ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
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Refugee Support Services Funded by the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act

Policy Letter 22-15

Initially published August 15, 2022
Revised September 19, 2023[1]
Revised January 27, 2025[2]

The Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA) authorizes the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide resettlement assistance and other benefits available for refugees to specific Ukrainian populations and other non-Ukrainian individuals in response to their displacement from Ukraine and entry into the United States. This Policy Letter (PL) describes the ORR Refugee Support Services (RSS) base awards funded by AUSAA. For information about funding allocations, please see the relevant Dear Colleague Letter(s) on the ORR website.

For both AUSAA RSS base awards and AUSAA RSS set-asides, ORR encourages states[3] to bypass standard procurement guidelines regarding competition through September 30, 2024, given the need to facilitate the provision of services as quickly as possible (see also 45 CFR § 75.329(f)(2))[4].

Eligible Populations

AUSAA funding is designated to support Ukrainian populations and other non-Ukrainian individuals as delineated within ORR PL 22-13.

Note that these eligible populations include Ukrainians who came to the United States independently as well as those processed under the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services program, Uniting for Ukraine (U4U).

AUSAA RSS Priority

In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the United States government is resettling a significant number of Ukrainians in the United States within a short time. States may need additional resources to provide resettlement assistance to meet the needs of these arrivals.

This AUSAA RSS funding is intended to provide support for services traditionally provided under RSS base funding (e.g., employment assistance, case management, skills training, English as a second language, assistance in applying for Employment Authorization Documents). This AUSAA RSS funding may also be used, when necessary, to provide housing and food assistance for Ukrainian arrivals. It is important to note that the U4U program includes the involvement of private sponsors (or "supporters") who

[1] September 19, 2023 revisions are footnoted.
[2] January 27, 2025: Removed former section on equity and inclusion
[3] "States" throughout this PL refers to states and replacement designees.
[4] September 19, 2023: September 30, 2023 replaced by September 30, 2024.

commit to providing assistance to the Ukrainian individuals for whom they filed the U.S. government Form I-134 ("beneficiaries"). These private sponsors are expected to provide primary housing and food assistance to U4U. However, grantees may use AUSAA RSS funding to fill gaps in housing needs not met by the private sponsor or when ORR-eligible Ukrainians do not have a sponsor and are not able to support their housing costs.

Grantees may also use AUSAA RSS funding to provide food to Ukrainian arrivals in the short-term. ORR defines short-term as the period before Ukrainian arrivals both (a) are able to access Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and (b) have housing that will allow them to prepare food and cook.

AUSAA RSS base funding may also be used to support any of the activities allowable under the RSS set-aside programs (Refugee School Impact, Youth Mentoring, Services for Older Refugees, and Refugee Health Promotion), to the extent they are not supported by RSS set-aside funding.

ORR encourages State Refugee Coordinators to conduct outreach to identify eligible Ukrainians, including through outreach to private sponsors, and to provide coordination of services for eligible Ukrainians as part of their Cash and Medical Assistance coordination and planning activities.

Service Requirements
States must provide RSS base (and RSS set-aside) services in accordance with 45 CFR Part 400 Subpart I -- Refugee Social Services, ORR PL 21-06, and, if a state requested waivers modifying RSS requirements, ORR PL 21-08 (as well as any additional PLs governing the relevant RSS set-aside(s)).

The regulations at 45 CFR §§ 400.154 and 400.155 define services allowable under RSS. If a state wishes to provide additional services not delineated in these sections, pursuant to 45 CFR § 400.155(h), a state must submit a request to the ORR Director and receive approval, prior to providing the service.

ORR PL 16-07 authorizes base RSS funding to be used for transitional housing assistance, aimed at supporting economic self-sufficiency on occasions when there is an increased number of new arrivals.

In accordance with ORR PL 21-06, a state must ensure that each individual member of a household in which a member is receiving RSS employability services is assessed for a family self-sufficiency plan, is subsequently referred to services, and receives appropriate follow-up minimally at 6 and 12 months post enrollment.

Reporting and Monitoring
States must describe AUSAA-funded activities for RSS base (and RSS set-asides) in their state plans and should ensure appropriate mechanisms to assess the need for, and track, all assistance provided to Ukrainian arrivals.

States should develop and track specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) annual program outcomes for all AUSAA-funded RSS base (and RSS set-aside) activities. States must report the number of clients served, the type and frequency of services provided, outcomes, accomplishments, and challenges in the ORR-6 Program Performance Report ("ORR-6") semi-annual schedules A, C, and D, and submit the ORR-6 Annual Service Plan. States must also submit the annual RSS Sub-Grantee Report (OMB Clearance Number 0970-0556). These forms, instructions, and the reporting schedule are available on the ORR website.

States are required to submit data for all enrollments, including those enrollees served through AUSAA-funded RSS (and set-asides), within ORR's State Arrival and Service Data Collection Process, using the ORR-5 data collection form. Instructions for the ORR-5 are also on the ORR website.

States must also submit the Standard Form 425 Federal Financial Report through the Payment Management System on a quarterly basis.

ORR will monitor AUSAA-funded awards through routine monitoring activities to ensure that states are in compliance and the services provided meet the needs of AUSAA-eligible populations. During monitoring, ORR will review a state's annual program outcomes and progress towards each goal. Additionally, ORR will assess how services are provided, identify promising practices, and observe trends for further analysis and information sharing. ORR may create additional monitoring activities for AUSAA eligible individuals. States are responsible for monitoring sub-recipients for compliance and achievement of objectives as outlined in their approved state plan.

Resources
Please direct any questions about this PL to the Refugee Policy Unit at RefugeePolicy@acf.hhs.gov. ORR also encourages you to utilize ORR's Technical Assistance provider(s) for additional resources on serving refugees.

We appreciate all of your work to support the health and well-being of these new Ukrainian arrivals.

Sincerely,

Andrea Chapman
Acting Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement