



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr

Fiscal Year 2021 Youth Mentoring Refugee Support Services Set-Aside

Dear Colleague Letter 21-11

Date: July 1, 2021

Dear Colleague:

ORR will issue Youth Mentoring (YM) funding to states¹ as a “set-aside” within the fiscal year (FY) 2021² Refugee Support Services (RSS) formula allocation. This letter describes ORR’s method of determining YM FY 2021 allocations and details the FY 2021 funding amounts, for YM program activities to be conducted in FY 2022. For a description of program goals and recommended services, as well as program reporting and monitoring activities, please reference [ORR Policy Letter 19-02](#).

Qualification for FY 2021 Allocations

The FY 2021 allocations to states are based on the number of ORR-eligible individuals ages 15-24 who arrived and were served in FY 2019 and FY 2020 (combined), as reported in the ORR-5 and verified against a number of federal sources in the ORR Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS). The Congressional Justification for FY 2021 indicated that ORR will use this two-year lookback period to determine RSS allocations, providing a level of funding stability in response to the dramatic decrease in arrivals in the past year.

This year is the beginning of a three-year qualification period for the YM set-aside. States that qualify for funding this year will remain eligible to receive funding for the next two years. In FY 2021, forty-five states whose arrived/served population is above the RSS base formula floor threshold³ will receive a Youth Mentoring Set-Aside allocation. Given the President’s target for increased refugee arrivals in FY 2022, current floor states may also see increasing arrivals, and ORR may elect to include additional states depending on arrival patterns and overall availability of funds.

FY 2021 Allocation Chart

The chart below documents the number of eligible individuals served by each state in FY 2019 and FY 2020 and the corresponding funding allocations for the YM program in FY 2021. The

¹ “States” throughout this Dear Colleague Letter refers to states and replacement designees.

² October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

³ Please refer to RSS DCL-21-10 for listing of RSS base formula floor states.

allocations are based on the availability of federal funding and will be awarded as an annual award in the fourth quarter of FY 2021. As required under 45 C.F.R. §400.210, these funds must be obligated by September 30, 2022 and liquidated by September 30, 2023.

State	FYs 2019 + 2020: Total Served	FY 2021 Allocation
Florida	3,572	\$755,000
Texas	2,950	\$705,000
California	2,014	\$605,000
New York	950	\$504,376
Washington	848	\$450,382
Virginia	675	\$358,500
Arizona	642	\$340,885
Maryland	568	\$301,405
Kentucky	534	\$283,525
Michigan	516	\$273,788
Georgia	486	\$258,120
Pennsylvania	460	\$244,311
Ohio	450	\$238,734
Illinois	444	\$235,813
North Carolina	398	\$211,117
Colorado	367	\$194,918
Minnesota	305	\$161,723
Massachusetts	275	\$145,790
Missouri	263	\$139,417
Tennessee	255	\$135,345
Nevada	239	\$126,758
Iowa	209	\$110,914
Utah	201	\$106,665
New Jersey	200	\$106,222
Oregon	191	\$101,177
Indiana	189	\$100,115
Wisconsin	171	\$100,000
Nebraska	149	\$100,000
Idaho	139	\$100,000
Kansas	132	\$100,000
Connecticut	96	\$75,000
New Hampshire	77	\$65,000
Oklahoma	72	\$65,000
New Mexico	55	\$50,000
Maine	53	\$50,000
South Carolina	52	\$50,000
Louisiana	48	\$50,000

North Dakota ⁴	47	\$50,000
District of Columbia	41	\$45,000
Rhode Island	40	\$45,000
South Dakota	39	\$45,000
Vermont	37	\$45,000
Montana	32	\$40,000
Arkansas	25	\$35,000
Alaska	18	\$35,000
Total	19,514	\$8,340,000

Explanation of Allocations

YM allocations fall into the following tiers: 1) a top tier for states that served over 1,000 eligible individuals, which was further broken down to sub-tiers of 1,000-2,500 (\$605,000), 2,501-3,500 (\$705,000), and more than 3,500 (\$755,000); 2) a per capita tier for states that served between 189-950 eligible individuals; and 3) a floor tier for states that served between 15-188 eligible individuals that was further broken down to sub-tiers of 15-25 (\$35,000), 26-35 (\$40,000), 36-45 (\$45,000), 46-55 (\$50,000), 56-80 (\$65,000), 81-100 (\$75,000), and 101-188 (\$100,000). The goal of the tiered system is to ensure those states with similar numbers receive comparable funding, while also ensuring that those states with lower arrival numbers have sufficient and sustainable funding.

Please note that even though this allocation reflected is based on arrivals for FY 2019 and FY 2020, the service population includes all arrivals for the past five-year period.

Resources

Please direct any questions about this Dear Colleague Letter to your ORR Regional Representative/Regional Analyst. We also encourage you to utilize ORR's [technical assistance provider\(s\)](#) for additional resources on serving refugees.

We appreciate your work to support newly arriving populations and trust that this allocation will benefit these efforts and the refugee youth that you serve.

Sincerely,
Cindy Huang
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement

⁴ The FY 2021 funding chart does not include funds (totaling \$56,250) that was issued to the state of North Dakota after the state assumed oversight of the RSS program upon the withdrawal from the program by Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (LSSND) in February 2021. These funds were originally issued to LSSND in FY 2020 for services to be provided in FY 2021.