



Welcoming Washington: Updates from the Office of Refugee & Immigrant Assistance

**Ellie Dawson, ORIA Program Manager
SOWA District RFP Information Session
May 21, 2026**



ORIA Programs and Services

Program/Service Area	Number of Providers	Types of Assistance Available
WA Migrant and Asylum-Seeker Support Project	28 organizations	✓ Legal, Housing, Case Management
Employment and Training	31 organizations	✓ Job search, English Language classes, Job placement, Job retention
Immigration Legal Services	16 organizations	✓ Application assistance
Naturalization Services	26 organizations	✓ Application assistance and Test preparation and classes
Refugee Children and Youth	40 organizations	✓ District-Community Partnerships, Youth mentoring, Support Service
Refugee Health and Wellness	24 organizations	✓ Medical Screenings, Health Navigation, Mental Health Services
Refugee Housing Stabilization	13 organizations	✓ Rental assistance, Information and Referral, Housing support
PRIME Program	28 organizations	✓ Case management, Workshops, Resource Navigation

From Arrival to Stability

Outcomes



Immediate Needs

- 4,518 people received medical screenings
- 96% successfully connected to primary care
- \$2.72 million in housing assistance for refugee households since Oct. 2025

System Navigation

- 718 people receive PRIME services per month on average
- 1,197 people participated in workshops
- >100 people participated in support groups

Employment & Training

- 3,424 people placed in jobs
- Average hourly full-time wage \$21.45
- 488 people had health benefits
- 368 people participated in skills training
- 7,627 people participated in English classes
- 25 people enrolled in Paraeducator training Program

Immigration Pathways

- 323 Afghans applied for green cards.
- 1,581 refugees applied for green cards,
- 245 refugees received green cards
- 502 Ukrainians applied for re-parole
- 183 Ukrainians applied for work permits

Children & Youth

- 242 young children served in an Early Childhood Pilot
- 1,527 students received services through district – community partnership

Citizenship

- 1,763 people naturalized in 2025
- 2,033 people applied for citizenship
- 492 applied for disability assistance for the citizenship exam
- More than 20,000 hours of citizenship training



Refugee School Impact-Funded Programs in WA

- ARSI S2S
- School-Age RSI
- Early RSI
- Ukrainian School Navigation
- Afghan Youth Empowerment
- Paraeducator Training Program
- Youth Mentoring



RSIP Impact

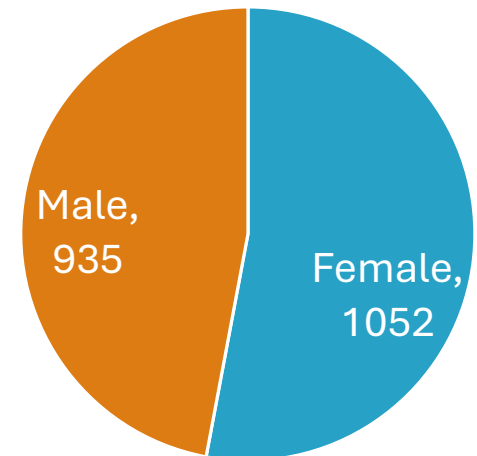
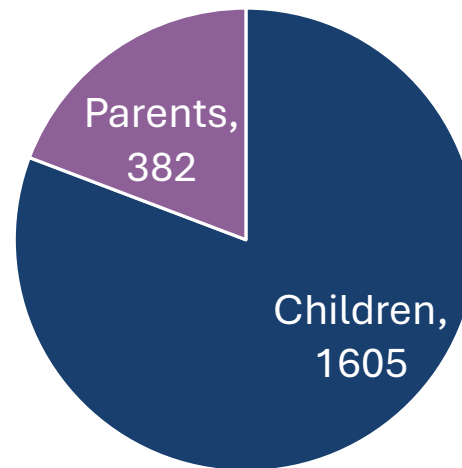
October 2025 to March 2026

