

Fact Sheet

Refugee Resettlement Program

The Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) provides services to refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, human trafficking victims, and Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders to support long-term social and economic integration.

Assistance Available

Eligibility for programs and services is based on resource and income limits and varies by program.

- **Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)** – Cash and medical assistance is limited to a refugee and SIVs' first eight months in the US. Asylees and human trafficking victims are eligible effective the day granted status.
- **Refugee Support Services (RSS)** – Employment Services are available for up to five years.
- **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URM)** – Services available through the URM program include child welfare, foster care, and independent living services.
- **CalWORKs** – Family assistance (such as child care, mental health services, transportation reimbursement, and job training) for individuals with children.
- **CalFresh** – Food assistance
- **Medi-Cal** – Health benefits
- **Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment** – Available for individuals disabled, blind, or age 65 and older.

PROPOSED PUBLIC CHARGE CHANGES DO NOT IMPACT REFUGEES, ASYLEES, CUBAN AND HAITIAN ENTRANTS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS, AND SIVs.

Background

Refugee resettlement is a collaborative effort involving federal, state, county, and nonprofit entities. There are two overarching support systems: 1) the United States Department of State's Reception and Placement (R&P) program and 2) the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) programs. When refugees first arrive into the US, they are assisted by a resettlement agency (RA). The RAs help refugees within the first 30-90 days with R&P services, which include locating permanent housing, acquiring furniture, arranging for utilities; and referral and coordination services in the areas of health and employment with local program and service providers. The ORR funds refugee specific programs such as RCA, RMA, RSS, Targeted Assistance (TA), and URM.

Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholder advisory groups are a key component of the RRP. At the state level, the [State Advisory Council](#)— comprised of governmental, nonprofit, and public members with varied expertise, geographic location, and ethnic representation— provides recommendations to the CDSS on refugee issues and ensures community involvement in policy discussions. There are also several county-level [Refugee Forums](#) and/or Refugee Consultation meetings collaborating, sharing knowledge and best practices, identifying and address challenges, raising awareness, and engaging the public in building welcoming communities. To get involved, click on the above links for meeting dates and time.