presented by: Malou Chavez, NWIRP Executive Director

Northwest  
IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS  
Project

# Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

- Only organization providing free comprehensive immigration legal services for people with low or no income in Washington State
- Focus primarily on direct legal services
- Also engage in systemic advocacy (impact litigation and legislative advocacy) and community education
- In 2024, NWIRP served people from 145 countries, speaking 63 different languages
  - Served 20,090 people (12,697 clients served through direct legal services)



# Today's Presentation: Updates on...

- **Immigrant Communities - Basic Concepts**
- **Who is at risk of deportation? And KYR**
- **Immigration Enforcement and Washington State Protections**
- **Updates Impacting Afghan immigrant communities**
- **Latest Updates: Travel**
- **Preventing *Notario* and other Fraud**
- **Resources**

# Immigrant Communities (Refugee Status) - Basic Concepts

# Immigrant Communities: Citizens and Non-Citizens

- **U.S. Citizens (USC)**
  - Born in U.S., Naturalized, Acquired/Derived (even if born abroad)
- **Non-Citizens**
  - Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR)
    - Asylees / Refugees
  - Temporary Legal Status
    - Students, Temporary Workers, Visitors/Tourists, TPS, U visas, Deferred Action
  - Undocumented
    - Visa Overstay/Entered w/o permission

# Avenues to getting a “Green Card”

## Main avenues of obtaining Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR) or “Green Card” status:

- Through a Family Member (~ 65%)
- Through Employment Visa (~ 14%)
- Asylum, Refugee Status (14%)
- Others
  - Diversity Visa
  - Humanitarian Protections

# U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)

- The U.S. has the largest refugee resettlement program in the world
- USRAP resettles and assists refugees in host communities nationwide through public-private partnerships between the U.S. government and resettlement agencies
- Congress passed the Refugee Act of 1980 - an amendment to the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) creating a comprehensive policy and process for the U.S. to admit refugees
  - removed geographic and ideologic limits on refugee definition
  - provided legal process and requirements to apply for asylum in the U.S.
  - allows U.S. President to set annual number of refugee admissions and allocations for people of certain countries
  - Established the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
    - provides resources to newly arriving refugees and asylum seekers “resettlement” and “integration” into new communities

# Who is a refugee?

- The INA and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) define a refugee as a person who is outside of their country of origin (or specific circumstances within the country) AND is unable or unwilling to return based on persecution they experienced or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion
  - Asylum seekers may also fall under this definition, but the main difference is where they ask for protection and how they enter the U.S.
- Refugees are referred to USRAP (admissions program) for resettlement in the U.S. and their cases are initiated overseas.
  - Asylum is available to people who meet the above definition and seek this type of protection within the U.S. or a port of entry
- Processing Priorities for admissions
- Required to apply for lawful permanent resident status one year after entering the U.S. and later become eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship five years from day of entry to the U.S.
- 

[Credit: Center for Refugee Policy \(July 2023\)](#)

# Updates

- The current administration in its first round — decreased the ceiling to an all-time low of 15,000 in FY 2021
- Former administration committed to admit 125,000 in FY 2024
- Current administration (Jan. 2025) - Executive Order banning refugee resettlement and freezing foreign aid
  - Ban impacted 10,000 refugees who had completed security checks and had been booked for travel
- Stop work orders for programs. Resettlement agencies received these stop work orders for services for refugees already in the U.S.
  - As a result: processing and relocation of Afghan Special Immigrant Visas halted and flights canceled

- Lawsuit in federal court (Seattle) - preliminary ruling: likely to success on merits and enjoins implementation of refugee ban
- Administration terminates nearly 10,000 federal contracts including for resettlement agencies
  - Second preliminary injunction requiring the reinstatement of terminated refugee-support contracts
- The Ninth Circuit narrows the first preliminary injunction to require the processing and resettlement of refugees who were approved to travel and had flights to the U.S. cancelled by the refugee ban
  - Soon select a third-party “Special Neutral” to conduct case-by-case reviews of refugees who may qualify as “injunction protected” and to outline the specific criteria individuals must meet to be processed and resettled under the Ninth Circuit’s definition of having a “strong reliance interest”

Daily State of Play: [Administration’s] Indefinite Refugee Ban and Funding Halt

<https://cwsglobal.org/blog/daily-state-of-play-trumps-indefinite-refugee-ban-and-funding-halt/>

Credit: CWS



May 27 - WA State joined a coalition of 20 attorneys general in filing amicus brief in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case, *Pacito v. Trump*

- supporting a challenge to Executive Order indefinitely suspending the entry of refugees through the USRAP and dismantling USRAP's infrastructure by terminating agreements and funding for resettlement agencies

# Who is at Risk of Deportation? And Know Your Rights

# Who is at risk of being arrested by ICE?

The law permits the federal government to deport certain noncitizens, immigrants including:

- Any person who is undocumented
- People with legal status who have certain criminal convictions or offenses

Not all immigrants are vulnerable to deportation.