RSIP Overview

- **1,987** people served in RSIP

- 53% Female
- 47% Male

- 81% Children
- 19% Parents



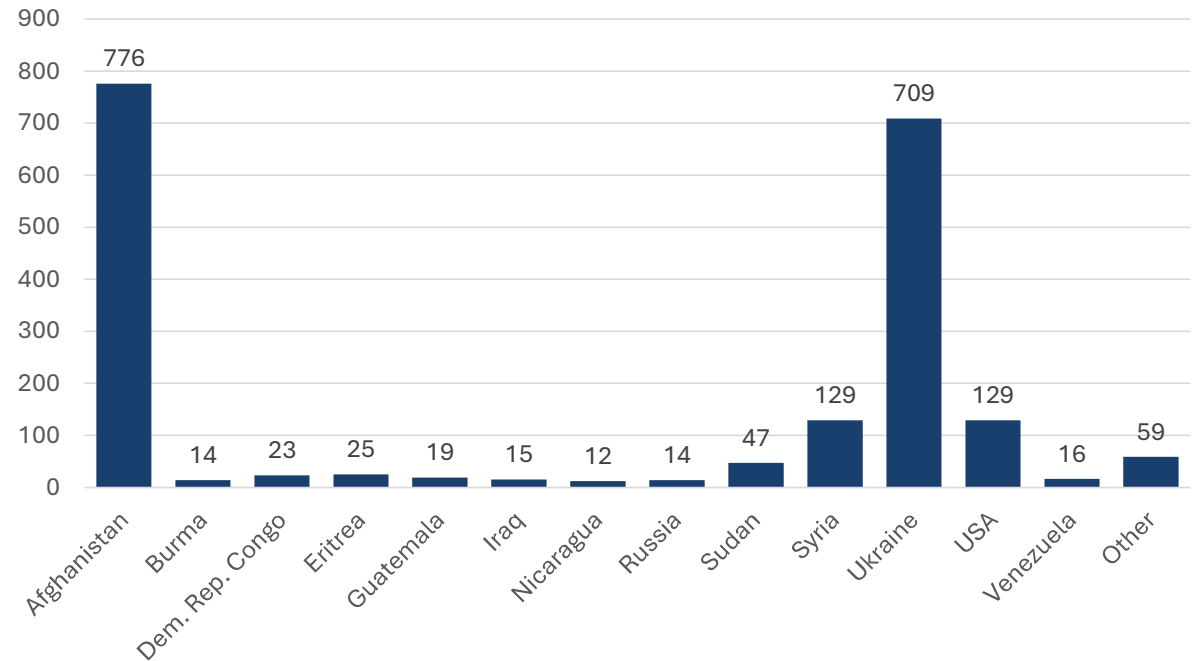
- An additional **20 adults** participated in the Paraeducator Training Program

RSIP Participant Nationalities

- Participants were from **36 countries**, including:
 - Afghanistan: 39%
 - Ukraine: 36%
 - Syria: 6%
 - U.S.: 6%
 - Sudan: 2%

*U.S. citizen participants are ERSI children born to eligible parents

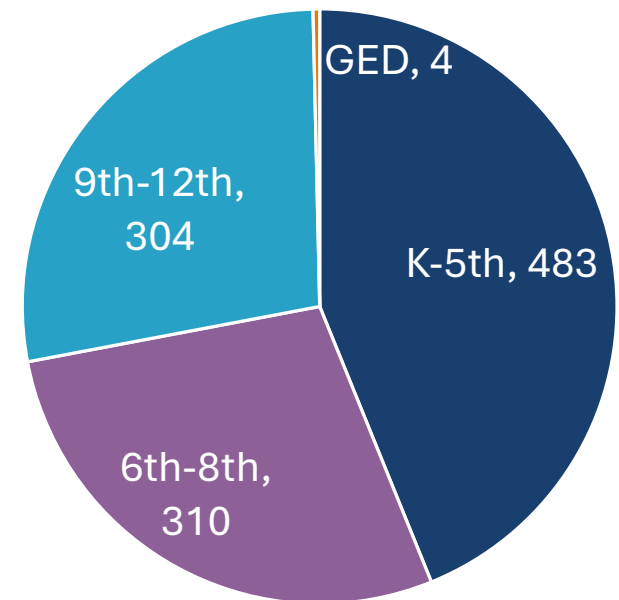
Number of Participants by Nationality



 **RSIP K-12**

- **1,361** people served
 - 1,280 (94%) students
 - 81 (6%) parents
- **1,101** students served through traditional school-age RSI programs:
 - K-5: 44%
 - 6-8: 28%
 - 9-12: 28%
 - GED: 0.4%

