

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION	TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE MANUAL	
REFUGEE ASSISTANCE 1308	COMAR 10.09.24.07 10.09.24.08 07.03.16	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES 1300

1308.1 OVERVIEW

The Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) programs are separate Federal programs, described in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), but administered by LDSS case managers. Please refer to the RCA and RMA manuals for in depth information.

1308.2 REQUIREMENTS

- A. Refugees must apply for cash assistance, medical assistance and/or social services, at the local department of social services in the jurisdiction in which they live.

Exceptions:

Refugees and Asylees in the Baltimore metropolitan region (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Howard and Harford Counties) who are within the first 8 months of their arrival/granted date, must have their benefits processed through the:

Baltimore Resettlement Center
3516 Eastern Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
Telephone 410-558-3166 or 410-327-1885.

The Suburban Washington Resettlement Center (SWRC) in Montgomery County serves refugees and asylees from Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. The address of the SWRC is:

8700 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, 20910
Phone: (301) 562-8633

- B. For RCA applicants:

1. Determine eligibility for Temporary Cash Assistance.
 - a. At the time of application, determine eligibility for TCA before determining eligibility for RCA.
 - b. Refugee families with dependent children living with them are eligible for TCA if they meet the TCA eligibility requirements.

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c. There is no 8-month limit for refugee families receiving TCA.

C. Issue RCA benefits only if TCA eligibility requirements are not met. Refugee individuals or couples with no dependent children living with them would not be eligible for TCA but will be eligible for RCA, if they meet RCA eligibility requirements.

D. Applicants must be immigrants who:

1. Are refugees, asylees, or victims of severe trafficking
2. Have resided in the US less than the eligibility period for RCA which is 8 months or 8 months after the effective date of the asylees' and victims' of severe trafficking status
3. Are ineligible for any other FIP or federal assistance programs but meet RCA need standards and/or RMA financial eligibility standards
4. Are awaiting determination of eligibility for SSI or another disability/old age program
5. Meet income and applicable employment or employability standards
6. Provide the name of their resettlement agency
7. Are not full-time students in institutions of higher education, as defined by the Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), unless higher education is part of an individual's employability plan
6. Have not exceeded the period of payment determined by the ORR Director each fiscal year

1308.3 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

- A. Verify technical eligibility for RCA and/or RMA including refugee or asylee status.
- B. Determine financial eligibility using TCA and/or MA criteria as modified by the circumstances of immigrants who are technically eligible for RCA and/or RMA.

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Note: Refugees are eligible for 5 years from date of entry. The 5-year eligibility period for asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, Ameriasians, and immigrants whose deportation or removal has been withheld begins with the date immigrant status was obtained even if the status is Legal Permanent Resident (LPR).

Note: Customers of RCA who are ineligible for MA are eligible for RMA. However, applicants/customers are ineligible for RMA if they have been denied or terminated from RCA for failing or refusing to accept employability services or employment.

1308.4 EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICES

- A. All RCA applicants/customers must register for employment or employability services unless they are exempt.
 - 1. Local departments may require an individual employed at least 30 hours per week to participate in part-time employability services if it does not interfere with the individual's job
 - 2. Individuals must register for and participate in employment or employability services even if they do not speak English
 - 3. Exempt individuals may voluntarily register for employment
- B. All household individuals who are not exempt must develop an individual employability plan as part of their family self-sufficiency plan.
- C. All employability services and employment must be appropriate according to RCA standards.
- D. Failure or refusal to accept employability services or employment results in one of the following:
 - 1. Deregistration (with no effect on the individual's cash assistance) of a voluntary registrant from the program, at local department discretion, for up to 90 days from the date of determination of failure or refusal

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2. Termination of assistance when a mandatory registrant voluntarily quits a job or fails or refuses, without good cause, to participate in a program or accept a job offer

1308.5 MEDICAL SERVICES

- A. RMA services must at least equal services provided under MA.
- B. Services in addition to MA, such as those that might be provided by county hospitals, are available to refugees to the extent that funds are available.
- C. Provide medical screening if:
 1. The screening is in accordance with requirements set by the ORR Director or a designee
 2. The ORR Director has received written approval for the program or project from the State

<p>Note: Medical screening may be provided without prior verification of eligibility for RMA if performed within 90 days of the refugee's initial entry into the United States.</p>
