



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

**Ellie Dawson, ORIA Program Manager
SOWA CBO RFP Information Session
June 17, 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



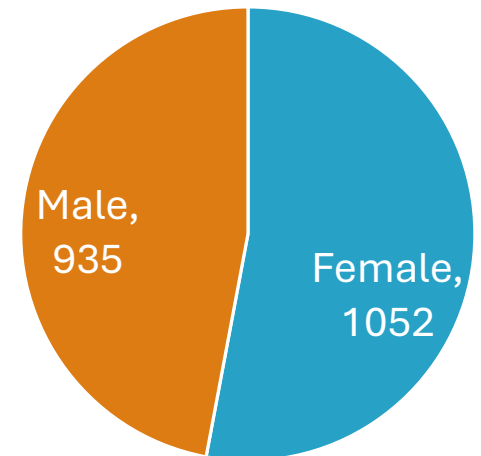
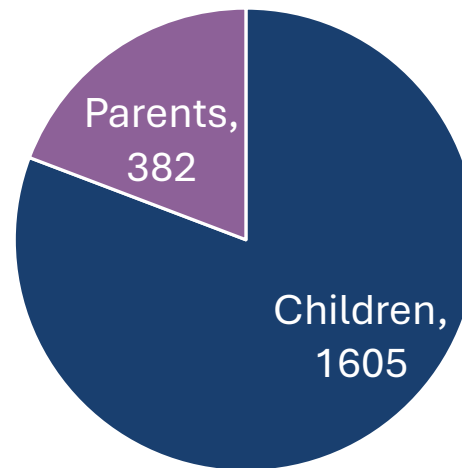
RSIP Impact