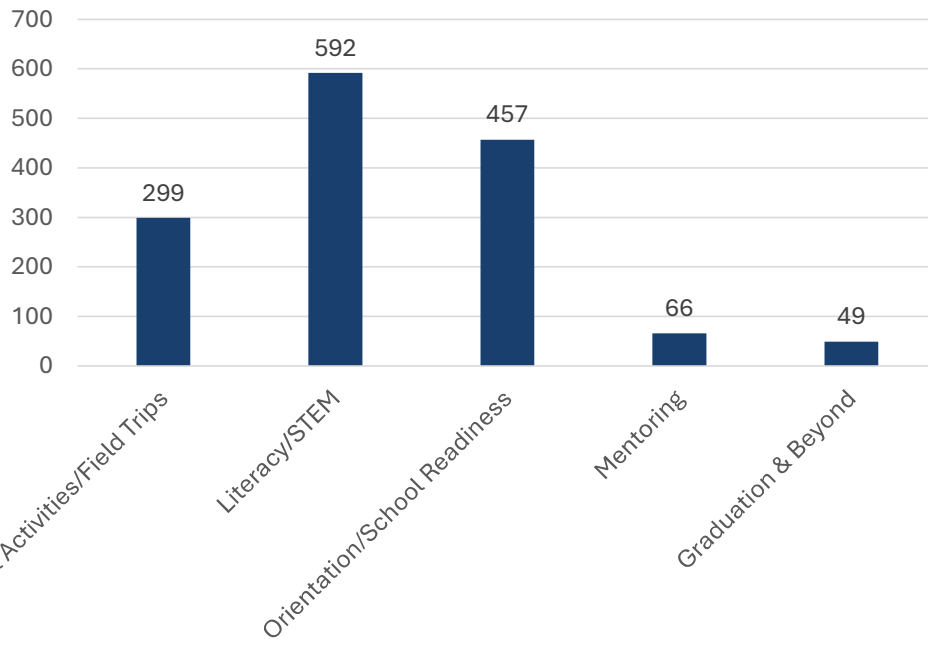
Number of Students Served by Grade Level



