

Department of Social and Health Services
Economic Services Administration

Overview of Major Statewide Programs and Services

The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration is a national leader in providing poverty reduction services to more than 1.7 million people, or more than one out of every five Washington state residents. We help our clients meet their basic needs and achieve economic independence through cash grants, food and medical assistance, employment-focused services, refugee and immigrant assistance, disability determinations and child support collection.



Transforming lives

10/2022

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2019-21 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 21 ¹
ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES					
<p>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</p> <p>State Family Assistance (SFA)</p>	<p>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families provides cash grants to families with children and pregnant individuals who are below income and resource limits. Persons who are caring for a relative's child or guardians who are acting in the place of a parent are also able to apply for TANF on behalf of these children.</p> <p>State Family Assistance provides cash assistance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families who are lawfully present in the U.S. who do not meet citizenship requirements of TANF, Dependent students age 19 to 20, Pregnant individuals who are ineligible to receive TANF, and Some two- parent households that include one pregnant parent or a child under the age of 12 months old. 	<p>Family's countable income must fall below established limits. Eligibility is also based on a family's assets.</p> <p>Value of a family's home and one car (with equity up to \$10,000) is exempt from asset considerations.</p>	<p><i>TANF Federal Authority</i> PL 109-171 (DRA), Title VII – Human Resources, Subtitle A - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Subsection 7101; PL. 104-193 (PRWORA), Title I - Block Grants for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; PL 105-33 +(BBA), Title V - Welfare and Related Provisions; 42 USC 601 & 45 CFR Part 260</p> <p><i>SFA Federal Authority</i> 8 USC 1621 (d) – State authority to provide for eligibility of illegal aliens for state and local public benefits</p> <p><i>TANF State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A and 74.12</p> <p><i>SFA State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A.100, RCW 74.12.035</p>	<p>\$294.8 million:</p> <p>\$17.9 million GF-S TANF</p> <p>\$276.9 million GF-F TANF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29,701 families per month (including 877 SFA cases) 15,847 (53.4%) single parent families 2,271 (7.6%) two-parent families 11,583 (39.0%) child-only cases
WorkFirst Employment and Training	<p>Provides job search assistance, employment training, and other activities and supports to TANF/SFA recipients who are mandatory participants in WorkFirst so they can move forward on a pathway to economic stability.</p>	<p>Families must be recipients of TANF or SFA.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> PL 104-193</p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A</p>	<p>\$137 million:</p> <p>\$31.9 million NGF-S</p> <p>\$105.1 million GF-F TANF</p>	

¹Unless otherwise noted, caseload data for most programs is sourced from the ESA Briefing Book (SFY 2021) prepared by the ESA Management Accountability and Performance Statistics (EMAPS) unit. Data for the following programs was provided by non-EMAPS staff: U.S. Repatriate Program, Basic Food Employment & Training Services, Basic Food Education & Outreach, and SNAP – Ed (Nutrition Education & Obesity Prevention).

Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2019-21 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 21 ¹	
ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES					
<p>Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA)</p>	<p>Provides short-term financial assistance for families who have an emergent need and do not wish to receive TANF assistance.</p> <p>DCA recipients are not likely to need continued assistance if their emergent needs are met. Assistance is limited to \$1250 for a 30-day period, once every 12 months.</p> <p>DCA allows the applicant to accept or maintain employment and diverts the applicant from TANF and long-term public assistance. If the family goes onto TANF within 12 months of receiving DCA, a prorated amount of the DCA payment must be repaid to the state by monthly deductions equal to 5% of the TANF cash grant.</p>	<p>Family must meet TANF eligibility criteria in the month of application.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> PL 104-193 & 42 USC 604</p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A.210</p>	<p>\$4.9 million GF-S TANF MOE</p>	<p>24 families</p>
<p>Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN)</p>	<p>Provides short-term cash assistance to meet emergent housing or utility needs for pregnant individuals or families with an eligible minor child, who receive TANF, SFA or Refugee Cash Assistance. Benefits may be authorized up to a maximum of \$750 in a 12-month period.</p>	<p>Family must receive TANF, SFA or RCA.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> 42 USC 604</p>	<p>AREN funds are included in TANF budget; there is no separate AREN budget category.</p> <p>Monthly spending is at \$50,000</p>	<p>33 families</p>
<p>Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP)</p>	<p>Provides cash grants to needy families who are ineligible for any other program, including families who have stopped receiving a TANF or SFA grant due to WorkFirst sanction, and have a specific emergent need such as shelter, food, clothing, minor medical, utilities, household maintenance or job-related transportation. A family is eligible for CEAP once in 12 months as funding allows.</p>	<p>Families, pregnant individuals and WorkFirst sanction families who are ineligible for other cash programs and countable income and assets fall below established limits.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> 42 USC 604</p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.660</p>	<p>\$596,000 GF-S</p>	<p>128 families</p>

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CHILD SUPPORT					
<p>Child Support Enforcement</p>	<p>Helps parents contribute to brighter futures for their children through the collection and disbursement of child support, medical enforcement and parentage establishment.</p>	<p>No income or resource criteria.</p> <p>Families who receive TANF and children in foster care automatically receive child support services.</p> <p>Families not receiving TANF who apply for child support services receive them as well as families formerly on TANF.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> Title IV-D of Social Security Act (42 USC 608-669b and 45 CFR Volume 2, Chap. III, 300-399)</p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 26.09; RCW 26.18; RCW 24.21A; RCW 26.23; RCW 26.26; RCW 70.58; RCW 74.20; RCW 74.20A</p>	<p>\$316.9 million:</p> <p>\$96.0 million NGF-S</p> <p>\$0.1 million Local</p> <p>\$220.8 million GF-F</p>	<p>294,069 cases</p> <p>170,246 paternity establishments at the end of the SFY (June)</p> <p>About two-thirds of the state's child support cases involve parents and children who are current (10.1%) or former (52.3%) TANF recipients</p>
<p>Paternity Establishment</p>	<p>Establish parentage by acknowledgment or by court order for all minor children born out of wedlock.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> 42 USC 654; 42 USC 666; 45 CFR 303.5</p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 26.21A; RCW 26.26A; RCW 70.58A; RCW 74.20; RCW 74.20A</p>			
ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS					
<p>Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) Cash Assistance</p>	<p>Provides a cash grant to persons who are age 65 or older, blind or determined likely to meet Social Security Administration disability criteria. Recipients also receive a referral to the Department of Commerce administered Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program and assistance applying for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.</p> <p>DSHS receives reimbursement for cash grants paid to ABD recipients who transition to SSI.</p> <p>The program also provides information and referrals to include: veteran's assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and supported employment through HCA's Foundational Community Supports.</p>	<p>Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.</p>	<p><i>RCW Chapter 74.62</i></p>	<p>\$81.5 million GF-S</p> <p>-\$18 million Recoveries</p>	<p>21,522 clients</p>

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ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS					
Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral	<p>Provides a referral for potential housing assistance through the Commerce administered HEN program to individuals unable to work at least 90 days due to a physical or mental incapacity. Recipients of HEN are also eligible to receive essential needs items such as bus passes and personal care items.</p> <p>The program also provides information and referrals to include: veteran's assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and supported employment through HCA's Foundational Community Supports.</p>	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.	RCW 43.185C.220, RCW Chapter 74.62 - RCW 74.04.805	Department of Commerce	3,421 clients
Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA)	Provides a cash grant and a referral for the Commerce administered Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program, to individuals who are pregnant and are ineligible for TANF/SFA benefits for a reason other than failure to cooperate with program requirements.	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.	RCW Chapter 74.62	\$220,000 GF-S	2 clients
State Supplemental Payment (SSP)	<p>Provides state funded supplemental monthly payments to SSI recipients who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are grandfathered in. have an SSI ineligible spouse. are aged 65 and older. blind or receiving certain services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration. are a foster child receiving specific behavioral services through the Department of Children, Youth and Families who are not eligible for foster care reimbursement under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.² 	<p>Social Security Administration (SSA) determines SSI eligibility.</p> <p>Resource limit of \$2,000 for individual and \$3,000 for a couple.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> PL 92-603 <i>20 CFR 416 Subpart T</i></p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.630</p>	\$37.5 million GF-S	40,764 cases

²This type of SSP payment is provided by the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