Most people have the right to have their case heard before an immigration judge before being deported

Exceptions: expedited removal, existing removal order, visa waiver entry

# Judicial Warrant or Consent

ICE (immigration enforcement agents) needs **judicial warrant** or **consent** to enter/search private areas

## **Consent Tips:**

- Do not give ICE consent to enter private areas; simply state “I do not give you permission to be here. Please leave.”
- Identify who in your organization has authority to consent to law enforcement entry.
- Be aware of falsehoods and pressure to gain consent.

# Private/ Restricted Areas and Public Areas

Private / Restricted	Public
<p data-bbox="195 380 913 525">Private areas, such as homes and parts of the workplace only accessible to staff, have the strongest protections</p> <p data-bbox="195 637 890 782"><b>ICE must have either (1) proper <b>judicial warrant</b>, or (2) <b>consent</b> to enter a private area</b></p>	<p data-bbox="962 380 1624 525">Public areas, such as sidewalks and streets, have relatively weaker protections</p> <p data-bbox="962 637 1605 782"><b>ICE must have “<b>reasonable suspicion</b>” of an immigration violation to detain and arrest</b></p>

# What can one do if at risk of deportation?

- Make a plan in advance with family or other trusted people in their life
- Avoid contact with the criminal legal system
- Know your rights to stay silent, to speak with a lawyer, and to not let immigration officials enter private spaces without a warrant signed by a judge
  - Rights can be invoked in any language
- If ICE detains you and you fear persecution in your home country, let the ICE officers know that you fear returning
- You will almost always have the right to a hearing with an Immigration Judge and the right to have an attorney represent you. Generally, unless you already have a final deportation order, an ICE agent cannot just grab you and take you to deport you

# Safety Planning for Community Members with Minor Children

- Gather all important documents of the minor child(ren)
- Update contact information (e.g. school, daycare, medical)
- Prepare third party (not a parent) to care for the minor child in the event that a parent is detained/deported
- Give the rights of the parents to a third party to care for the minor child while the parent is not available
  - Durable Power of Attorney for Parental Powers
  - Parent's Intention for Care of Minor Child
- Plan to put the minor child in the best possible position if the parent(s) is unavailable

Visit <https://lcyowa.org/resources/immigration>  
**Legal Counsel for Youth and Children**

# Immigration Enforcement and WA State Protections



# Removal (Deportation) Proceedings

Process to determine if an individual should be deported from the United States

- Two questions
  - Is the individual subject to deportation?
  - If so, do they have a defense to deportation?
- How do people end up in removal?
  - Detained at the border when entering (and pursuing asylum)
  - Identified by ICE / Border Patrol
  - Arrested by local law enforcement for another reason

Note: Some people may not get hearing before immigration judge

# Immigration Court in WA

- Two courts in our region
  - **Seattle:** Non-detained cases
  - **Tacoma:** Detained cases at ICE detention center in Tacoma
- **Important:** There is generally NO right to an appointed attorney in immigration court if the person cannot afford private attorney.
- Many people are forced to represent themselves

# Legality of Welcoming Policies and Laws

**\*\*Use: Welcoming State/ City/ County\*\***

## U.S Constitution: 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment

- “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

U.S. Constitution: 10th Amendment

“Anti-Commandeering” Principle - prevents the federal government from compelling state and local government use of resources for federal purposes.

8 U.S.C. § 1373 - “[A] Federal, State, or local government entity or official may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, the **[DHS] regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual.**” (emphasis added)

# Protections in WA State

## Keep Washington Working Act (2019):

- Prohibits state agencies from inquiring into or conditioning services on a person's place of birth, immigration or citizenship status, unless expressly required under federal or state law
- The Legislature determined that a person's immigration status, presence in the country, or employment alone is not a matter for police action—reinforcing that the federal government bears the jurisdiction to enforce federal immigration law.