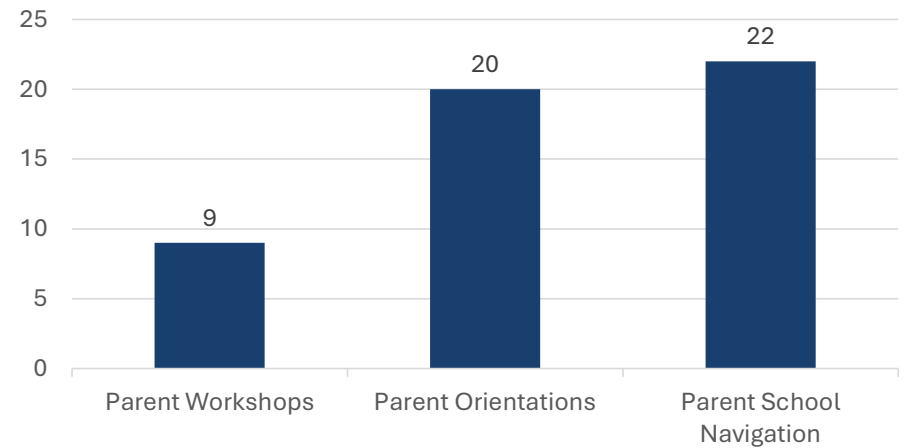


RSIP K-12 Outcomes

of Participating Students by Activity Type



of Participating Parents by Activity Type

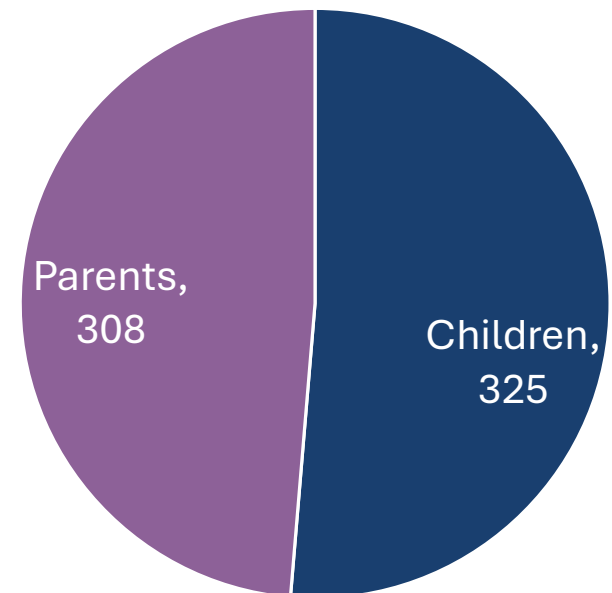




Early RSIP

- **633** people served
 - Gender
 - 60% female
 - 40% male
 - Participant Type
 - 51% children
 - 49% parents
- **53** children referred to/enrolled in daycare, preschool, early learning, related subsidies
- Over **1,000** home visits

Number of Participants: Child & Parent





THANK YOU
for all you do serving
children and parents in
Washington State!

Ellie Dawson
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Refugee School Impact Program District RFP Info Session

May 21, 2026



FUNDING



Office of
Refugee
Resettlement
(ORR)

**FEDERAL
LEVEL**

DSHS/Office of
Refugee &
Immigrant
Assistance (ORIA)

**STATE
LEVEL**

School's Out
Washington
(SOWA)

School
Districts

Community-Based
Organizations
(if proposing direct
student services)





RSI Program Priorities & Services

The central goal of the Refugee School Impact (RSI) program is to fund activities that lead to the **effective integration and education** of eligible children and youth.

Allowable activities **must be aligned with the intent and purpose** of the Refugee School Impact funding.

The following are the priority areas and allowable activities:

- Providing **specialized approaches and support** for eligible students, such as **English as a Second Language classes, tutoring, newcomer or transitional programs, after school and summer programs, mentoring, behavioral health supports, and programming that supports integration.**
- **Supporting families learning to navigate the U.S. education system**, such as school-specific orientation for both families and students, navigators or cultural brokers, and language access.
- **Developing capacity for school staff and systems**, through activities and resources such as specialized trainings for school staff around the unique and varied needs of ORR-eligible populations, ensuring language access by translating critical documents, interpretation, and specialized staff dedicated to working with ORR-eligible school-aged children, youth, and families.



Eligible Student & Parent Beneficiaries

Participants eligible for this program include **Washington State residents** who:

- A. Have legally resided in the U.S. **less than 60 months** and are **not yet a U.S. citizen**;
- B. Are currently a school-age child (**Kindergarten – 12th grade**), enrolled in an equivalent **GED program**, or will **start Kindergarten in the fall** (hence is served the summer directly preceding the fall of Kindergarten enrollment) or **the parent** of a school-age child; and



Eligible Student & Parent Beneficiaries (cont.)

Participants (must):

C. Provide acceptable documentation of any of the following immigration statuses:

- a. Refugee
- b. Asylee (meaning asylum was approved and is not pending immigration proceedings)
- c. Cuban/Haitian Entrant
- d. Amerasian
- e. Certified Victims of Trafficking
- f. Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holder (and their eligible family members)



Eligible Student & Parent Beneficiaries (cont.)

g. Afghan Humanitarian Parolee must have a valid/current parole to **enroll in new programming** and were paroled into the US during these dates:

- i. Afghans who were paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2023.
- ii. Afghans who were paroled into the U.S. after Sept. 30, 2023 **ONLY IF** they are: A spouse or child of an Afghan Humanitarian Parolee who was paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021, and Sept. 30, 2023 **OR** A parent or legal guardian of an Afghan Humanitarian Parolee who is an unaccompanied child and was paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2023.