October 2025 to March 2026

RSIP Overview

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

- 53% Female
- 47% Male
- 81% Children
- 19% Parents

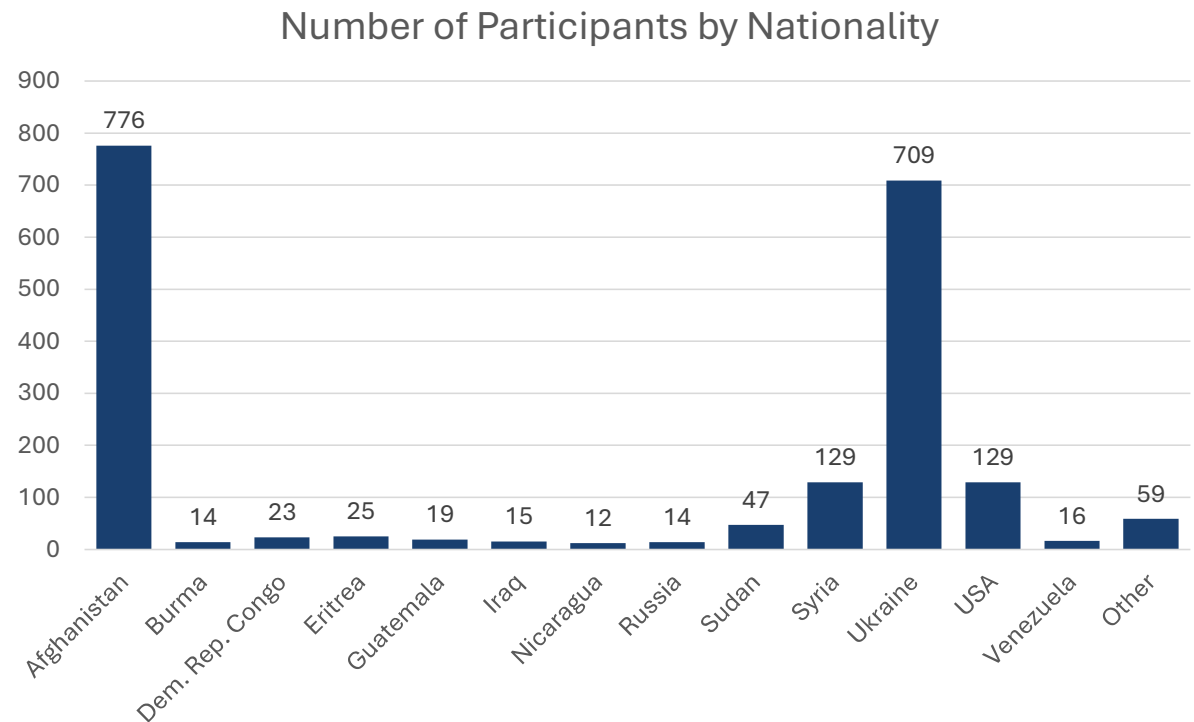


- An additional **20 adults** participated in the Paraeducator Training Program

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

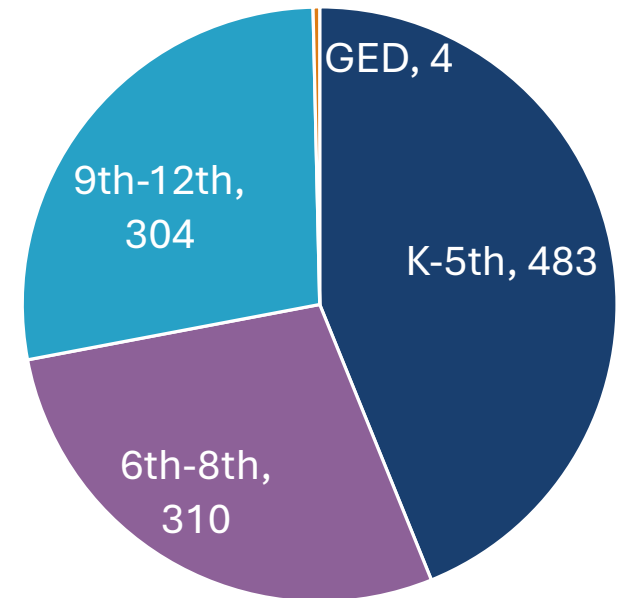




RSIP K-12

- **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%

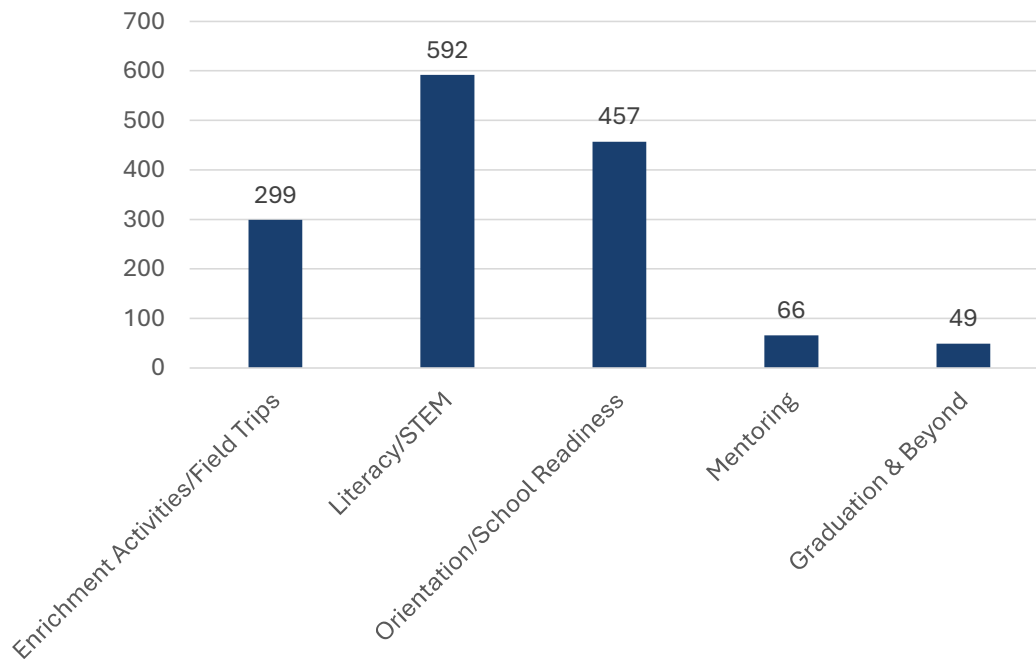
Number of Students Served by Grade Level



