

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Economic Services Administration | Community Services Division

Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund

Millions of Washingtonians have been adversely impacted and have endured economic hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including 250,000 people who have been unable to access unemployment insurance compensation and federal stimulus packages due to their immigration status.

In an effort to support all Washingtonians, Governor Inslee has invested \$40 million of federal CARES Act funding to create the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund. This fund will make available a one-time cash grant of \$1,000 to individuals who are ineligible for other forms of assistance.

What is the role of DSHS?

As a community-driven initiative, DSHS selected the Legal Foundation of Washington to administer the program. The Legal Foundation of Washington will partner with a number of immigrant-led organizations to establish a steering committee of impacted community members, conduct community outreach and ensure program integrity and accountability.

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

Applications will be accepted starting Oct. 21, 2020 through Dec. 6, 2020. Approximately 38,000 grants will be distributed to eligible and approved applicants no later than Dec. 28, 2020.

How can people apply?

Applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis, prioritizing those in greatest need.

Eligible community members can apply by:

- Visiting the website at www.immigrantreliefwa.org,
- [Calling the hotline](tel:844-724-3737) 844-724-3737 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., or
- Print the application and mail it to the P.O. Box #84327, Seattle, WA 98124.

Contact: Sarah Peterson, Chief of Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance, sarah.peterson@dshs.wa.gov.

Who is eligible for the WA COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund?

Applicants must demonstrate 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.

How much will be available?

Up to \$1,000 per individual and \$3,000 per household.

If someone receives this assistance, will it prevent them from getting a visa or a green card in the future because of public charge?

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