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ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS					
Ongoing Additional Requirements (OAR)	Provides a state-funded payment to a person with a need of assistance (beyond food, clothing, and shelter) that is necessary to help them continue to live independently. This benefit is available to clients who are active on one of the following programs: TANF, SFA, PWA, RCA, ABD or SSI. Payments may assist with restaurant or home-delivered meals, food for a service animal, telephone services, and laundry services. Other essential needs may be requested through the exception to rule process.	Must meet eligibility rules for the appropriate program (e.g. ABD, TANF/SFA, PWA, RCA or SSI)	RCW 74.04.283	\$300,000 GF-S	234 cases
ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES					
Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)	Provides cash grants to individuals or couples without dependents who have recently resettled in Washington communities as refugees, asylees, special immigrants from Iraq or Afghanistan, or other humanitarian immigrants. Typically, recipients can receive cash assistance for a maximum of 12 months after they become eligible based on their immigration status and date of arrival. As of June 1, 2022, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement extended services months from eight to twelve months of cash assistance.	Same income and resource limits as TANF.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Immigration & Nationality Act, Title IV 8 USC 1522, Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212	\$2 million GF-F	175 cases
Refugee and Immigrant Services	Administers programs and services to people who have resettled in our communities as refugees and immigrants. ESA's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance contracts with 70 different providers that specialize in offering culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including nonprofit organizations, resettlement agencies, ethnic community-based organizations, public health and federally qualified health centers and local government agencies. Programs and services focus on refugee health and wellness, employment and training, immigration assistance and naturalization services and whole-family programs. Whole-family programs include services focused on school-aged kids, refugee youth and older adults. ORIA's programs and services aim to build strong communities by providing refugees and immigrants the resources they need to thrive.	No income or resource limits for these services.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212; 45 CFR Part 400	\$33.5 million: \$4.7 million GF-S \$28.8 million GF-F	8,616 total clients served in the following ORIA programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility and Empowerment (PRIME) Naturalization programs

³ Families with children are eligible for TANF cash assistance. ⁴ During the coronavirus pandemic, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement authorized states to permit eligible people to receive cash assistance for longer than eight months of assistance up to 18 months.

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ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES					
Naturalization Program	Provides assistance to eligible refugees and immigrants to apply for U.S. citizenship. ESA's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance contracts with providers who are recognized by the Department of Justice to provide services that include assistance with completing the citizenship application, English language and civics classes, assistance with fee waiver requests for application fees and help applying for test exemptions for disabled clients.	Recipients must be receiving one form of public assistance, including cash, food, or medical assistance.	<i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A.130	\$5.1 million GF-S	3,796 unduplicated clients in the SFY. <i>(an average of 590 clients per month)</i>
BASIC FOOD PROGRAM					
Basic Food Program <i>(Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP)</i>	Provides food assistance to low-income families and individuals. Benefits are issued through the electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system and used at participating grocery stores. Benefits are 100% federally funded and administrative costs are federally matched at 50%. Household size and net income determine benefit level.	Gross income at or below 200% federal poverty level (FPL) for most households. Households that include someone disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet gross income test at 130% FPL. • Meet net income test of 100% FPL. • Have assets below established limits. 	<i>Federal Authority</i> Title 7, CFR Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.500	<i>Non-budgeted, non-allotted</i> Administrative costs are included in overall ESA program support budget and matched at 50%.	532,298 households <i>(Households with at least one member receiving federal program benefits. Includes mixed cases.)</i>
Basic Food for Legal Immigrants <i>(Food Assistance for Legal Immigrants or FAP)</i>	Provides food assistance to legal immigrants who are ineligible for the federal Basic Food program. For mixed households of persons eligible for state benefits and others eligible for federal benefits, the program helps "fill the gap" between the federal benefits the household is eligible to receive and the benefits the household would receive if all members were eligible for the federal program.	Same as Basic Food.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Title 7, CFR Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.500 RCW 74.08A.120	\$39.7 million GF-S	10,695 households <i>(Households with at least one member receiving state program benefits. Includes mixed cases.)</i>