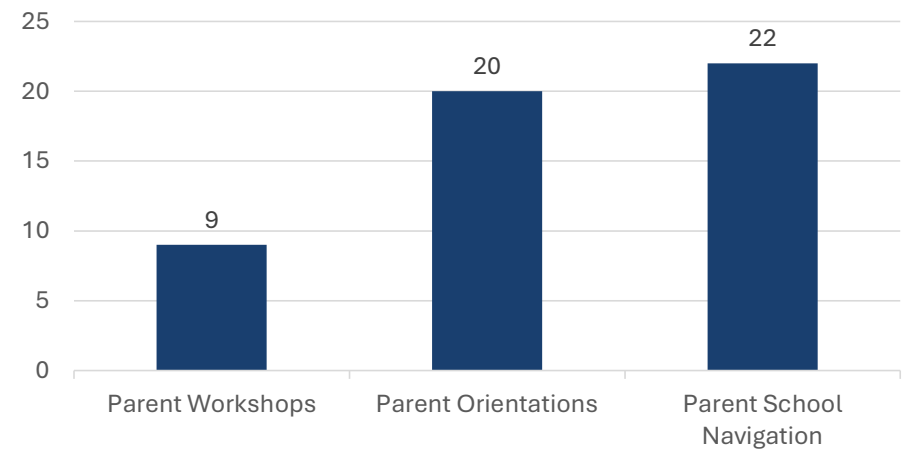


RSIP K-12 Outcomes

of Participating Students by Activity Type



of Participating Parents by Activity Type

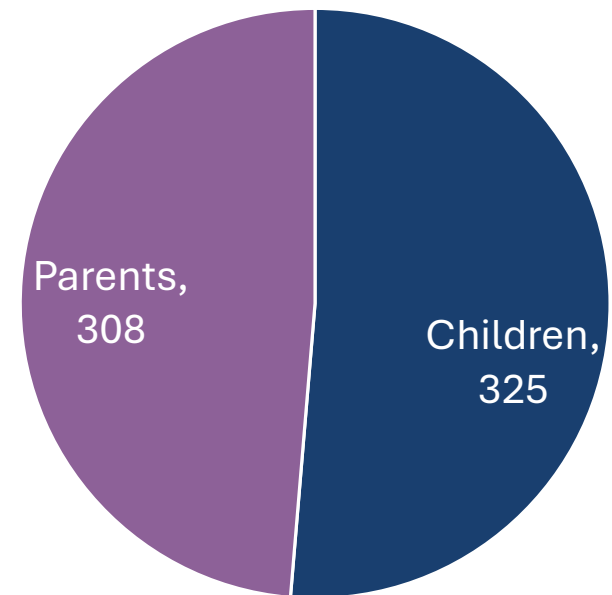




Early RSIP

- **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
Program Manager
Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance
Ellie.Dawson@dshs.wa.gov



