

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 (ESA) Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) offers programs and services that make it possible for people who are refugees and immigrants to realize their full potential and contribute to our thriving, diverse communities in Washington state.

DSHS serves individuals and families by providing client services

Culturally responsive: ORIA contracts with more than 70 providers, comprised of refugee resettlement agencies, community-based organizations, ethnically focused organizations, state agencies and education institutions across Washington state to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services.

Ensuring success in resettlement: ORIA seeks opportunities to improve the resettlement process for individuals and families coming to Washington. ORIA offers client services through 14 different programs in four core areas:

- **Refugee Health and Wellness** offers programs that support newly arriving refugees with initial medical screenings, provide culturally responsive mental health services, and offers 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 multiple programs, including the WorkFirst Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pathway Program, the ORIA Basic Food Employment and Training Program for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and the Career Ladder for Educated and Vocationally Experienced Refugees (CLEVER).

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 cash assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families TANF or State Family Assistance SFA).

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 (SIV) from Iraq and Afghanistan.

- **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.

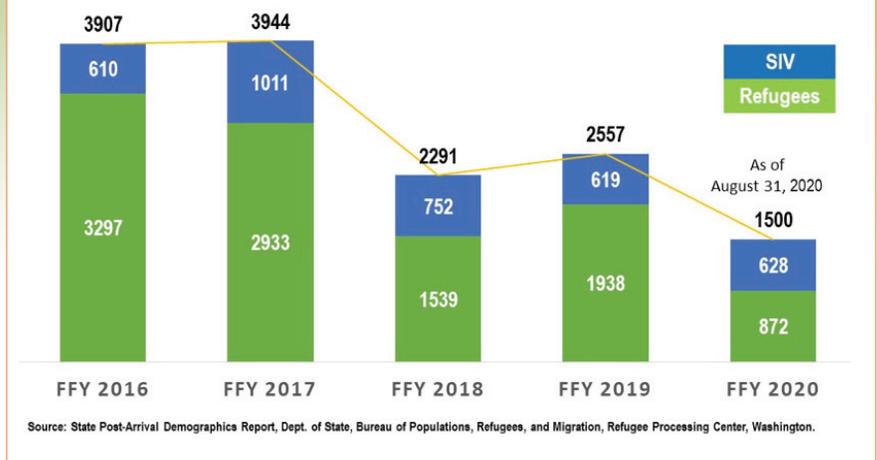
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- **Whole Family Services** include the Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility, and Empowerment Program. Programs support school-age refugee children and their parents with the goal of improving academic performance and integration through the Refugee School Impact Program. Services are available for refugee elders over the age of 60 to support integration and wellness by offering opportunities to connect with their communities and other peers. Specialized services are also available for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors and a specialized Refugee Youth Mentoring Program.

Washington State Refugee and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Arrivals

FFY 2016 to FFY 2020



Where do refugees resettle in Washington?

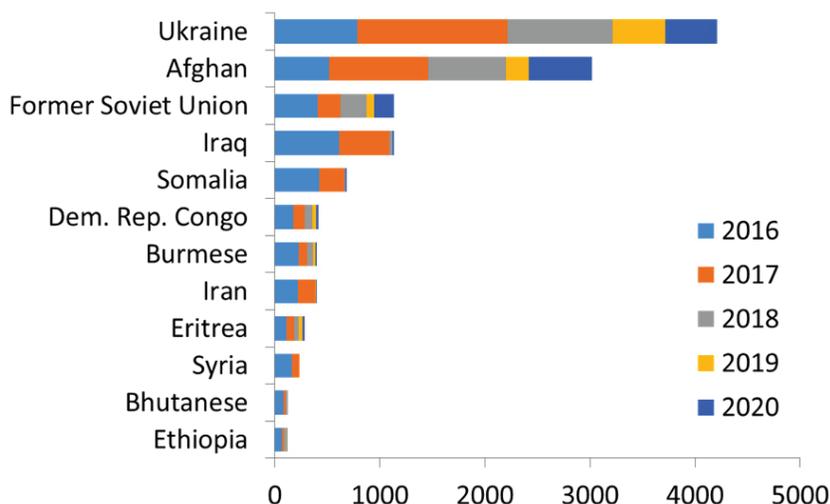
County	Percentage
King	50%
Snohomish	9%
Pierce	10%
Clark	11%
Spokane	7%
Benton-Franklin	3%
Other Counties	10%

State Fiscal Year 2019 Results for ORIA programs and services

- Nearly 10,000 refugees and immigrants participate in services every year through ORIA's three largest programs (LEP Pathway Program, Naturalization Services Program, and PRIME program)
- 3,985 refugees and immigrants participated in employment and English as a Second Language services through the WorkFirst LEP Pathway Program.
- 3,196 people received services through the Naturalization Services Program
- 3,085 people participated in case-management services, self-sufficiency workshops, or immigration assistance through the PRIME Program.

Washington State Refugee Arrivals

Top Countries of Origin
FFY 2016 - 2020 (YTD)



- 2,296 people received new arrival refugee health screenings.
- 1,157 people became U.S. Citizens through the Naturalization Services Program
- 834 people participated in ORIA BFET Program.
- 592 refugee students and families received specialized services through the Refugee School Impact Program.
- 143 Unaccompanied Refugee Minors in care.