# Protections in WA State

- Related to Civil Immigration Enforcement, NOT impacting criminal investigations by law enforcement
- Rules for local and state law enforcement agencies, including jails. Prohibited from:
  - Inquiring into or collecting information on...
  - Collaborating with by entering into agreement, or sharing information with ICE/CBP
  - Detaining someone solely to determine immigration or citizenship status
  - Taking, or holding someone in custody based on a civil immigration warrant
  - Denying someone services, benefits, privileges
  - Accepting or contracting with ICE/CBP for language service

# Protections in WA State

## Courts Open to All Act (2020):

- Protects all people from warrantless civil immigration arrests at courts
- WA supreme court, courts of appeal, superior courts, courts of limited jurisdiction, including district and municipal courts. RCW 2.28.340
- Prohibits court staff, prosecutors from using state and local justice resources to report people for federal immigration enforcement

# Updates Impacting Afghan Immigrant Communities

# Updates Impacting Afghan Communities

- Afghan TPS terminated as of July 14, 2025
  - This is very concerning for people with no other status
- Operations Allies Welcome (OAW) Afghan program
  - Affirmative asylum cases still appear to be largely proceeding on the same timeline
    - (interview within 45 days, decision with 150 days. However, for most people with OAW cases, their parole is expected to expire in August/Sept 2025, and we do not expect it to be extended.

Afghans with non OAW cases who apply for asylum do not appear to be expedited



# Updates Impacting Afghan Communities

- Afghan SIV AOS and asylee AOS are still moving forward
  - We are seeing a few approvals here and there, but rumors of a freeze on the asylee AOS and the SIV AOS seems slower, at least in WA.
  - It is too early to know what will happen with all those.
    - Could be the start of a years-long pause.
  
- No Muslim/travel ban as of yet, holding our breath there
  - We are hoping it never happens
  - We are very concerned for all family reunification petitions (I-730s, etc.) if it goes into effect

# Latest Updates: Travel

# Ports of Entry and Secondary Inspection

- CBP placing more individuals (non-U.S. citizens) through secondary screening
  - Generally either because of prior interaction with law enforcement or other red flags
- CBP's authority
  - Can ask questions regarding reasons for traveling, proposed activities in the U.S., and any interaction with the criminal justice system
  - Inspection of electronic devices - cell phones, tablets, laptops
- What can individuals do
  - Stay calm; Fifth Amendment right to remain silent; ask to speak to an attorney
  - Check personal devices, social media accounts, photos for information that may raise questions - negative remarks about the administration, photos of protests, etc.
    - Do not need to unlock device for CBP; however, may be detained for a longer period of time or be denied entry

# Preventing Notario and Other Fraud

# Preventing *Notario* and other Fraud

- Only licensed attorneys or fully DOJ accredited representatives can represent you in immigration court, can provide legal services, and can give legal advice
- Do not sign documents that are blank, documents that you do not understand, or that have false information
- Do not pay money without understanding the process and obtaining a receipt
- Do get copies of all applications or other documents prepared for you or filed on your behalf
- Do report *notario* fraud or other scams to the Attorney General's Office
  - Victims may file a complaint online at [www.atg.wa.gov](http://www.atg.wa.gov) or call 1-800-551-4636 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays. Written complaints can be filed in Spanish at [www.atg.wa.gov/en-espanol](http://www.atg.wa.gov/en-espanol).

# Resources

## **Organizations That Assist Immigrant Community Members (including members with refugee status)**

- [lcyawa.org/immigration](http://lcyawa.org/immigration) – Family Safety Plan
- [lcyawa.org/ayuda](http://lcyawa.org/ayuda) – Necesitas ayuda - Español
- [nwirp.org](http://nwirp.org) – Legal help, know your rights info, monthly webinars
- [waisn.org](http://waisn.org) - Fantastic resources page in multiple languages
- [pifcoalition.org](http://pifcoalition.org) - Health and services access and rights
- Non-Immigration Legal Questions: [www.washingtonlawhelp.org](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org)
- [Asylee/Refugee Immigration Services Referral List](#) (e.g. IRC, Refugees NW - Lutheran Community Services NW in Vancouver and Tacoma, World Relief in Seattle, Tri-Cities and Spokane, Catholic Community Services in Seattle and Mt. Vernon, Diocese of Olympia)

