



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

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

**Fiscal Year 2021 Services to Older Refugees Refugee Support Services Set-Aside**

Dear Colleague Letter 20-11

September 29, 2020

Dear Colleague:

ORR will issue Services to Older Refugees (SOR) funding to states<sup>1</sup> as a “set-aside” within the fiscal year (FY) 2021<sup>2</sup> Refugee Support Services (RSS) formula allocation. This letter details SOR FY 2021 allocation determinations and proposed amounts. For a description of program goals and recommended services, as well as program reporting and monitoring activities, please reference [PL 19-03](#).

**Qualification for FY 2021 SOR Allocations**

The FY 2021 allocations to states are based on the number of ORR-eligible individuals aged 60 or older who arrived and were served in FY 2019, as reported in the ORR-5 and verified against the Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS).

ORR has chosen to fund states for three years before states need to requalify. The first year of this three-year qualification period was FY 2019; FY 2021 is the third and final year. ORR used a floor of 10 ORR-eligible individuals aged 60 and older served to initially qualify states: as noted in the chart below, nine states that were funded in FY 2019 continue to receive FY 2021 SOR funding even though their client population fell below the total served floor of 10.

**FY 2021 Allocation Chart**

The chart below documents the number of eligible individuals served by each state in FY 2019 and the corresponding funding allocations for the SOR program for FY 2021. The proposed allocations are based on the availability of federal funding per ORR’s final FY 2021 appropriation and will be included in the quarterly FY 2021 RSS allocation as a “set-aside.” As required under ORR regulation 45 C.F.R. §400.210, these funds must be obligated by September 30, 2022, and must be liquidated by September 30, 2023.

| State      | FY 2019: Total Served | FY 2021 SOR Funding |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| California | 324                   | \$ 375,000          |
| Texas      | 194                   | \$ 325,000          |
| Florida    | 144                   | \$ 300,000          |

<sup>1</sup> “States” throughout this Dear Colleague Letter refers to states and replacement designees.

<sup>2</sup> October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

|                |              |                     |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Washington     | 141          | \$ 300,000          |
| Michigan       | 109          | \$ 266,473          |
| New York       | 104          | \$ 253,028          |
| Illinois       | 74           | \$ 179,686          |
| Ohio           | 70           | \$ 169,907          |
| Virginia       | 69           | \$ 167,463          |
| Minnesota      | 60           | \$ 145,460          |
| Kentucky       | 55           | \$ 134,459          |
| Arizona        | 53           | \$ 129,570          |
| Pennsylvania   | 46           | \$ 111,234          |
| Tennessee      | 46           | \$ 111,234          |
| North Carolina | 41           | \$ 99,011           |
| Oregon         | 38           | \$ 92,899           |
| Colorado       | 38           | \$ 92,899           |
| Georgia        | 38           | \$ 91,677           |
| Missouri       | 34           | \$ 85,000           |
| Maryland       | 33           | \$ 85,000           |
| Indiana        | 29           | \$ 85,000           |
| Massachusetts  | 28           | \$ 85,000           |
| Iowa           | 27           | \$ 85,000           |
| New Jersey     | 27           | \$ 85,000           |
| Idaho          | 22           | \$ 85,000           |
| Wisconsin      | 18           | \$ 85,000           |
| Nebraska       | 15           | \$ 75,000           |
| Oklahoma       | 15           | \$ 75,000           |
| South Carolina | 12           | \$ 75,000           |
| Nevada         | 10           | \$ 75,000           |
| Connecticut    | 9            | \$ 75,000           |
| Maine          | 9            | \$ 75,000           |
| New Hampshire  | 7            | \$ 75,000           |
| Kansas         | 7            | \$ 75,000           |
| Utah           | 7            | \$ 75,000           |
| North Dakota   | 4            | \$ 75,000           |
| South Dakota   | 4            | \$ 75,000           |
| Louisiana      | 1            | \$ 75,000           |
| Vermont        | 1            | \$ 75,000           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1,956</b> | <b>\$ 5,000,000</b> |

### Explanation of Allocations

Allocations fall into the following tiers: 1) a maximum tier for states that served more than 120 eligible individuals, which was further broken down to 120-150 (\$300,000), 151-200 (\$325,000), and more than 200 (\$375,000); 2) a per capita tier for states that served between 36-119 eligible individuals; and 3) a

floor tier for states that served 35 or fewer eligible individuals, which was further broken down to 16-34 eligible individuals (\$85,000), and fewer than 16 individuals (\$75,000). The goal of the tiered system is to ensure those states with similar arrival numbers receive comparable funding, while also ensuring that those states with lower arrivals have sufficient and sustainable funding.

Please note that even though the allocation reflected is based on arrivals for FY 2019, the service population includes all arrivals for the past five-year period.

**Resources**

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

Sincerely,

Heidi Stirrup  
Acting Director  
Office of Refugee Resettlement