



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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

FY 2020 Youth Mentoring Set-Aside

Dear Colleague Letter 20-09

August 31, 2020

Dear Colleague:

ORR is pleased to announce the Refugee Support Services (RSS) Youth Mentoring (YM) “Set-Aside” for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. This letter specifies formulation and allocation details and is a supplement to the Youth Mentoring Policy Letter (PL 19-02) which identifies program goals, eligibility, and reporting and monitoring requirements.

Background

Many refugee youth and young adults (henceforth referred to as refugee youth) arrive to the United States after protracted periods of displacement in, or proximate to, conflict zones. As a result, they have often suffered or witnessed trauma, been victims of violence, and experienced the loss of, or separation from, family members, homes and communities. Refugee youth arrive with unique individual strengths, aspirations, and dreams for their futures; however, the nature of their refugee experience can hinder integration into the local community. Refugee youth may arrive to the United States with limited English proficiency and often without social connections or family ties. These challenges can frequently perpetuate feelings of isolation, insecurity, and powerlessness. Access to formal education by refugee youth prior to arrival varies greatly, and many have had little or no experience in classroom or vocational support settings. Some refugee youth may have completed education or training certification in their country of origin but this achievement may not transfer to the United States. As an alternative to school enrollment, refugee youth who are beyond the age of compulsory school enrollment may be encouraged to pursue their GED or a vocational pathway but do not have the individual support they need to pursue these options in their new communities.

Without adequate social support to encourage integration into their new communities and to advance their educational and vocational goals, some refugee youth may become disillusioned about their future, and may engage in anti-social behavior and activity or become at-risk for depression or social isolation. Connecting refugee youth to caring and supportive members of their community can provide invaluable support as they adjust to their communities and learn to identify, and strive to achieve, their educational or vocational goals, ultimately facilitating integration and economic self-sufficiency.

To ensure a positive path towards social and economic integration, ORR has prioritized the formulation of a Youth Mentoring Set-Aside program. The primary goals of this program are to 1) promote positive civic and social engagement and to 2) support individual educational and vocational advancement.

FY 2020 Allocations

The FY 2020 allocations to states and replacement designees are based on the number of ORR-eligible individuals ages 15-24 who were served by the state in the previous fiscal year (FY 2019¹) as reported in the ORR-5 and that was verified against the ORR Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS).

States that received over 70 ORR-eligible individuals between the ages of 15-24 qualify for funding. The chart below documents the number of eligible served populations by each state in FY 2019 and the corresponding funding allocations for the YM program for FY 2020. The proposed allocations are based on availability of federal funding and will be included in the 4th quarter FY 2020 RSS allocation as a set-aside.

As noted in the chart below, some states that were funded in FY 2019 did not receive over 70 ORR-eligible individuals in FY 2020; however, ORR plans to continue funding these states for three years before needing to requalify. This fiscal year, FY 2020, is considered the third and final year of this funding cycle.

As with all funding, the Youth Mentoring RSS set-aside is based on the availability of federal funding and the priorities of the ORR Director. As required under ORR regulation §400.210, these funds must be obligated by September 30, 2021 and must be liquidated by September 30, 2022.

State	Total Served	Allocation
Florida	2,479	\$800,000
Texas	1,903	\$750,000
California	1,041	\$650,000
New York	638	\$547,383
Washington	491	\$421,042
Arizona	411	\$352,440
Kentucky	388	\$333,003
Virginia	368	\$315,138
Michigan	355	\$303,990
Ohio	341	\$292,414
Georgia	340	\$291,556
Maryland	310	\$265,831
Pennsylvania	294	\$252,111
Illinois	294	\$251,682
North Carolina	266	\$227,671

¹ October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019.

Colorado	246	\$210,950
Tennessee	197	\$168,931
Minnesota	189	\$162,071
Missouri	186	\$159,070
Nevada	180	\$154,496
Iowa	174	\$149,208
Massachusetts	165	\$141,062
Utah	135	\$115,622
Oregon	130	\$111,049
Wisconsin	127	\$109,191
New Jersey	120	\$102,473
Indiana	119	\$101,616
Nebraska	101	\$100,000
Kansas	101	\$100,000
Idaho	95	\$100,000
New Hampshire	61	\$75,000
Connecticut	49	\$75,000
Maine	40	\$75,000
North Dakota	38	\$75,000
Total	12,366	\$8,340,000

Explanation of Allocations

Allocations fall into the following tiers: 1) a max tier for states that served over 1,000 eligible individuals that was further broken down to 1,000-1,500 (\$650,000), 1,500-2,000 (\$750,000) and more than 2,000 (\$800,000); 2) a per capita tier for states that served between 119-638 eligible individuals; and 3) a floor tier for states that served between 70-101 eligible individuals (\$100,000). Additionally, there are four states that did not meet the floor tier for FY 2020 but will continue to receive funding based on ORR's plan to fund for three years² prior to requalification (\$75,000).

Resources

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

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

Sincerely,
 Heidi Stirrup, Acting Director
 Office of Refugee Resettlement

² As noted above, this is the third and final year of this funding cycle. All states will need to requalify in FY 2021.