



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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

FY 2021 Refugee Support Services Formula Allocations

Dear Colleague Letter 21-10

July 1, 2021

Dear Colleague:

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has determined the Refugee Support Services (RSS) funding for each state¹ for fiscal year (FY) 2021. The FY 2021 RSS allocations are based on a two-year lookback period of those who arrived to the U.S. and were served between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2020.

Funding Formula

The *FY 2020 and FY 2019 RSS Populations Served and Final FY 2021 RSS Base Allocation* chart below displays the FY 2021 RSS base funding and the “population served” figures used by ORR to determine those allocations. To arrive at the total population served figures, ORR compiled FY 2019 and FY 2020 data from the ORR Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS) as follows:

- **For initial arrival Refugees, Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIVs), and Victims of Human Trafficking (VOT)**, ORR used arrival data from federal sources.
- **For Cuban/Haitian Entrants and Asylees**, ORR used service data submitted by states and matched against data from federal sources, as well as FY 2019 service data previously submitted and matched.
- **For U.S. Citizen Babies**, ORR used data submitted by states for babies born within the lookback period.

ORR also calculated and added each state’s secondary migration and “split” total, as explained in the notes following the chart below. ORR then divided the total amount of available FY 2021 RSS funds by each state’s total population served figure to calculate each state’s base funding allocation.²

¹ The term ‘states’ throughout this Dear Colleague Letter refers to states and Replacement Designees (RDs) that receive RSS funding from ORR.

² FY 2019 final arrivals/served data is **combined** with the new FY 2020 data submission. If FY 2019 valid arrivals were submitted with the FY 2020 data (and not previously counted in FY 2019), they would be included in the FY 2020 count as an adjustment. For secondary migrants, ORR included data submitted by states for those individuals that arrived in FY 2020. This data was combined with the secondary migration data reported by states in the FY 2019 data submission. The secondary migration total reflects migration within those specific fiscal years and not over a two-year period.

For states that have a population served figure of fewer than 40 people who have been in the United States for two years or less, ORR is providing a base amount of \$50,000. The base amount provides states with funding to maintain a structure for the provision of employment and other support services necessary for the successful resettlement of ORR populations in American communities.

Services

States must provide services in accordance with 45 CFR Part 400 Subpart I -- Refugee Social Services, ORR Policy Letter (PL) 18-04, ORR PL 19-07, and, if a state requested waivers modifying RSS requirements, ORR PL 21-05. Although the allocation formula is based on the two most recent fiscal year (24 months) refugee population served, states may provide services to refugees who have been in the country up to 60 months (5 years), with the exception of referral and interpreter services and citizenship and naturalization preparation services, for which there is no time limitation (45 CFR §400.152(b)). Additionally, if a state requested and was approved for the specific waivers to extend the RSS eligibility period pursuant to ORR PL 21-05, a state may also provide services to clients who would otherwise be time-ineligible for RSS.

The regulations at 45 C.F.R. §400.154 and §400.155 define services allowable under RSS. If a state wishes to provide additional services not delineated in these sections, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. §400.155(h), a state must submit a request to the ORR Director and receive approval, prior to providing the service.

In accordance with 45 CFR §400.147, states must provide social services to refugees³ in the following order of priority, except in certain individual extreme circumstances: (a) all newly arriving refugees during their first year in the United States who apply for services; (b) refugees who are receiving cash assistance; (c) unemployed refugees who are not receiving cash assistance; and (d) employed refugees in need of services to retain employment or to attain economic independence. States should, to the extent possible, ensure that all newly arriving refugees receive refugee-specific services designed to address the employment barriers that refugees typically face.

In accordance with PL 19-07, a state must ensure that each individual member of a household is assessed for a family self-sufficiency plan (FSSP), is subsequently referred to services, and receives appropriate follow-up minimally at six and twelve months post enrollment.

Reporting

For RSS, states submit the semi-annual ORR-6 Performance Report (OMB Clearance Number 0970-0036), schedules A, C, D, and the Annual Service Plan. States also submit the annual RSS Sub-grantee report (OMB Clearance Number 0970-0556). These reports may be found at: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/report-forms.

States must also submit the Standard Form (SF) 425 Federal Financial Report through the Payment Management System (PMS) on a quarterly basis. For questions regarding PMS, please contact the PMS Help Desk at 877.614.5533 or pmssupport@psc.gov

³ "Refugees" in this paragraph refers to all ORR-eligible populations.

States are required to submit data for all RSS enrollments through the ORR-5.