Early Refugee School Impact (ERSI) RFP Info Session

July 16, 2026





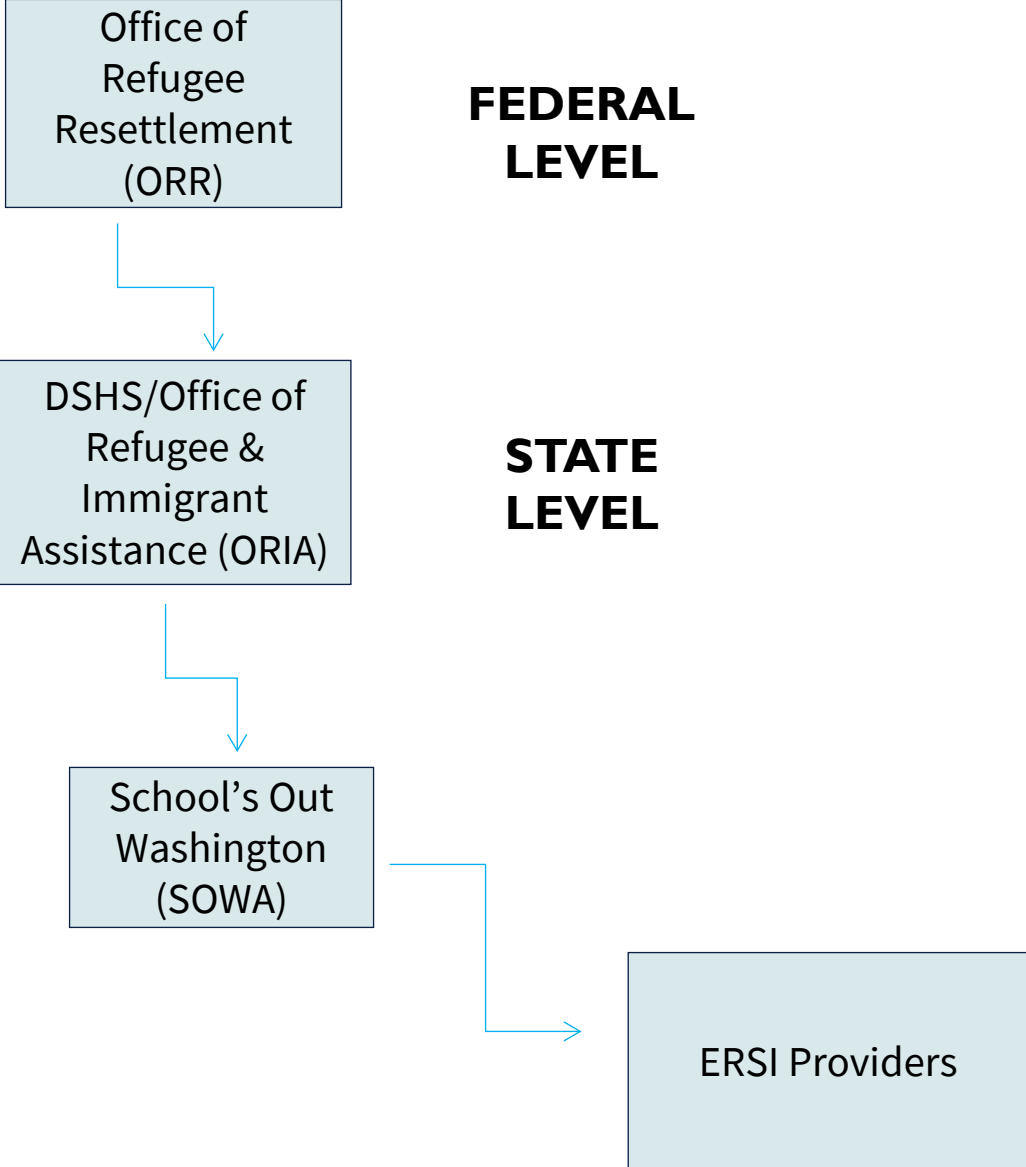
Agenda

1. ORIA Presentation
2. Funding Overview
3. Funding Requirements
4. Eligible Beneficiaries
5. Application Overview
6. Evaluation Information for the Application
7. Q & A

Funding Overview



FUNDING





ERSI Program Goals

- 1) **Support families** of young children (ages birth to five and not yet in Kindergarten) as they **navigate daycare and preschool systems** and **remove barriers to child care and preschool access.**
- 2) Ensure young children (ages birth to five and not yet in Kindergarten) are **prepared to succeed in formal schooling** by providing programs that **build young children's academic and social skills.**
- 3) Support parents through **engagement activities** through **parenting classes, peer-support groups, or home visiting services.**



ERSI Core Program Areas

- a) **Facilitate child care and preschool access** by supporting families with systems navigation, including the ***subsidy application process***, and helping families ***enroll their children in day care, Head Start/Early Head Start, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)/Early ECEAP, or other appropriate preschool.***
- b) **Support the academic and social preparation of young children for formal schooling (preschool or Kindergarten)**, through providing specialized services that ***support the cognitive, social, and emotional growth*** of preschool-aged children, administering developmental ***screening tools***, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition (ASQ-3), and working with districts to determine ***special education eligibility.***
- c) **Support parent engagement**, through providing ***parenting classes or peer support groups*** that focus on topics such as: healthy early childhood development, developmental milestones, the rights of children with disabilities, school systems, and U.S. child welfare laws, and through ***home visiting services*** that enhance a parent's ability to ***support early childhood development.***

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: \$1.3M.
- Typical award amount range: \$100,000-\$250,000, and up to \$300,000 for consortium applicants
- 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 Early Refugee School Impact Program.



SUBGRANT APPLICANTS

Minimum Qualifications:

- WA State Business License
- Nonprofit – 501(c)3
- Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- 2 Years Experience (within past 5 Years) of Refugee/Immigrant Services
- 2 Years Experience (within past 5 Years) of Young Children(Birth to 5 Years Old) Services or Related to Proposed Services
- Accessible Location/Space for Refugees/Immigrants with Disabilities Near Public Transportation
- Capacity to Serve in Primary Language of Participants



SUBGRANT APPLICANTS

CONSORTIUM

- Organizations may either apply on their own or within a consortium, but not both, in the same county.
- **NO** – An organization **cannot apply** as a primary contractor in King County and be a consortium member for another primary contractor in King County.
- **YES** – An organization **may apply** as a primary contractor in Snohomish County and be a consortium member for another primary contractor in King County.