## **Non-profit or Low Cost Immigration Attorneys**

- [www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/](http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/)
- Private Immigration Attorneys: [www.ailalawyer.com](http://www.ailalawyer.com)
- Find Legal Help – Dept of Justice: [www.justice.gov/eoir/find-legal-representation](http://www.justice.gov/eoir/find-legal-representation)

## **Ukraine Immigration Task Force**

**<https://ukrainetaskforce.org/#:~:text=Today%2C%20the%20Department%20of%20Homeland,prevent%20individuals%20from%20safely%20returning.>**



## **National Advisories**

- [Immigrant Legal Resource Center advisory on Registration](#) (April 2025)
- [Alliance for Immigrant Survivors advisory on registration - with focus on survivors of violence](#)
- [National Immigration Project advisory on the Laken Riley Act](#) (February 5, 2025)
- [Asian Law Caucus advisory on information non-citizens should know about filing taxes](#)

## **Washington State-Wide Advisories**

- WA Schools immigrant protections: [bit.ly/WAschoolsICEprotection](https://bit.ly/WAschoolsICEprotection)
- WA Courts immigrant protections: [bit.ly/WAcourtICEprotection](https://bit.ly/WAcourtICEprotection)

## **NWIRP Advisories**

- NWIRP's advisory for nonprofit organizations and social service providers
  - [Advisory on Immigration Enforcement](#)
- NWIRP's advisory on DHS notice of parole termination
  - [Advisory on parole termination](#)

## **National Organizations that Provide Update on Administration's Rapid Policy Changes**

- [Immigration Legal Resource Center](#)
- [National Immigration Law Center](#)
- [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#)
- [American Immigration Council](#)

# NWIRP Monthly Webinars

- Please join NWIRP for our next Immigration Updates Webinar on **Tuesday, June 24, 2025** at 5pm in Spanish and English

Please register:

- <https://shorturl.at/6XmMb>



# DSHS Refugee Advisory Council

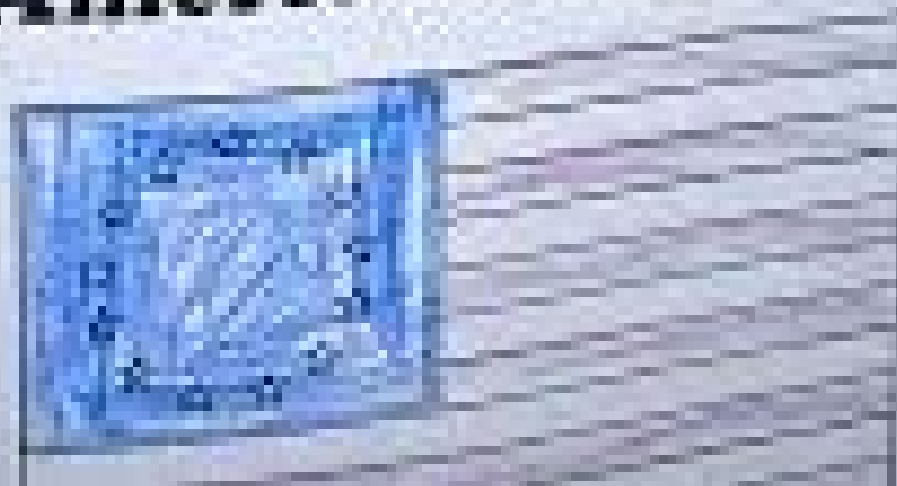
Name Ma Shou Ma

## The American Flag

Color the flag.

America's first flag had

- ★ 13 stars
- ★ 13 stripes
- ★ 13 stars



## Refugee Advisory Council Members

- Martha Lucas
- Gul Siddiqi
- Mariana Bellinger



**King County**

# Upcoming Opportunities to Celebrate



**Free event!**

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2025

Global Village

**June 28**  
**12-5pm**

Foster High School  
Tukwila, WA

**KID ZONE ACTIVITIES**  
MAGICIAN  
FIRE TRUCK  
BUBBLES

- ★ Refugee artisans, vendors, & art
- ★ Cultural dances & performances
- ★ Culinary dishes by refugee chefs
- ★ Free multicultural books for all ages
- ★ Fresh produce from IRC's New Roots
- ...and so much more!