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BASIC FOOD PROGRAM					
Transitional Food Assistance (TFA)	Provides stable food benefits, for up to five months, to families leaving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, State Family Assistance or Tribal TANF cash assistance programs. The benefit amount is based on the Basic Food benefit issued to the family for the last month the household received TANF/SFA. The last TANF grant payment is not counted when the TFA benefit amount is calculated.	Households were receiving Basic Food Assistance at the time their TANF/SFA closed, and were not in sanction status at the time of closure.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Title 7, CFR Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A.010 RCW 74.04.500 RCW 74.04.510	<i>Non-budgeted, non-allotted</i> Administrative costs are included in overall ESA program support budget and matched at 50%.	11,180 households
Basic Food and Employment Training Services (BFET)	Provides education, employment and training services, and employability assessments to Basic Food recipients. Services may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic skills and training (e.g., literacy, math, vocational English as second language, high school equivalency preparation, life skills). • Job readiness and vocational training. • Job search assistance. • Job placement. • Case management. • Retention services. • Participant reimbursement (e.g. transportation, child care, hygiene, clothing, etc.). <p>Washington state has a strong record of effectively administering the BFET program. The program is an important part of the state's comprehensive workforce development system and plays a vital role in Washington's two-generation approach, reducing poverty and increasing prosperity for families. BFET's mission is to transform lives by providing protective factors that build foundations and pathways out of poverty. BFET assists basic food recipients to achieve their human potential by encouraging economic well-being through skill acquisition, education and gainful employment.</p>	All federally funded Basic Food Program recipients ⁵ who are not receiving TANF or RCA.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, [Public Law 88-525; Enacted Aug. 31, 1964; 78 Stat. 703] [As Amended Through P.L. 116-94, Enacted December 20, 2019] CFR 273.7, Work Provisions	Program budget for FFY 2021: \$25.9 million GF-F	4,361 clients including BFET clients served by the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Washington is currently operating a statewide BFET program and continues to strategize on how to expand education and training program services in rural and underserved areas. All 34 Washington state community and technical colleges, 47 regular community-based organizations and 12 ORIA community-based organizations provide BFET contracted services.

⁵ Food Assistance for Legal Immigrants (FAP) recipients are not eligible for the BFET program.

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BASIC FOOD PROGRAM					
Basic Food Outreach (BFO)	USDA's Food and Nutrition Service provides federal funding to interested states to finance activities aimed at improving Basic Food participation by eligible households through outreach and education efforts. In Washington state, ESA contracts with public and private nonprofit community organizations to improve awareness of Basic Food for low-income households and assist persons who have difficulty with the application process.	None – for prospective clients.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Section 11(e) (1) (A) of The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008	Program Budget for FFY 2019: \$3.8 million GF-S & GF-F	SNAP – Outreach (Basic Food): Basic Food Outreach (BFO) contracts with two Lead Contractors: WithinReach and People for People, to provide outreach activities across Washington to help individuals enroll in SNAP. In FFY 2021, BFO reported 708,284 outreach activities and 16,325 Washington Connection changes.
SNAP-Ed (Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention)	USDA's Food and Nutrition Service provides federal funding to interested states to finance activities aimed at improving the likelihood that SNAP recipients and other low-income Washington state residents will make healthy choices within a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate.	SNAP participants. Low-income individuals eligible to receive SNAP benefits or other means-tested federal assistance programs. Individuals residing in communities with a significant low-income population.	<i>Federal Authority</i> 7 USC 2020 Sec. 11(f) Nutrition Education; 7 CFR Ch. II, Part 277 Nutrition Education and Training Program	Nutrition Education Program Budget for FFY 2019: \$9.6 million 100% federal	SNAP-Ed services are currently contracted and subcontracted through implementing agencies throughout the state, including Washington State University (WSU), Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and nonprofits and other organizations. In addition, SNAP-Ed contracts with Washington State Farmers Market Association, WSU and DOH for statewide initiatives which include program and outcome evaluation; curriculum and training; statewide support and local farmer's market coordination and collaboration.
WASHCAP (Washington Combined Application Project)	Provides Basic Food Program benefits to SSI recipients who are single and unemployed. Clients can apply through the Social Security Administration or by sending a simplified application to the centralized WASHCAP unit. One centralized call center handles all WASHCAP clients.	Same as Basic Food.	<i>Federal demonstration project under agreement with SSA and FNS</i>	WASHCAP budget within overall ESA program support budget (Budget Unit M01)	79,295 cases