SCHOOLS

Schools, school districts, and educational districts may **not** apply.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

- Religious organizations **may apply**.
- Funds to religious organizations **may not support religious programming or materials**.

Funding Requirements



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS



Funded Grantees must:

- Implement at least one direct service to young children (ages birth to five and not yet in Kindergarten) and/or their parents.
- Measure and report results on one client outcome.
- Provide narrative and financial reports.
- Submit background check results for staff/volunteers working directly with clients.
- Provide individualized client demographic data.
- Provide copies of immigration documentation verifying that participants are eligible.
- Maintain Commercial General Liability Insurance or Business Liability Insurance (including coverage for bodily injury, property damage, and contractual liability).
- Comply with federal regulations.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS



This award is subject to the Administration for Children & Families (ACF) General Terms and Conditions – Mandatory, Formula, Block and Entitlement Grant Programs. These requirements may be found at [Mandatory GENERAL TERMS and CONDITIONS – 2021 Update.pdf \(hhs.gov\)](#)

Grantees must:

- Comply with the Administrative Requirements of the General Terms and Conditions.
- Not presently be debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal department or agency from participating in transactions (debarred).
- Maintain records that identify, in its accounts all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received;
- Maintain internal controls that provide reasonable assurance that federal awards are managed in compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a material effect on each of its federal programs;
- Prepare appropriate financial statements, including a schedule of expenditures of federal awards;
- Procure and pay for a single audit or a program-specific audit for that fiscal year if \$1,000,000 or more in federal awards from any and/or all sources are expended in any fiscal year.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS – Part 1



- Funding **cannot** be used to serve children who are in Kindergarten or aged six or above.
- Funding **cannot** be used to serve parents who do not have children ages birth to five.
- Funding **cannot** be used to pay for or create child care or preschool programs.
- Funding **cannot** be used to serve ineligible clients. Ineligible clients cannot benefit from programs solely funded through this grant. Any program that serves both eligible and ineligible clients must have proportional non-ERSI funding.
- Funding **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. A client must be enrolled in a core program in order to participate in a field trip or a recreational activity.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS – Part 2



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

- creating child care or preschool programs;
- teaching a language other than English;
- participant stipends (money paid to individuals for participating in programs);
- driver's license or permit fees;
- parents' English classes or job search activities;
- case management and resource/referral services related to families' basic needs;
- construction/renovation; and
- lobbying.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS – Part 3



- ERSI activities may not duplicate services already funded by ORIA or another funder.
- Services rendered and reported under ERSI may not be billed to other funding sources.
- These ERSI services must either be different from the RSIP-District and RSIP-School-Age CBO services or serve individuals not participating in RSIP-District or RSIP-School-Age CBO services.
- Administrative costs are limited to 15% or your organization's federally approved indirect rate.

Eligible Beneficiaries





Eligible 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**;



Eligible Beneficiaries (cont.)

Participants (must):

B. 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 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 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.***



Eligible Beneficiaries (cont.)

i. U.S. born children

(ages birth to five not yet in Kindergarten) of parent(s) with the above-named immigration statuses if:

- The child is in a single-parent family with a parent who is ORR-eligible, or
- The child is in a two-parent family and both parents are ORR-eligible.

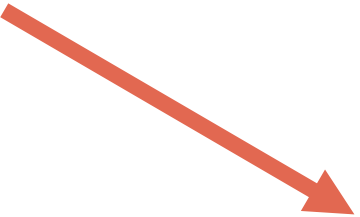
*Note: Young children with at least one U.S. citizen parent are ineligible for the ERSI program.

j. Other populations made eligible by ORR

Application Overview



Request for Proposal (RFP) and Application Information



[Click here to apply](#)

Timeline

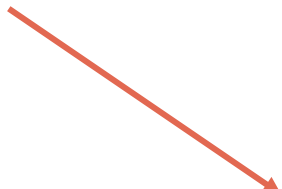
- **July 16, 2026, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM:** Optional Virtual Information Session. [Click here to register](#). The session will be recorded for anyone unable to attend.
- **August 14, 2026 by 5:00 PM PST: Proposals are due.**
- **September 30, 2026:** Anticipated date of award notification from School's Out Washington.
- **October 1, 2026–September 30, 2027:** Anticipated funding period for projects.

