

The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

The Episcopal Church in Western Washington

<https://ecww.org/resettling-afghan-refugees-a-webinar-from-the-diocese-of-olympia/>

Refugee Resettlement Acronyms:

APS: Afghan Parolee Support Program (A special 6-month program to help Afghan Humanitarian Parolees on evacuation flights from Kabul. September 2021 through March 2022).

UST: US tie. The term for any relative or friend in the United States listed on the application of a person seeking refugee status, or for parolees. US ties are generally contacted by resettlement agencies to assist with the resettlement of a refugee, but they have no legal obligation to assist.

RCA: Refugee Cash Assistance. A federal program administered by states that provides cash assistance to refugee families on a par with TANF. In Washington State, RCA is an 8-month program which assists single refugees and refugee couples with children who are ineligible for TANF or other state funded assistance.

TANF: Transitional Aide for Needy Families: The main federal cash assistance program used to support families on public assistance.

Medicaid: Medical insurance provided to families on public assistance.

R&P Program. The Reception and Placement Program. This is the program within the Department of State which funds the operations of resettlement agencies within the United States.

PRM: Bureau of Population Immigration and Migration. The organization within the State Department which houses the R&P Program.

ORR: Office of Refugee Resettlement. The federal program within HHS (Health and Human Services) which provides support for refugee families after the 90-day, directly after arrival in the US, which is funded by the Department of State.

Matching Grant: A program within ORR that services as an alternative to TANF or RCA programs. ORR provides \$2,000 per month per person for each person enrolled in the program. Resettlement agencies or other organizations that administer the program provide match for the \$2,000 grant. The match is usually a combination of cash and volunteer time charged at various rates per hour. The combination of match and government grants is spent on rent, utilities, food, etc. **Refugees in the Matching Grant cannot access public assistance.** In the 90's the rationale for the program was to keep refugees out of the public assistance system (on the dubious theory that it generates dependency) by creating an alternative to the TANF program. We have opted out of the program because the rationale & purpose of the program does not make sense. Why spend hard earned donations on an alternative to TANF when one can simply and easily sign refugees up for TANF which provides about the same amount of money? Also, the administrative burden of the program is excessive, exceeding by far the staffing needed to

apply for TANF). World Relief still views it as a viable program because it inspires their donors. (I think a high percent of their cases apply for TANF after completing Matching Grant).

Support Services: The name given to an income stream from ORR provided to states to fund Employment and English language services for refugees, among other services. Washington State adds an additional 8 million to these funds, which might be apportioned to assist Afghan parolees.

Preferred Communities: An ORR program that provides case management for refugee individuals needing more intensive support than provided in the R&P program. We served 40 individuals through this program for each of the last three years. An example of such a case is a paraplegic three-year old who needed immediate services at Children's Hospital.

USCIS: US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

EAD: Employment Authorization Card.

SRC: State Refugee Coordinator. In Washington State this is Sarah Peterson:
sarah.peterson@dshs.wa.gov.

QCC: Quarterly Community Consultations. All resettlement agencies in Washington State are required to hold a QCC meeting and report the results of the meeting to PRM.

IRIS: Immigration and Refugee Information System. World-wide network that allows tracking of refugee cases from residence in a refugee camp to completion of the 90-day resettlement period administered by resettlement agencies.