



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr

Services to Older Refugees Refugee Support Services Set-Aside: FY 2023 Funding

Dear Colleague Letter 23-02

October 3, 2022

Dear Colleague:

ORR will issue Services to Older Refugees (SOR) funding to states¹ as a “set-aside” within the fiscal year (FY) 2023² Refugee Support Services (RSS) formula Refugee and Entrant Assistance (REA) allocation. This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) explains ORR’s method of determining SOR FY 2023 allocations and details the funding amounts, contingent on federal funds available upon final Congressional approval of the FY 2023 Federal Budget. Description of program goals and recommended services, as well as program reporting and monitoring activities, are included within [ORR Policy Letter \(PL\) 22-08, *Services to Older Refugees Program*](#).

Qualification for FY 2023 Allocations

This is the second year of a three-year qualification period for the SOR program. States that qualified for funding last year will remain eligible to receive funding for this year and next. In FY 2023, forty-five states whose arrived/served population was above the RSS base formula floor threshold³ will receive an SOR Set-Aside allocation. Current floor states may also see increasing arrivals, and ORR may elect to include additional states in the future depending on arrival patterns and overall availability of funds.

Basis for Funding

The FY 2023 allocations to states are based on the number of ORR-eligible individuals aged 60 or older who arrived/were served in FY 2020 and FY 2021 (combined), as reported in the ORR-5 and verified against a number of federal sources in the ORR Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS). ORR will use this two-year lookback period to determine RSS allocations, providing a level of funding stability in response to the variance in arrivals during the relevant time period.

FY 2023 Allocations Chart

The chart below documents the number of eligible individuals who arrived/were served in each state in FY 2020 and FY 2021 and the corresponding funding allocations for the SOR program for FY 2023. As required under ORR regulation 45 C.F.R. §400.210, these funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024, and must be liquidated by September 30, 2025.

¹ “States” throughout this DCL refers to states and replacement designees (RDs) funded to administer RSS.

² October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022.

³ Please refer to [RSS DCL 22-19, FY 2022 Refugee Support Services Formula Allocations](#), for listing of RSS base formula floor states.

The first quarter award will be a partial award of the amount reflected. ORR will provide the balance of the award pending the final FY 2023 appropriation. All awards are subject to the availability of federal funds.

FY 2023 SOR Allocations by State

State	Total Arrived/Served FY 2020 & FY 2021 Aged 60 and older	Allocation
Alaska	2	\$ 75,000
Arizona	41	\$ 167,295
Arkansas	5	\$ 75,000
California	311	\$ 470,000
Colorado	26	\$ 106,089
Connecticut	9	\$ 75,000
District Of Columbia	3	\$ 75,000
Florida	329	\$ 470,000
Georgia	41	\$ 165,255
Idaho	10	\$ 80,000
Illinois	51	\$ 208,098
Indiana	30	\$ 122,412
Iowa	13	\$ 80,000
Kansas	18	\$ 80,000
Kentucky	57	\$ 230,540
Louisiana	5	\$ 75,000
Maine	0	\$ 75,000
Maryland	22	\$ 89,768
Massachusetts	24	\$ 97,929
Michigan	89	\$ 363,152
Minnesota	39	\$ 157,094
Missouri	24	\$ 97,929
Montana	1	\$ 75,000
Nebraska	12	\$ 80,000
Nevada	16	\$ 80,000
New Hampshire	0	\$ 75,000
New Jersey	26	\$ 106,089
New Mexico	6	\$ 75,000

New York	91	\$ 371,314
North Carolina	59	\$ 240,741
North Dakota	2	\$ 75,000
Ohio	55	\$ 222,380
Oklahoma	8	\$ 75,000
Oregon	35	\$ 140,772
Pennsylvania	52	\$ 212,179
Rhode Island	5	\$ 75,000
South Carolina	8	\$ 75,000
South Dakota	4	\$ 75,000
Tennessee	22	\$ 89,768
Texas	152	\$ 425,000
Utah	27	\$ 110,170
Vermont	1	\$ 75,000
Virginia	75	\$ 306,027
Washington	122	\$ 425,000
Wisconsin	12	\$ 80,000
Total	1,935	\$ 7,000,000

Explanation of Allocations

FY 2023 allocations fall into the following three tiers.

- 1) A maximum tier that had 101 or more individuals arrive/were served, which was further broken down to:
 - a. 300 or more eligible individuals (\$470,000)
 - b. 101-299 eligible individuals (\$425,000);
- 2) A per capita tier for states that had arrivals/served between 21-100 eligible individuals; and
- 3) A lower tier for states that had arrivals/served of 20 or fewer eligible individuals, which was further broken down to
 - a. 11-20 eligible individuals (\$80,000)
 - b. Less than 10 eligible individuals (\$75,000)

The goal of the tiered system is to ensure that states with similar numbers of arrivals/served receive comparable funding, while also ensuring states with lower arrival/served numbers have sufficient funding for program sustainability.

Please note that even though this allocation reflected is based on arrivals/served for FY 2020 and FY 2021, the service population includes all arrivals for the past five-year period.

Resources

Please direct any questions about this DCL or the SOR program to your ORR Regional Representative or DRaprograms@acf.hhs.gov. We also encourage you to use ORR's [Technical Assistance provider\(s\)](#) for additional resources on serving refugees.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Tota
Director, Refugee Program
Office of Refugee Resettlement