



Presentation to the 2025 Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

Self-Sufficiency Programs

Refugee Program

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March 14, 2025

Agenda

- I. Current context
- II. Program and budget overview
- III. Tracking our progress
- IV. Key issues
- V. Closing remarks

Global and National Context



More than 122 million people worldwide are now forcibly displaced* – more than at any other time in history.

→ **Humanitarian crises** continue to drive increases in arrivals from Afghanistan, Ukraine, Cuba and Haiti

→ **Refugee arrival cap increased** under President Biden from 15,000 to 125,000 – the highest in several decades.

→ **Refugee resettlement has been a core component** of the United States' humanitarian response.

Oregon's Evolving Refugee Resettlement Efforts

- **Rising arrivals, adaptive response**
- **Culturally specific support**
- **Expanded resettlement capacity**



Catholic Charities of Oregon



Catholic Community Services of Lane County



Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization



Lutheran Community Services Northwest



Salem for Refugees

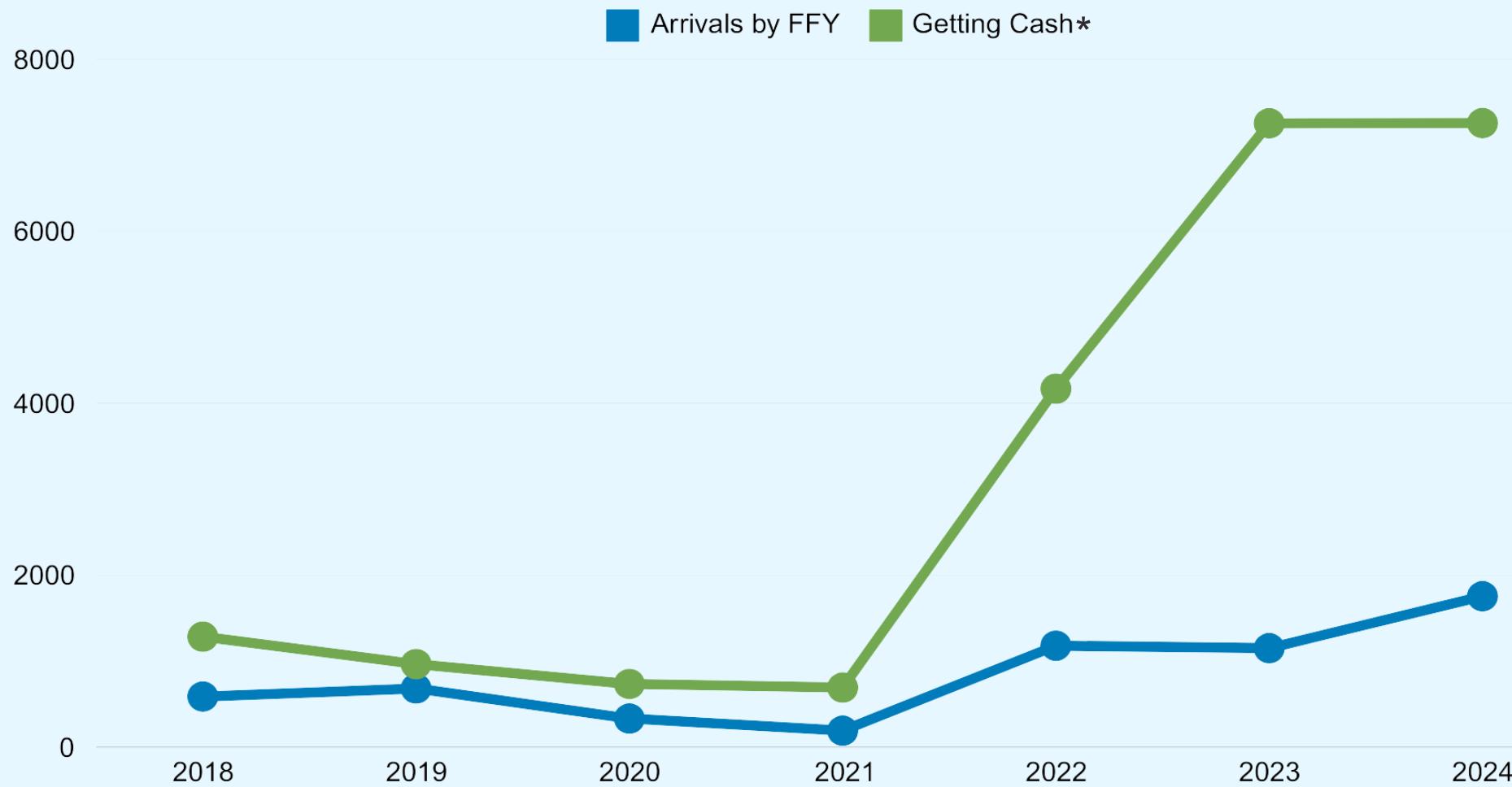


Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees



Newly added as Refugee Resettlement Agency

Refugee Trends in Oregon: Reception & Placement Arrivals and People Getting Cash Assistance



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Oregon's Refugee Program



The ODHS Refugee Program serves those fleeing persecution in their country of origin who have been admitted for resettlement by the U.S. and granted an eligible immigration status approved by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

The Refugee Program encompasses
three lines of effort:

- Benefits administration
- Statewide coordination
- Contracting for services →

Refugee resettlement services in the state are provided through Refugee Resettlement Agencies (RRAs), community organizations, and state agencies.