Eligible Student & Parent Beneficiaries (cont.)



- h. Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee (UHP) must have a valid/current parole to **enroll in new programming** and were paroled into the U.S. during these dates:
- i. Ukrainians or non-Ukrainians who last habitually resided in Ukraine and who were paroled into the U.S. between Feb. 24, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2024.
 - ii. Ukrainians who were paroled into the U.S. after Sept. 30, 2024, **ONLY IF** they are: A spouse or child of an Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee who was paroled into the U.S. between Feb. 24, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2024 **OR** A parent or legal guardian or primary caregiver of an Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee who is an unaccompanied child and was paroled into the U.S. between Feb. 24, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2024.

If the grantee intends to continue services after the parole expires the grantee is required to: (1) Ensure the client has filed their re-parole application at least 1 day prior to the expiration. Documentation of this must be kept on file. ***If the client has not applied for re-parole, they can no longer participate in programming.*** (2) The grantee must reverify that the client is approved for re-parole. Documentation must be kept on file. ***If re-parole was denied and the client does not have another eligible status (such as asylum), the client must be exited from programming.***



SUBGRANT APPLICANTS

- Only school districts in Washington State may submit a proposal.
- If providing student services, districts are required to partner with at least one community-based organization.



FUNDING AVAILABILITY

- Funding is made available through a grant from the ***federal*** Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to Washington State's Department of Social and Health Services' Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (DSHS/ORIA).
- Total funding available: \$3.1M.
- Anticipate approximately 10-20 subgrants.
- Grant funding from School's Out Washington (SOWA) is contingent upon SOWA receiving a 2026-2027 contract from DSHS/ORIA for Program Administration of the Refugee School Impact Program.



FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Proposals should include student activities, parent engagement and/or professional development activities.
- School orientations for students/parents are allowable.
- In general, proposals should include direct student services. New or small districts are exempt from this requirement and may propose only professional development or only parent engagement activities.
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- Each district proposing student activities must serve at least 20 unduplicated students or more.
- Districts may serve students and parents who have been in the U.S. less than five years.



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

FEDERAL FUNDING → ***Funded Districts must comply with federal regulations.***

All funded grantees will be required to:

- collect data
- submit reports to meet ORR Refugee School Impact requirements

If providing student services:

- provide individualized student demographic data,
- submit English Language Proficiency Assessment (WIDA) data.

If providing student or parent services:

- collect and submit copies of ***immigration documentation*** verifying that participants are eligible for refugee services.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- To more closely align activities to the ORR priorities, core activity types for student activities only include:
 - (1) Literacy and STEM
 - (2) School Navigation/Integration
 - (3) Graduation and Beyond
 - (4) Mentoring
 - (5) Behavioral Health/Mental Health Supports.
- Stand-alone field trips and recreational activities are NOT allowable. You can use grant funds for field trips/recreational activities in conjunction with a core activity type.
- Orientation has been removed from our activity type descriptors because we have fewer new arrivals, but you can provide this service under School Navigation/Integration.
- We added Behavioral Health/Mental Health Supports, which includes counseling, group therapy, support groups, specialized programming to address trauma, to improve well-being and to build resiliency, etc.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS – Part 1



- Grant funds **cannot** be used to serve ineligible students and parents. Ineligible students and parents cannot benefit from programming solely funded through this grant. **Any programming that supports both eligible and ineligible students and parents must have proportional non-RSIP funding.**
- Grant funds **cannot** be used for stand-alone field trips or recreational activities. **Field trips and recreational activities can only be offered in conjunction with a core program** such as an English as a Second Language class, tutoring, newcomer or transitional program, after school and summer program, mentoring, behavioral health support, or programming that supports integration. **A student must be enrolled in a core program in order to participate in a field trip or a recreational activity.**
- These RSIP-District services must either **be different** from the RSIP-School Age CBO and ERSI services **or serve individuals not participating** in RSIP-School Age CBO or ERSI services.
- **LIMITATIONS: Administrative costs are limited to 15% or your district's federally approved indirect rate.**