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



Application

2026-2027 EARLY REFUGEE SCHOOL IMPACT (ERSI) GRANT PROPOSAL APPLICATION



[Application 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 and draft responses there. Once responses are completed in the template, they can be copied into the application for submission.

Alternatively, 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. You must supply an email address to save your progress. A unique link will be emailed to you that will allow you to return to your application where you left off.

For more detailed information on filling out the application, see the notes in the application template.

QUESTIONS:

Please contact Pang Chang at pchang@schoolsoutwashington.org or (206) 336-6933.

Applications are due by August 14th, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. PST.

CLICK "NEXT" BELOW TO START THE APPLICATION



Next



APPLICATION

I. Contact Information

II. Activity Description

III. Narrative (Project Description, Rationale, Implementation, Reflection [For previously funded organizations] & Experience [For new organizations])

IV. Outcomes and Evaluation

V. Budget, Indirect Rate, Budget Justification, Staffing

VI. Attestation

CONTACTS



1.Primary Contact – 1st Point of Contact

2.Contract Signer – Authorized to sign contract on behalf of organization

3.Financial Contact – Asked to provide organization's banking information for electronic payments through secure portal



ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Activity Name/Description
- Activity Type
 - ☐ EARLY LEARNING ACCESS (Navigation, Subsidy, Enrollment)
 - ☐ PREPARE YOUNG CHILDREN (Screenings, Special Education, Skill Development)
 - ☐ PARENT ENGAGEMENT (Parenting, Peer Support, Home Visiting)
- For Children or Parents?
- Location
- Program Day/Hours
- Number to be served by this Activity

NARRATIVE



- Project Description – WHAT? (Activities, Locations, Populations)
- Rationale – WHY? (Needs to be addressed, Desired achievements)
- Implementation – HOW?
 - ✓ Plan for Service Delivery, Meeting Needs of Participants, Staffing
 - ✓ Outreach
 - ✓ Eligibility Documentation & Consent Forms (Specify for each service type)
- Reflection [For previously funded organizations]
 - ✓ Successes
 - ✓ Challenges
 - ✓ Changes
- Experience [For new organizations]
 - ✓ Experience serving refugees, young children, parents
 - ✓ Accomplishments/Challenges in Serving Refugees
 - ✓ Experience with Collecting Immigration Documentation



BUDGET

- To calculate the Indirect Cost:
 - SUBTOTAL (All Categories: Salary through Other, before Admin/Indirect)
 - Take Subtotal x Indirect Rate (For Example 15%)
- What is your Indirect Rate?
- Do you have a federally approved indirect rate? Explain if not using your federal indirect rate.
- Budget Justification – Explain connection between activities and budget items. Why are these costs needed? Why are these costs reasonable?
- Staffing
 - “Jane Smith, 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.”
- “Other” Budget Category – Explain.



Attestation

- I understand that these are **federal funds** and that my organization will need to comply with federal regulations.
- I understand that my organization will need to **collect immigration documents** for all refugee students and parents served through this grant.
- I attest that my organization is a **501(c)3 nonprofit**.
- I attest that my organization has a **current WA State business license**.
- I attest that my organization has **General Liability Insurance** with coverage of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 General Aggregate.
- I attest that my organization has a **formal system of accounting and internal controls** that complies with generally accepted accounting principles.
- I understand that my organization will need to **provide multiple financial reports** throughout the grant period.

*I attest that I have reviewed this entire grant proposal. (Name, Title, Date)

[AFTER COMPLETION, CHECK INBOX OR JUNK EMAIL BOX FOR PDF OF APPLICATION]



Application Reminders

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

RFP Timeline



- **August 14, 2026** at 5:00 PM PST: Proposals are due.
- **September 30, 2026**: Tentative notification from SOWA to funded organizations.
- **October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027**: Anticipated funding period for projects.

Evaluation Information for the Application





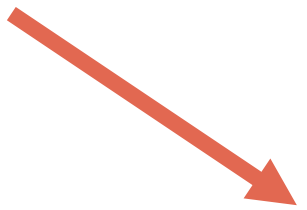
Evaluation

Defining our terms

Program Evaluation is a means of studying the effectiveness of initiatives or projects.

