Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration • Community Services Division

The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's **Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)** program is a federally funded cash assistance program that provides up to eight months of cash assistance to single and married adults without children under the age of 18 who have an eligible immigration status.

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) is a federally funded medical assistance program available to refugees and eligible immigrants for up to eight months for those who are otherwise ineligible for Washington Apple Health. Since the expansion of Medicaid, less than 1% of all refugee families are ineligible for Washington Apple Health. In an average year, fewer than 50 refugees a year receive RMA.

DSHS seeks to improve the lives of clients receiving RCA by:

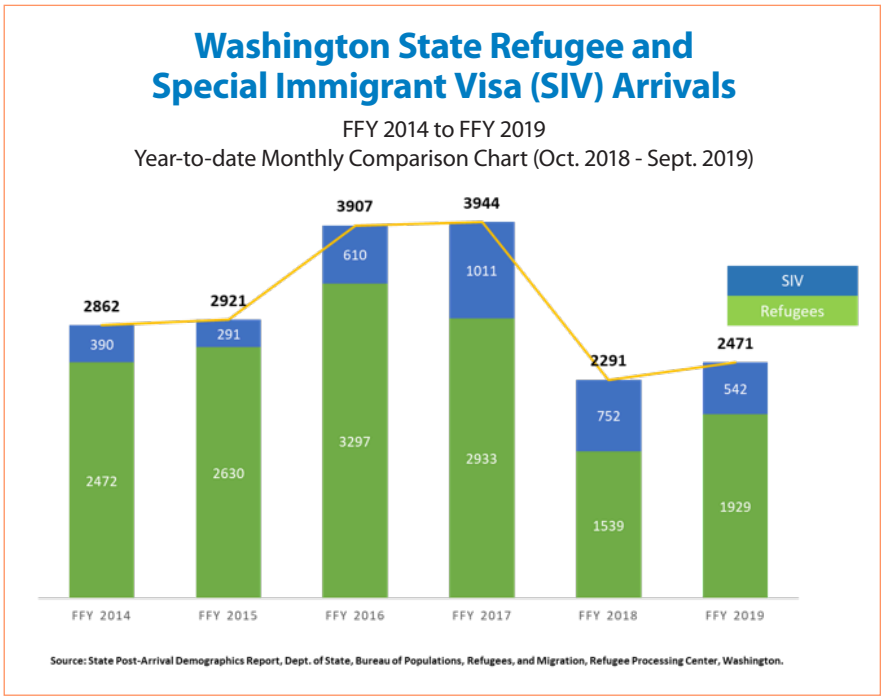
- Ensuring refugees receive consistent referrals to employment, education and social service providers.
- Coordinating across systems, agencies and programs by increasing accountability to advance economic security.

Who is eligible for RCA?

- Refugees
- People granted asylum ("asylees")
- Certified Victims of Human Trafficking
- Amerasians
- Cuban-Haitian Entrants
- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders from Iraq and Afghanistan

Who are refugees?

Refugees are individuals and families who are unable to return to their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, ethnicity, membership in a particular group or political opinion. They resettle through the federal U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.



More information:
Sarah Peterson, MSW - Chief, Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance - State Refugee Coordinator
Phone: 360.890.0691 | Email: petersk@dshs.wa.gov