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS – Part 2



UNALLOWABLE - Grant funds **cannot** be used for:

- Teaching a language other than English
- Participant stipends
- College application fees
- Driver's license or permit fees
- Parents' English classes or job search activities
- Case management related to families' basic needs
- Resource/referral services related to families' basic needs
- Construction and renovation
- Supplanting other federal, state, local or private funds available to assist refugee students

Request for Proposal (RFP) and Application Information



[Click here to apply](#)

Timeline

- **May 21, 2026, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM:** Optional Virtual Information Session
[Click here to register](#)
- **May 29, 2026:** Recording of the virtual information session will be available on this page.
- **June 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM PST:** Proposals are due.
[Click here to apply](#)
- **July 31, 2026:** Tentative notification from SOWA to districts.
- **October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027:** Anticipated funding period for projects.

<https://schoolsoutwashington.org/grant-initiatives/refugee-school-impact-program/2026-2027-district-rfp/>



Application



2026-2027 REFUGEE SCHOOL IMPACT (RSI) District GRANT PROPOSAL APPLICATION

Quick Links:

- [Application Template](#)
- [CBO Attestation Template](#)

Instructions:

Applications must be submitted through this online process. We recommend that you review the questions and additional instructions in the Application Template linked above before beginning the application. You can also draft responses in the template, then copy them into the application for submission.

If you start the online application and would like to save your work to complete later, select "Save and continue later" at the top right of your screen starting on the second page. Follow the prompts and review the instructions carefully. A unique link will be emailed to you that will allow you to return to your application where you left off. Please check your spam if you do not receive it.

QUESTIONS:

Please contact Sheona Sauna at ssauna@schoolsoutwashington.org or (206) 336-6919.

Applications are due by June 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. PST.

CLICK "NEXT" BELOW TO START THE APPLICATION

Next



Application

- I. **Contact Information** (For district and community partners)
- II. Student/Parent/Staff **Activity Description**
- III. **Narrative** (Needs, Project, Rationale, Partnership Roles, Reflection [For previously funded districts] & Experience [For new districts])
- IV. **Budget**, Indirect Rate & Budget Justification (For district and community partners)
- V. **Attestation** (For district and community partners)



Application Changes

- Student Activity Type: (1) Literacy and STEM; (2) School Navigation/Integration; (3) Graduation and Beyond; (4) Mentoring; and (5) Behavioral Health/Mental Health Supports.
- Estimate number of students to be served through each student activity.
- New Districts – Your experience with refugee services & community partnerships.
- State your indirect rate & Explain if not using your federal indirect rate.
- Budget Justification: Staffing
 - “Jane Smith, Refugee Community Nonprofit, Refugee Youth Afterschool Program Coordinator, 0.5 FTE, Responsibilities: Plan afterschool activities, Facilitate programming for youth, Manage daily operations, Supervise Volunteers, Collect immigration documents from families, Communicate with Families.”

CBO Attestation



[Insert CBO LETTERHEAD]

[Insert Date]

RE: 2026-2027 Refugee School Impact Grant Proposal Application

SECTION 5: Community -Based Organization (CBO) Partner ATTESTATION

I attest that I have reviewed the entire grant proposal application for [Insert District's Name] including these sections:

- 1. Contact Information,***
- 2. Activity Description,***
- 3. Narrative,***
- 4. Budget***

and that all of the information provided in this grant proposal application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,

[Insert Signature]

[Insert Name of Contact Person for the CBO Partner]

[Insert Title of Contact Person for the CBO Partner]

[Insert Name of CBO Organization]



Application Reminders

- Download the Application Template (Word version) as a guide
- The Application Template cannot be submitted. You must submit through the online application portal.
- Use “Save and Continue Later”
- Start Early and Submit Early
- Contact Us with Questions

RFP Timeline



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For more information:

Sheona Sauna

ssauna@schoolsoutwashington.org