Presented by IRC WA, KCLS, Wide World for Refugee, & City of Tukwila

Sign up as a Vendor, Cultural Table, Volunteer, or Sponsor: [bit.ly/wrd2025signup](https://bit.ly/wrd2025signup)  
Deadline to Register: May 30th, 2025 | Questions: [Gul.Siddiqi@rescue.org](mailto:Gul.Siddiqi@rescue.org)



A benefit concert for the International Rescue Committee in Seattle

## Echoes of Hope

Music of resilience, hope, and unity in support of displaced people



The world-class musicians of the **Emerald City Chamber Players**, **Valentin Lysenko**, **Darin Chhing** and the young artists of **Roosevelt High School** offer a program featuring music reflective of the countries served by IRC in Seattle

**TUESDAY June 17** 7:30pm

7500 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103

Through music that transcends borders, we invite our audience to join the effort to bring relief, dignity, and hope to those forced to flee their homes. Reception to follow.



Graciously hosted by  
**Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church**

Sliding scale pricing:

GENERAL ADMISSION **\$25-50**

STUDENT TICKETS **\$10-20**



For tickets, info, or to donate, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/hopeechoesinseattle](https://bit.ly/hopeechoesinseattle)

For questions or media inquiries: [emeraldcitychamberplayers@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldcitychamberplayers@gmail.com)





# Washington Migrant & Asylum Seekers Support Project (WA MASSP)

## King County



**1,391** King County Households  
have been enrolled since the start of  
the project (Oct 2024)

**1,391** households = **3,462** individuals

**87%** Requested Legal Services

**93%** Requested Case Management  
Services

**100%** Requested Housing Services

### Top 5 Nationalities:

1. Venezuela
2. Angola
3. Mexico
4. Colombia
5. Honduras

### Top 5 Languages

1. Spanish
2. Lingala
3. Portuguese
4. French
5. Russian

**96** Households with a pregnant  
member

**554** Households unsheltered

**758** Households with children under 18

**166** Households with a member with a  
disability

**1,201** Households with a member in  
removal proceedings

Visit our website: [bit.ly/WAMASSP](https://bit.ly/WAMASSP)  
OR scan the QR code!



# Upcoming Event



**Kicheko Project**  
Presents  
**CHOMA FESTIVAL**

**AFRICAN STREET  
FOOD AND DANCE  
FEST**

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of Music, mouth-watering Nyama Choma - BBQ food, ice-cold drinks, dance battles, games and great company. Whether you're a BBQ master or a family that wants to have fun, we have something for everyone.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH**  
**AT 12 PM | JIMI HENDRIX PARK**  
**2400 S MASSACHUSETTS ST. SEATTLE**  
[www.kichekoproject.com](http://www.kichekoproject.com)



# WhatsApp Users ALERT!



## NOTICE!

Please, if you have not done your

## WhatsApp 2 steps pin verification,

kindly go and do it now. The rate at which hackers are scamming and hacking people's WhatsApp is getting much. It won't cost you anything to do that on your WhatsApp. Follow these below steps;

- > Go to settings on your WhatsApp,
- > Click on Account,
- > Click on Two- step verification,
- > Enter pin,
- > Input your email address
- > And save, that's all.



If someone wants to change it, WhatsApp will ask for the Two-step verification, and without it, the account won't open.

Let's be cautious and safe, cos when an account is hacked, it gives the hacker access to contacts in the account.

Smile Da'wah Concept



Stay safe, stay blessed!

- Please apply these 2 step verification on your WhatsApp to avoid hacking.\*





*Want to help someone find a missing family member?*

The three short words "I am alive" may be all that is needed to ease the minds of distraught relatives half a world away.

The chaos and confusion of war, disaster and international migration can separate families when they need each other most. The American Red Cross searches for family members across international borders, offering a free service that enables families to reconnect.

American Red Cross caseworkers around the United States help families locate missing relatives overseas by working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations in nearly every country around the world.

Once a family member is found, the Red Cross helps him/her reconnect through written messages or by phone. Red Cross messages can also be exchanged between families and their loved ones in refugee camps and detention centers to allow them to keep in contact and share family news.

The Red Cross can also try to help family members check on the welfare of non-US citizen relatives overseas who are unable to be reached due to illness or other circumstances.

This past year, the American Red Cross helped reconnect over 17,000 families—bridging months or years of separation, to renew critical links between communities in the U.S. and their families abroad.