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OTHER PROGRAMS					
Working Family Support (WFS)	Provides an additional food benefit of up to \$10 to low-income families receiving Basic Food, FAP or Transitional Food Assistance, are working at least 35 hours per week and have a qualifying child within their Basic Food household. Benefits are covered by state funds.	Must be recipients of Basic Food, FAP or Transitional Food Assistance but not receiving TANF.	<i>Federal Authority</i> PL 104-193 & 42 USC 604 <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.050	\$1.9 million GF-S	7,068 cases

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS					
Domestic Violence Victim Services	Provides statewide services through local community organizations to help people who are harmed by domestic violence and provides education and information on domestic violence to local communities. Services are provided through contracts with community-based and local government agencies and include: safety planning, crisis intervention and crisis helplines, emergency shelter, individual advocacy, legal advocacy, support groups, emergency transportation assistance, community education and prevention activities, and age-appropriate supportive services and resources for children and youth residing in emergency shelter.	None	<i>Federal Authority</i> Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) 42 U.S.C. 10404, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) 42 U.S.C. 10603 <i>State Authority</i> RCW 70.123	\$14.6 million GF-S \$2.4 million Domestic Violence Prevention Account (DVPA) \$4.1 million FFY 2018 & 2019 FVPSA grant award \$31.4 million Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) FY20 & FY21 through interlocal with Department of Commerce	39 Domestic Violence and Emergency Shelter and Supportive Services programs and 11 Community-Based Domestic Violence programs provide services statewide. In this SFY, these programs served a monthly average of 1,482 clients.
Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment (DVT)	Conducts certification for local community organizations and treatment professionals that provide domestic violence perpetrator treatment. The DVIT program monitors and conducts investigations of certified domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs to determine compliance with program standards outlined in WAC 388-60B.	None	RCW 26.50.150	\$253,000 GF-S \$130,000 private/local -certification fees from DVIT programs	71 certified DVIT programs conducted domestic violence perpetrator treatment

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MEDICAL PROGRAMS					
Medical Care Services	Provides state-funded health care coverage to victims of human trafficking, as defined in RCW 74.04.005, or ABD and HEN Referral recipients who legally reside in Washington state but are ineligible for Medicaid due to their immigration status.	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.	RCW 41.05.021 RCW 74.09.035	Health Care Authority	1,751 clients
Alien Emergency Medical (AEM)	Provides partial Medicaid coverage for immigrants who would qualify for full-scope Medicaid except for their alien status. Coverage is limited to emergency medical conditions. ESA determines AEM eligibility for individuals age 65 and older; eligibility for all other AEM cases is determined by the state's Health Care Authority.	Income eligibility is based on rules for related full-scope Medicaid programs (e.g., coverage for families, infants, children, pregnant individuals and aged, blind or disabled).	<i>Federal Authority</i> 42 U.S.C. Subchapter XIX <i>State Authority</i> Chapter 74.09 & 74.09A RCW	Health Care Authority	191 clients
SSI Medicaid	Provides Medicaid coverage for persons who are aged, blind or have a disability who receive SSI or who are otherwise deemed to be eligible for SSI Medicaid under federal law.	SSA determines eligibility for SSI using income rules based on Title XVI of the Social Security Act.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Title XIX of the Social Security Act 42 CFR Chapter 430 <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04 and 74.09	Health Care Authority	108,752 clients
SSI-related Medicaid	Low-income aged, blind or disabled persons who do not receive SSI.	Persons with countable income that would qualify them for SSI (\$783 for a single person) are Categorically Needy Medicaid. Those with higher incomes are Medically Needy and may be responsible for medical costs equal to their excess income (spenddown).	<i>Federal Authority</i> Section 1902 of the Social Security Act 42 U.S.C. 1396a <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04 and 74.09	Health Care Authority	32,678 clients

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NON-GRANT MEDICAL PROGRAMS					
Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)	Pays Medicare premiums, coinsurance and deductibles for low-income Medicare beneficiaries.	Income limits vary depending on program from 100% FPL to 200% FPL.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Section 1905 of the Social Security Act 42 U.S.C. 1396d <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04 and 74.09	Health Care Authority	197,098 clients
Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)	Provides medical coverage for refugees ineligible for MAGI Medicaid due to being over income. Eligibility ends after the first twelve months of residency in the United States.	Categorically needy coverage is available to persons with income that does not exceed 200% FPL.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Immigration & Nationality Act, Title IV 8 USC 1522, Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212	Health Care Authority	2 clients