If you have any questions about the RSS allocations, please contact your ORR Regional Representative/Regional Analyst or ORR's Division of Refugee Assistance, at DRAPrograms@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,
Cindy Huang
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement

FY 2020 and FY 2019 RSS Populations Served and Final FY 2021 RSS Base Allocation

State	Ref	SIV	VOT	C/H Entrant	Asylees	Secondary Migrations and Splits	U.S. Citizen Babies	Total with Adjustments	FY2021 RSS Base Funding
Alabama	27	13	0	5	7	1.00	0	53	\$ 67,748
Alaska	61	0	0	1	17	1.33	5	85	\$ 109,931
Arizona	1,623	226	152	224	141	42.17	1	2,409	\$ 3,080,611
Arkansas	66	11	1	0	4	1.50	4	88	\$ 112,487
California	2,955	7,576	183	556	1,819	110.83	437	13,637	\$ 17,431,659
Colorado	802	470	32	136	297	64.50	34	1,836	\$ 2,346,889
Connecticut	202	300	13	2	44	10.83	65	637	\$ 814,253
Delaware	4	6	1	7	8	3.50	0	30	\$ 50,000
District of Columbia	4	11	33	0	65	7.00	0	120	\$ 153,391
Florida	957	207	163	18,448	1,622	398.50	32	21,828	\$ 27,901,903
Georgia	1,543	368	33	117	80	36.33	0	2,177	\$ 2,784,055
Hawaii	0	1	6	0	11	0.00	0	18	\$ 50,000
Idaho	677	53	0	0	1	31.33	7	769	\$ 984,262
Illinois	1,308	326	109	31	298	44.83	0	2,117	\$ 2,706,081
Indiana	1,166	43	3	22	188	34.00	1	1,457	\$ 1,862,428
Iowa	877	34	2	25	23	66.17	0	1,027	\$ 1,314,053
Kansas	516	116	8	6	7	17.83	1	672	\$ 858,992
Kentucky	1,859	82	7	865	39	171.83	17	3,041	\$ 3,887,195
Louisiana	15	32	6	38	132	12.83	11	247	\$ 315,731
Maine	168	17	1	1	78	12.00	0	277	\$ 354,079
Maryland	972	1,167	24	4	796	48.50	1	3,013	\$ 3,851,403
Massachusetts	789	113	30	306	203	21.83	1	1,464	\$ 1,871,376
Michigan	1,600	432	25	36	65	56.50	0	2,215	\$ 2,831,350
Minnesota	1,230	105	31	9	330	40.00	8	1,753	\$ 2,240,793
Mississippi	18	0	0	1	5	0.50	0	25	\$ 50,000
Missouri	868	208	9	28	24	31.17	17	1,185	\$ 1,516,019

Montana	118	0	1	0	7	22.00	0	148	\$ 189,183
Nebraska	613	172	3	137	20	15.17	0	960	\$ 1,228,410
Nevada	287	108	2	795	53	74.50	4	1,324	\$ 1,692,419
New Hampshire	305	2	0	0	4	1.83	0	313	\$ 400,096
New Jersey	351	141	40	319	298	45.00	0	1,194	\$ 1,526,245
New Mexico	159	29	4	54	10	8.00	0	264	\$ 337,461
New York	2,425	706	276	73	870	79.17	0	4,429	\$ 5,662,701
North Carolina	1,687	209	33	45	59	44.50	0	2,078	\$ 2,656,228
North Dakota ⁴	173	6	1	0	9	1.83	1	192	\$ 245,426
Ohio	1,822	263	10	0	53	28.33	0	2,176	\$ 2,782,776
Oklahoma	307	37	7	25	33	23.50	0	433	\$ 553,487
Oregon	732	173	30	49	47	24.33	0	1,055	\$ 1,349,845
Pennsylvania	1,496	289	56	72	191	42.00	2	2,148	\$ 2,745,707
Rhode Island	148	1	5	0	0	0.83	0	155	\$ 198,131
South Carolina	244	6	13	6	3	8.50	0	281	\$ 359,192
South Dakota	176	9	1	6	6	5.50	0	204	\$ 260,765
Tennessee	809	172	8	140	171	40.33	26	1,366	\$ 1,746,106
Texas	3,278	3,259	602	5,050	1,717	420.17	240	14,566	\$ 18,619,165
Utah	632	97	14	6	117	21.00	3	890	\$ 1,137,653
Vermont	129	1	0	0	7	4.50	0	142	\$ 181,513
Virginia	760	2,705	67	10	131	50.00	0	3,723	\$ 4,758,969
Washington	3,030	1,444	67	20	496	56.83	0	5,114	\$ 6,537,032
West Virginia	4	5	1	0	2	1.50	0	14	\$ 50,000
Wisconsin	825	49	5	4	58	24.83	0	966	\$ 1,234,801
Total	40,817	21,800	2,118	27,679	10,665	2,311	918	106,308	\$ 136,000,000

Notes:

- *FY 2021 RSS Base Allocation total funding does not include funding for RSS set-asides: Refugee Health Promotion, Refugee School Impact, Services for Older Refugees, and Youth Mentoring.*
- *ORR awarded Texas' RSS formula allocation funding to the four regional RDs in proportion to their "population served" figures.*
- *For funding purposes, states received partial credit for secondary migration. If an individual moved between two states, each state received 50% credit. If an individual moved between three states, each state received 33% credit. Secondary migration was noted by states in the Migration Status and Date of Migration fields on the ORR-5 form.*
- *"Splits," or records for C/H Entrants or Asylees that were submitted by two or more states, were combined with secondary migrations in one overall total for each state. In the same manner as with secondary migrations, for funding purposes, states received partial credit for individuals who were split among two or more states.*

⁴ The FY 2021 funding chart does not include funds (totaling \$71,000) that was issued to the state of North Dakota after the state assumed oversight of the RSS program upon the withdrawal from the program by Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (LSSND) in February 2021. These funds were originally issued to LSSND before it withdrew from the program.