These services are free and confidential. We do not share information with anyone without asking first and the service is made available without discrimination to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, immigration status or any other characteristics.

To learn more, please visit [redcross.org/ReconnectingFamilies](https://redcross.org/ReconnectingFamilies)

[candace.liggett@redcross.org](mailto:candace.liggett@redcross.org)  
[mariana.bellinger@redcross.org](mailto:mariana.bellinger@redcross.org)



**American Red Cross**

Reconnecting Families

## Reconnecting Families

Separated Internationally by Migration

Migration leaves millions of people around the globe in urgent need of humanitarian assistance every year. American Red Cross caseworkers at local chapter offices help families locate missing relatives that have been separated due to migration.

By working with our Red Cross partner organizations in nearly every country around the world the American Red Cross is able to assist thousands of migrant families reconnect each year.

Once a family member is found, the Red Cross helps them reconnect through written messages or by phone. Red Cross messages can also be exchanged between families and their loved ones in refugee camps and detention centers to allow them to keep in contact and share family news.

### Connect with us:

*Family messages transmitted by the American Red Cross can be very brief, but the three short words "I am alive" may be all that is needed to ease the minds of distraught loved ones half a world away.*

There are three ways to find our services.

1. Contact your local chapter:  
1900 25th Ave S  
Seattle, WA 98144

2. Call our national helpline:  
844-782-9441

3. Find us online:  
[redcross.org/reconnectingfamilies](https://redcross.org/reconnectingfamilies)

Visit our blog or twitter:  
[RestoringFamilyLinksBlog.com](https://RestoringFamilyLinksBlog.com)  
[@intfamilylinks](https://twitter.com/intfamilylinks)

Interested in learning more about refugee and migrant issues?  
Visit: [HumanitarianCommunity.com](https://HumanitarianCommunity.com)



# Refugee Advisory Council Members

- Xuan Man
- Tshishiku Henry



**Pierce County**

## Rising Fear and Isolation



- **Increased Immigration Enforcement:** Recent executive orders have intensified fears of deportation among immigrant communities in Pierce County, leading many to limit their public activities to essential tasks only
- **Avoidance of Public Spaces:** Community events and rights workshops have seen decreased attendance as individuals fear exposure and potential targeting.
- **Impact on Children:** The pervasive fear affects children, causing anxiety and uncertainty about their family's future.



## Economic and Housing Instability



- **Suspension of Federal Funding:** The halt of federal funds for refugee resettlement agencies has left many without essential support for housing, food, and other necessities.
- **Overburdened Local Resources:** Local shelters and nonprofits are overwhelmed and many agencies do not have additional funds
- **Economic Contributions at Risk:** Immigrant workers, who significantly contribute to sectors like manufacturing and food services in Pierce County, face job insecurity, impacting the local economy.

# Barriers to Professional Integration



- **Credentialing Challenges:** Immigrant professionals, including nurses and pharmacists, encounter difficulties in transferring their qualifications due to complex and costly credentialing processes.
- **Underemployment:** Highly skilled individuals are often unable to work in their trained professions, leading to underutilization of talents and economic inefficiencies.
- **Systemic Obstacles:** Requirements such as obtaining sealed documents from countries of origin pose significant barriers, especially for those from conflict zones.

## Refugee Advisory Council Members

- Theresa Roosendaal
- HsaWah Shee



**Benton/Franklin Counties**

# Washington Migrant & Asylum Seekers Support Project (WA MASSP)

## Benton-Franklin Counties



### Benton

**20** Households have been enrolled since the start of the project (Oct 2024)

**20** households = **68** individuals

**95%** Requested Legal Services

**85%** Requested Case Management Services

**100%** Requested Housing Services

### Franklin

**16** Households have been enrolled since the start of the project (Oct 2024)

**16** households = **41** individuals

**100%** Requested Legal Services

**88%** Requested Case Management Services

**100%** Requested Housing Services

Visit our website: [bit.ly/WAMASSP](https://bit.ly/WAMASSP)  
OR scan the QR code!





