

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration · Community Services Division

Washington state has a long legacy of welcoming people who are refugees and immigrants. The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance offers programs and services that help people who are refugees and immigrants reach their full potential and contribute to thriving and diverse communities in Washington state.

DSHS serves individuals and families by providing client services

Culturally responsive: ORIA contracts with more than 60 providers across Washington state to offer culturally and linguistically appropriate services. These providers include refugee resettlement agencies, community-based organizations, ethnically focused organizations, state agencies and colleges.

Ensuring success in resettlement: ORIA helps improve the resettlement process for individuals and families coming to Washington and offers client services through 11 different programs in four core areas:

- **Refugee Health and Wellness** offers programs that support newly arriving refugees with medical screenings, provide culturally responsive mental health services and offer access to immediate medical care and intensive case management through the Refugee Health Promotion Program.
- **Employment and Training** services are available to help people learn English, get jobs and gain skills through ORIA's programs, including the WorkFirst Limited English Proficiency Pathway Program, ORIA Basic Food Employment and Training Program and Career Ladder for Educated and Vocationally Experienced Refugees.
- **Immigration Assistance and Naturalization Services** are offered by specialized immigration legal services organizations, accredited by the Department of Justice, that assist refugees and immigrants with federal applications to become lawful permanent residents (green card holders) or United States citizens.

Who is eligible for ORIA services?

- People resettled as refugees in the United States for five years or less.
- People with certain immigration status receiving cash, food or medical assistance.
- People who are English language learners who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or State Family Assistance.

Who are refugees?

The term refugee is a legal status given to people who permanently resettle in the United States as part of a humanitarian program. These individuals have been forced to flee 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 are resettled through the federal U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

For ORIA services, the term "refugee" also refers to people who have been granted asylum, victims of human trafficking, Amerasians, Cuban-Haitian entrants and people with Special Immigrant Visas from Iraq and Afghanistan.

- **Whole Family Services** include the Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility, and Empowerment Program which provides case management, education, and immigration services; the Refugee School Impact Program which supports school-age children and their families improve academic performance and integration; Refugee Elder Services for elders over the age of 60 which support integration and wellness by offering opportunities to connect with their communities and peers; and specialized youth services through the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program and the Refugee Youth Mentoring Program (ages 18-24).

More information:

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Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

9/2021

State Fiscal Year 2020 Highlights

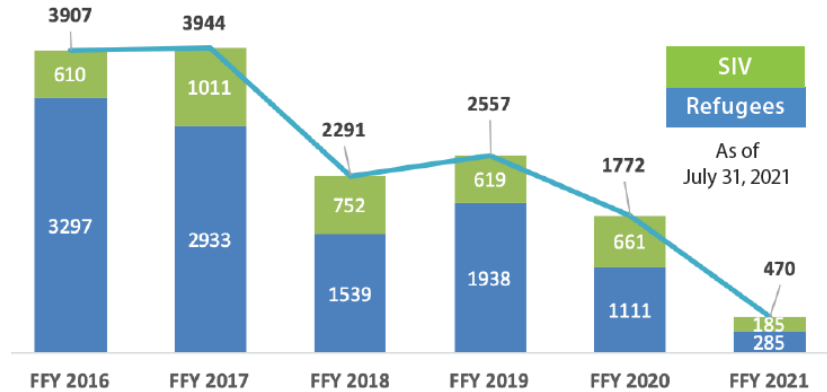
- Over 10,000 refugees and immigrants participate in services through ORIA's three largest programs (LEP Pathway, Naturalization Services and PRIME).
- 4,115 refugees and immigrants participated in employment and English as a Second Language services through the WorkFirst LEP Pathway Program.
- 3,397 people received services through the Naturalization Services Program, and 372 people became U.S. Citizens through the program.
- 2,623 people participated in case-management services, self-sufficiency workshops or immigration assistance through the PRIME Program.
- 1,792 people received new arrival refugee health screenings.
- 538 refugee students and families received specialized services through the Refugee School Impact Program.
- 242 people participated in the ORIA BFET Program.
- 167 refugee children in care with specially trained families via the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program.

Where do refugees resettle in Washington?

County	Percentage
King	50%
Snohomish	9%
Pierce	10%
Clark	11%
Spokane	7%
Benton-Franklin	3%
Other Counties	10%

Washington State Refugee and Special Immigrant Visa Arrivals

(Partial FFY 2021: Oct. 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021)



Source: State Post-Arrival Demographics Report, Dept. of State, Bureau of Populations, Refugees, and Migration, Refugee Processing Center, Washington.

Washington State Refugee Arrivals

Top Countries of Origin
FFY 2016 - 2020 (YTD)