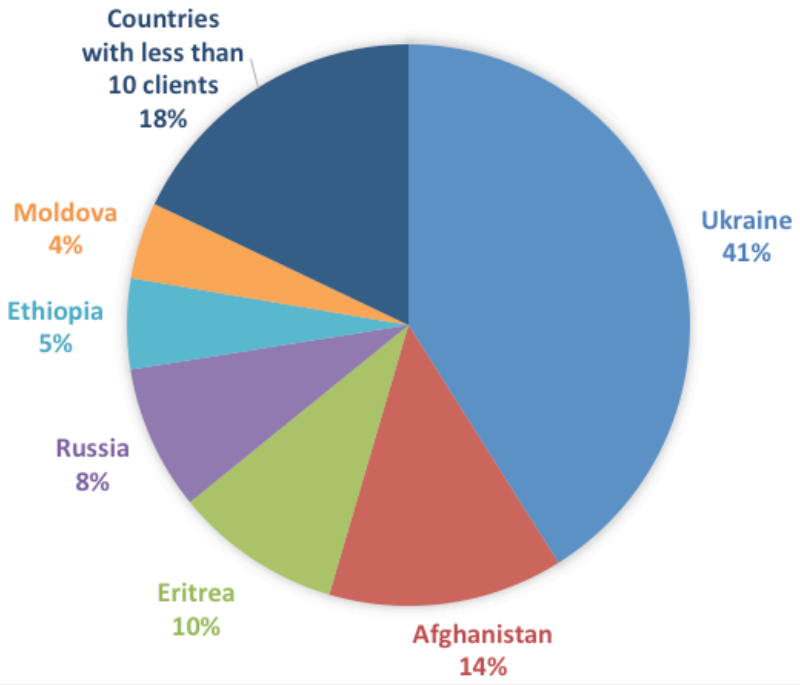
Washington State Department of Social & Health Services
Transforming lives

9/2019

Refugee Cash Assistance Facts 2018

RCA Caseload by Country of Origin

June 2018 Snapshot

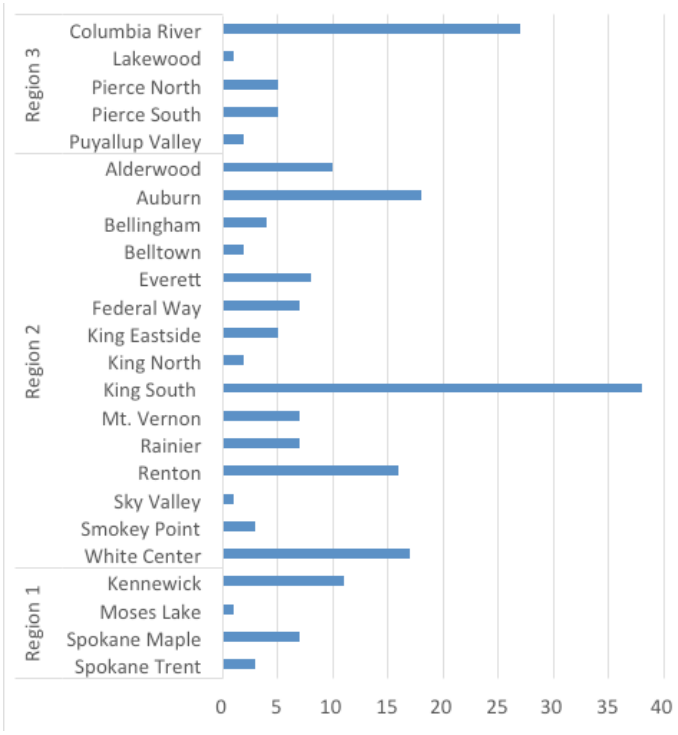


RCA Caseload 2007-2018

State Fiscal Year	Monthly Average Cases
2007	398
2008	336
2009	447
2010	605
2011	464
2012	348
2013	414
2014	425
2015	428
2016	454
2017	569
2018	324

Expenditures for State Fiscal Year 2018

Month	Total Caseload	Grant Expenditures	Average Payment Per Case
July	424	$130.604	$308.03
August	377	$115,574	$306.56
September	329	$101,327	$307.98
October	316	$97,826	$309.58
November	310	$93,034	$300.11
December	276	$83,688	$303.22
January	246	$74,160	$301.47
February	253	$77,082	$304.67
March	224	$69,258	$309.19
April	200	$61,751	$308.76
May	201	$61,407	$305.51
June	200	$61,676	$308.38
Average	280	$85,616	$305.77

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and Community Service Office of Issuance

June 2018 Snapshot