May 8th, 2025



# World Refugee Day Celebration

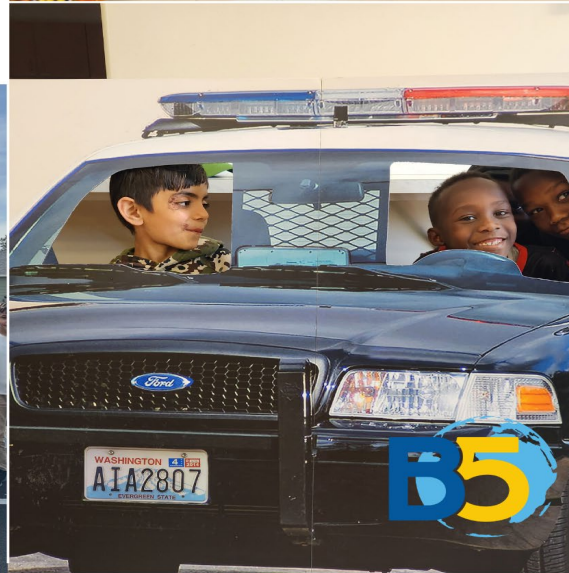
FRIDAY, JUNE 20 • 6PM TO 8PM

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB – KENNEWICK CLUBHOUSE  
910 W 7<sup>TH</sup> PLACE, KENNEWICK

**JOIN US FOR CULTURAL  
DANCES AND PERFORMANCES,  
CULTURAL BOOTHS, AND THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
FELLOWSHIP WITH NEIGHBORS**



KENNEWICK POLICE  
DEPARTMENT AND  
B5 COMMUNITY  
BBQ 2025



For more information contact Larissa at  
[larissa.knopp@thriveatb5.org](mailto:larissa.knopp@thriveatb5.org)



TRI-CITIES



## Refugee Advisory Council Member

- Galina Volchkova



**Snohomish County**



Clients received their licenses for cosmetology to reenter their career – live remote meeting with WA Department of Licensing

# Volunteers of America Western Washington Refugee Resettlement & Stabilization Program



## CAREER SUPPORT & RECERTIFICATION

- Recertification/relicensing
- Assistance with career re-entry
- Partnered with DOL for expedited licensing
- Food handler permits

**Total career support clients: 138**  
*(CLEVER, Boeing)*



Food Permit Class

## BASIC NEEDS & HOUSING STABILITY ASSISTANCE

- Housing search, move in cost and rental assistance
- Utility and energy assistance, PUD Discount Program
- Transportation assistance/ ORCA cards
- Furniture, clothing, and other household goods
- Nutrition programs for seniors

**Total 1,221 clients served withing the last year**  
*(Snohomish County Refugee Stabilization, ORIA, SOWA)*





*"English is Easy! English is Fun!"*



## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

- Conversational English Classes
- Coding Academy for Youth
- Tax season: education and preparation
- ECEAP, Early Head Start, Family Child Care, ASQs
- YMCA Free Summer Camp
- Museum Tours: 9 museums, 162 attendees



*Total 455 clients (ERSI, SOWA, Boeing, Snohomish County)*

**Total Clients served for the year and a half: 1,542 clients**

## EVENTS

- Christmas
- Thanksgiving Day
- Ukrainian Independence Day
- Easter: Ukrainian and American traditions
- Resource Fair
- Vyshyvanka Day



Vyshyvanka Day 2025 – Refugee Resettlement Team



Easter celebration at the Welcome Center in Everett







Renters Certification Training



Resume & Interview Workshop

## WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

We organized the following workshops and trainings:



- Cultural Orientation
- Health Care System and Insurance
- Career in USA
- Renter Certification
- Financial Management
- UHP, TPS and other Immigration Statuses
- Taxes
- Resume Building and Interview
- Developmental Milestones for Kids Ages 0-6
- Understanding the American Preschool System
- Kids' Vaccinations
- Young Mom's Mental Health
- Over the Counter Medication Safety
- American School System & Financial Aid for Higher Education





## OUR PARTNERS

We developed partnerships with **100+ organizations** and businesses:

- Department of Licensing, Olympia, WA
- Department of Health, Olympia, WA
- YMCA
- Gates Foundation
- Sharing Wheels
- Community colleges
- Foundation for International Services (Translation & Diploma Evaluation)
- ORIA (Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance) Small Business Program
- CDL Schools
- Amazon Business
- Microsoft
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Beauty Schools
- Affordable Housing Properties





## Refugee Advisory Council Members

- Mohammed Shafiq
- Elysee Kazadi



**Spokane County**

# CITY OF SPOKANE



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 1977 calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and international peace, while recognizing the economic, political, cultural, and social achievements of women; and

**WHEREAS**, we gather today to continue to celebrate the contributions of women from all backgrounds and strive for a world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive, a world where everyone belongs, and where difference is valued and celebrated; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Spokane proudly honors the women and girls who inspire us by demonstrating love and leadership in the choices they make in their day to day lives and the impact they have on their families, their friends, their colleagues, and their communities:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the people of Spokane, do hereby proclaim March 7th, 2025 as

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

in Spokane and encourage all residents to recognize, support, and celebrate the women of our community.

