

## **5101:1-2-40.2 Refugee resettlement program; refugee social services**

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### (A) Refugee resettlement program.

The refugee resettlement program was established to standardize the services that are available for refugees admitted to the United States (U.S.). There are three components to the refugee resettlement program (RRP):

- (1) Refugee cash assistance (RCA) provides cash payments to eligible refugees. RCA requirements are delineated in rule 5101:1-2-40 of the Administrative Code.
- (2) Refugee medical assistance (RMA) provides medical assistance to eligible refugees. RMA requirements are delineated in rule 5101:1-2-40.1 of the Administrative Code.
- (3) The refugee social services program (RSSP) provides employability, acculturation, citizenship and naturalization services. RSSP requirements for mandatory and voluntary participants as well as the responsibilities of the county department of job and family services (CDJFS) are delineated in rules 5101:1-2-40.2 to 5101:1-2-40.5 of the Administrative Code.

### (B) Definitions.

- (1) A "refugee" is someone outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to or have the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution, on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.
- (2) A "resettlement agency" is a local affiliate or subcontractor of a national voluntary agency that has entered into a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement with the United States department of state or other appropriate federal agency to provide for the reception and initial placement of refugees in the U.S.
- (3) A "secondary migrant" is a refugee who was originally resettled in another state before moving to Ohio.

### (C) Priority order for RSSP.

- (1) Refugees eligible for RSSP are provided services in the following priority order:

- (a) All newly arriving refugees during their first year in the United States.
- (b) Refugees who are receiving cash assistance under Ohio works first (OWF), disability financial assistance (DFA), supplemental security income (SSI) or RCA.
- (c) Unemployed refugees who are not receiving OWF, DFA, SSI or RCA.
- (d) Employed refugees in need of services to retain employment or to attain economic independence.

(2) In addition, employability services and vocational training may also be provided to refugees who are sixteen years of age or older and who are not full-time students in elementary or secondary schools. The following employment services may be provided:

- (a) Employment services, including development of a facility self-sufficiency plan, and an individual employability plan, world-of-work and job orientation, job clubs, job workshops, job development, referral to job opportunities, job search, job placement, and follow-up; and
- (b) Employability assessment services, including aptitude and skills testing.

(3) The services specified in paragraph (C)(2) of this rule must be provided in order for the refugee to obtain part-time or summer employment while the refugee is a student, or to obtain full-time permanent employment upon completion of schooling.

(D) General eligibility.

(1) All refugee social services can be provided for up to five years from the date of arrival in the U.S. Citizenship, naturalization preparation services, referral, and interpreter services may be provided beyond five years.

(2) Refugees must be afforded an opportunity to apply for RSSP and have eligibility determined in a timely manner.

(a) Refugees applying for RSSP only shall use the JFS 01457 (rev. 3/2005) as referenced in "Appendix A," as the application for services.

(b) Refugees applying for or in receipt of RCA or RMA are automatically eligible for RSSP. A separate application is not needed for RSSP.

(3) Eligibility shall be limited to those refugees who meet the immigration status and identification stated in rule 5101:1-2-40 of the Administrative Code and who reside in counties receiving an allocation of RSSP funds. In situations

where the refugee is not applying for or in receipt of RCA or RMA, the refugee case manager will review the refugee's "I-94" and/or utilize the systematic alien verification for entitlement (SAVE) program to verify a refugee's immigration status.

(4) RSSP case records must contain verification of refugee status in accordance with rule 5101:1-2-40 of the Administrative Code. Confidentiality standards must be in accordance with section 5101.27 of the Revised Code.

(5) A refugee applying for or in receipt of RSSP has all the hearing and notice requirement rights set forth in division-level designation Chapter 5101:6 of the Administrative Code. In a case in which there is a timely hearing request, social services may remain pending until a hearing decision is rendered. Except when services continue as a result of a timely hearing request, services must be terminated effective the end of the last month of the time-limited eligibility period as set forth in paragraph (D)(1) of this rule.

(6) Eligibility re-determinations will be completed at least once every twelve months, or more frequently if needed.

(7) The refugee has ten calendar days to report a change in employment status or any other factor that may affect RSSP eligibility.

The resources and income of the refugee are not considered when determining eligibility for RSSP.

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