Two types:

- **Process evaluation** answers the question “Is the program being implemented as designed?” It can be used to examine how a program is being implemented, and find things that went well and areas of potential improvement.
- **Outcomes evaluation** examines how well a program has achieved its objectives and goals. (*Example: Students at the end of an English program feeling more confidence speaking English; Students feeling an increased sense of belonging, etc.*).



Outcomes and Measures

Definitions (continued)

Outcomes describe the intended results of a program, generally on its participants.

Example: For a program aimed at school readiness, an outcome might be "Children are more ready for kindergarten".

Measures are how you measure if outcomes are achieved.

Example: For the above outcome, one potential measure could be asking parents to answer the following survey question.

Do you agree with the statement: "Since coming to this program, my child is more ready for kindergarten."



ERSI Outcomes Table



Outcomes	Potential Measures
Children are more ready for kindergarten.	“Since coming to this program, my child is more ready to start kindergarten”
Children with developmental delays make gains in the area where development delays were identified.	“This program has helped my child improve in areas where they were struggling”, “This program has helped my child make gains in areas where their development was behind other children their age”
Children have increased skill in (skill area)	“This program has helped my child increase their skill in (skill area)”
Parents are more involved in their child’s development.	“Since coming to this program, I am more involved in my child’s development”
Parents’ increase their ability to respond to their child’s needs at home.	“This program has helped me respond to my child’s needs,” “Since coming to this program, I am better able to support my child’s wellbeing”
Parents have an increased ability to support their child’s education (and/or school readiness)	“Since coming to this program, I feel more confident in my ability to support my child’s education,” “Since coming to this program, I feel more confident in my ability to support my child’s learning”
Parents have increased skill in (skill area)	“This program has helped me increase my skill in (skill area)”



Outcomes & Measures in RFP: Part A

1. Choose an Outcome from the ERSI Outcomes Table

- (RFP Question) How is the outcome you chose meaningful for the clients who will participate in your program?

2. Decide on a Measure

- Choose a Measure from the ERSI Outcomes Table OR
- Suggest your own Measure



SECTION 4: OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

Your answers should be complete and thorough, as they will be a part of contract requirements for any funded organization. We understand evaluation plans may change, and you will have opportunities to update/amend this information.

Please refer to the [Outcomes Measures Warehouse and Guide](#) and the [ERSI Outcomes Table](#) before filling out this section.

Section 4 Part A: Choose Outcome and Measure

Do you intend to use one of our suggested measures from the [ERSI Outcomes Table](#), or do you intend to suggest your own? *

Note: Even if you have multiple activities and are planning on collecting different outcomes/measures for the various activities, we only want to receive evaluation data on one outcome and one measure for the activity where you anticipate serving the most clients. Please fill out this section based on the one activity where you anticipate serving the most clients.

☒ Use a Suggested Measure

☐ Suggest Your Own

Select 1 outcome and 1 measure that you will track for 2026-2027 from the drop-down options *

These outcomes and measures are taken from the ERSI Outcomes Table linked above. We highly suggest looking at that document before choosing your outcomes and measures.

Outcome

Measure

Section 4 Part B: Add Information on Outcomes and Data Collection

Outcomes & Measures: Section 4 of the Application Form



Outcomes & Measures in RFP: Part B

Everyone will answer:

- Will you translate?
- Measure once or multiple times?
- When are you planning on starting and finishing data collection? [response must be a date; can be an estimate]

If you used a suggested measure or suggest your own survey measure:

- If traditional, will you use a paper or digital survey?
- how do you plan to survey parents/caregivers?



Outcomes & Measures in RFP: Part B

If you suggest your own measure:

- How do you intend to measure your chosen outcome (traditional survey, movement survey, interviews, etc.)?
- What question do you intend to ask?

If you suggest a non-survey measure:

- Will you ask all of your target audience to participate in the evaluation process, or will you only aim to include a subset of the target population?
- How will you analyze your data and determine if the outcome has been met?
- Describe any logistics around the collection of evaluation data that has not already been entered on this page.
- What are the benefits of using your chosen method?

Technical Assistance

One-to-one sessions for organizations to access technical assistance (TA) on:

- Selecting Outcomes and Measures, and/or
- Developing an Evaluation Plan and/or
- Answering questions on the outcomes section of the application

Please contact:

Katherine McCall

Email: kmccall@schoolsoutwashington.org

Call: +1 206-451-2813

Or [schedule a meeting directly](#)





For more information on the RFP:

Please contact:

Pang Chang

pchang@schoolsoutwashington.org