I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of Spokane,  
do hereunto set my hand and  
cause the seal of the City of Spokane  
to be affixed this  
3rd day of March 2025.

*Lisa Brown*

Lisa Brown  
Mayor



## IRC - Women's Day





# Manzanita House World Relief Spokane Refugee Immigrant Connections



*RICS Presents the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual*

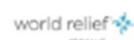


**June 21st  
11 AM - 3 PM**

**North Central  
High School  
1600 N Howard St,  
Spokane, WA 99205**



Join us for samples from  
Feast World Kitchen, hand-  
made crafts, customary song  
and dance, speakers,  
activities for kids, and more!



Brought to you by:



This event was planned in cooperation with our amazing partners at  
ASAP Translations | Global Neighborhood Thrift | International Rescue Committee  
| Lutheran Community Services | Manzanita House | Spokane Colleges  
Thrive International | World Relief Spokane





World Relief Spokane



World Relief Spokane invites you to our women's tea

*Garden of Hope*

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 30 | 2-4PM

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST.  
JOHN THE EVANGELIST

127 E 12TH AVE,  
SPOKANE, WA 99202

world relief 

SPOKANE

# Thrive and other Partners



**TUESDAYS** ————— **3pm - 7pm**

# GLOBAL FOOD *and* ART MARKET

**A new weekly market featuring  
Spokane's international community**

733 W. Garland Ave.

Outside at The Gathering House  
from May 6 - July 29



## THRIVE REFUGEE HOUSING PROJECT

An innovative solution for affordable housing for  
refugees and humanitarian immigrants in Washington.



### WHO WE ARE

Thrive International is the largest provider of  
supportive housing for refugees and other  
migrants in the state of Washington, with 200  
residents in Thrive Center Spokane and 350  
residents at the DoubleTree Hotel SeaTac.  
Thrive serves several thousand individuals  
annually through housing, education, and  
empowerment programs for refugees and other  
immigrants. For more information, please visit  
<https://thriveint.org/>.

### REFUGEE CRISIS

**35.3 Million**

The number of refugees in the world today,  
the highest in recorded history (UNHCR).

### Unique Challenges

Arriving without credit or rental history  
makes affordable housing even more  
difficult for refugees.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**56 Units**

Number of new apartments providing housing for  
200 individuals at a time at or below 80% AMI.

**\$7.5 Million**

Total project cost.

**\$2.3 Million**

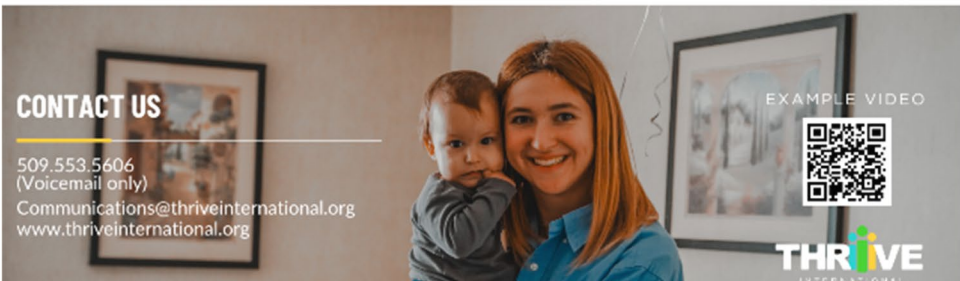
The amount of funding needed to complete the  
project. The remaining funding is provided through  
state and local grants, private investments, and  
financing.

**2,000 People**

Number of refugees housed over 20 years  
(estimated stay of 2 years).

### CONTACT US

509.553.5606  
(Voicemail only)  
[Communications@thriveinternational.org](mailto:Communications@thriveinternational.org)  
[www.thriveinternational.org](http://www.thriveinternational.org)



EXAMPLE VIDEO







**Thank You!**