

REFUGEE BENEFITS FOR ASYLEES

Are you an individual who has been granted asylum in the United States?

You may be eligible for cash and medical assistance, employment preparation and job placement, English language training, and other services offered through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). If you apply for the same status for your family members (“derivative asylum status”), once granted asylum, your family members may also be eligible for resettlement benefits and services.

Asylees are one category of immigrants that can access federal mainstream benefits, such as cash assistance through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or health insurance through Medicaid. But each state sets its own eligibility requirements and timeframe.

To find out what resettlement benefits and services are available, contact your State Refugee Coordinator: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/orr-funded-programs-key-contacts>

Quick Facts

Who is an asylee?

An asylee is a person who flees his or her country and is unable or unwilling to return due to persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. An individual is granted asylum either by an immigration court of the U.S. Department of Justice, or by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Where do I sign up?

The federal government provides funding to states, resettlement agencies, and other non-profit community-based entities to provide services for asylees and refugees. You can sign up at the benefits office or resettlement agency in your state beginning on or after the date that you were granted asylum. For a list of state contacts go to:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/orr-funded-programs-key-contacts>

When should I sign up for resettlement assistance?

Don't wait. **Your assistance and services are only available for a limited time.** ORR-funded cash and medical benefits are limited to a **maximum of eight months** from the date the immigration court or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) granted you asylum. For most employment and other services aimed at economic self-sufficiency, the eligibility period is **five years** from the date you were granted asylum.

What should I bring with me?

Bring proof of your status and the date you received that status. That can be an Order of an Immigration Judge Granting Asylum, an asylum approval letter from a USCIS Asylum Office, or an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with the code for asylee.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Refugee Resettlement •
Administration for Children
and Families •
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services •
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr>

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS AND SERVICES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFERS TO ASYLEES?

Some asylees may be eligible for mainstream benefits in their state, such as cash assistance through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or health insurance through Medicaid. Additionally, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers nutritional assistance.

First 6 to 8 months in the United States

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)



Those asylees not eligible for SSI or TANF may receive Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA). Counting from the date of grant of asylum, asylees may receive up to eight months of RCA to help meet their most basic needs, such as food, shelter, and transportation.

ORR Matching Grant Program



As an alternative to public cash assistance programs, some asylees may participate in the ORR Matching Grant (MG) Program, an early **self-sufficiency program**. Enrollment slots are limited in number and by location. The MG Program provides **intensive case management and employment services** to help the asylee immediately find and maintain employment. The goal of the program is to assist clients to become **economically self-sufficient within 180 days**. Asylees should enroll in the MG Program as soon as possible after eligibility.

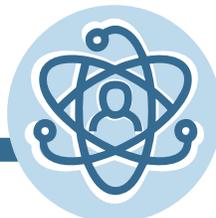
Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)



Asylees determined not eligible for Medicaid may receive RMA for up to **eight months** from date of grant of asylum. RMA provides the same health insurance coverage as Medicaid.

Up to 5 years from the date granted asylum

Employment Assistance: Refugee Support Services



Asylees may access the Refugee Support Services (RSS) program to receive employability services, available for **up to five years from date of grant of asylum**. RSS helps provide employment and employability services, job training and preparation, assistance with job search, placement, and retention, English language training, job-related day care, transportation, translation and interpreter services, and case management.

Specialized Programs



Some asylees may be eligible for health, school, small business start-up, financial savings or other targeted support programs.