What We Do: Benefits Administration



**Refugee Cash
Assistance
(REF)**



**Refugee
Medical
Assistance
(REFM)**



**Family coaching
for people
receiving
REF**

What We Do: Contracted Services with 25 Organizations



Contracted services provide vital support for refugees adjusting to life in Oregon



Employment, housing, legal aid and healthcare are critical for long-term success



Focused services ensure specific refugee populations receive appropriate assistance

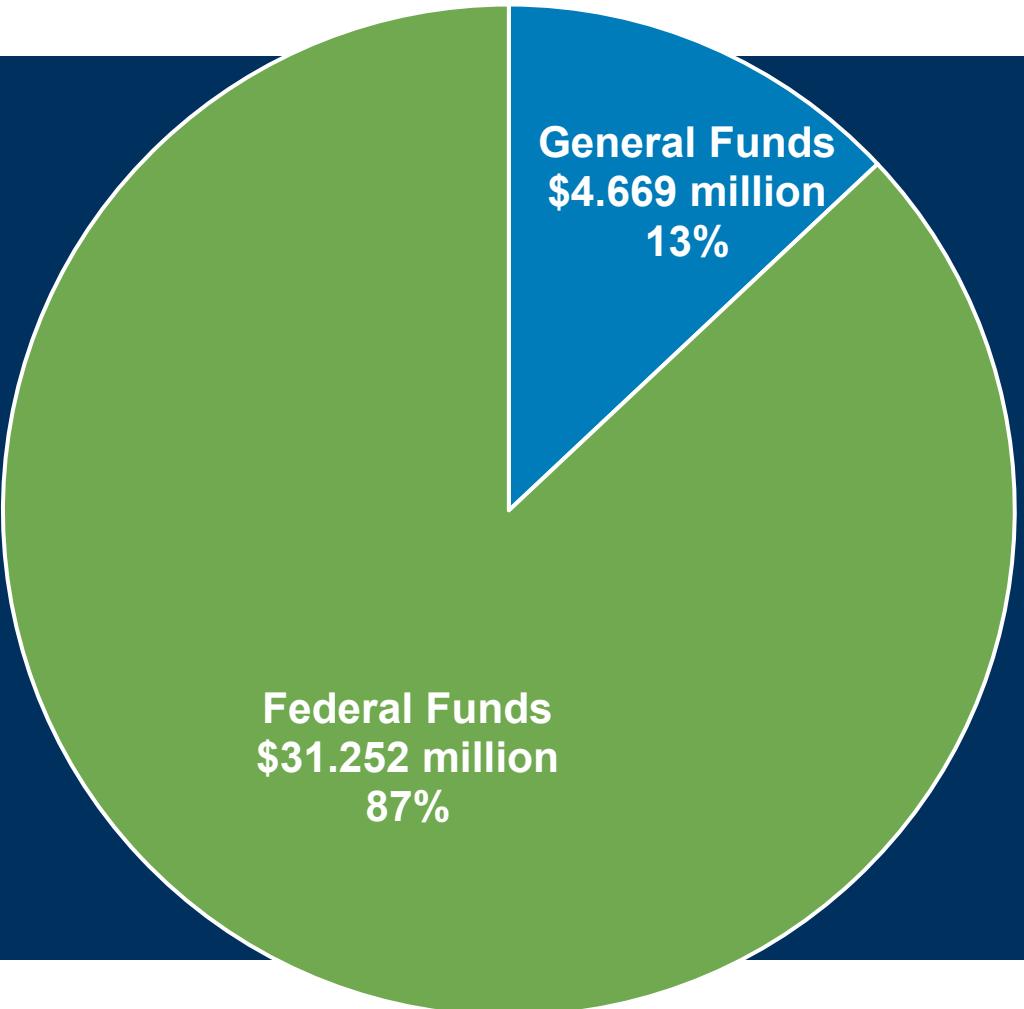
What We Do: Statewide Coordination

Areas of Coordination	Coordinating With:
Reception and Placement and Welcome Corps arrivals	Resettlement Agencies
Health Screenings	Welcome Corp Sponsor Groups
Health/Behavioral Health Services	State and local government
Housing Coordination	Community Based Organizations
Taskforce Meetings and Consults	Health/Behavioral Health Providers
Community Listening Sessions	Community Members
Youth and School Impact Services	Federal Partners
Employment Services	Educational Institutes

Refugee Program: Funding

Refugee total funds:
\$35.921 million

SSP total budget: \$4,869.7 million



Refugee Program: Budget Estimates

Fund Source	Type of Service	FFY 2024 and 2025	Projected FFY 2026 & 2027
Federal	Mainstream Services (ORR) Contracts	\$7,343,035	\$12,098,392
Federal	Mainstream Services (TANF) Contracts	\$4,652,378	\$3,793,679
Federal	Population Specific (Afghan) Contracts	\$11,516,232	\$3,104,954
GF	Population Specific (Afghan) Contracts	\$2,500,000	\$0
Federal	Population Specific (Ukrainian) Contracts	\$12,731,781	\$1,045,366
GF	Mainstream Services (ECM) Grants	\$4,504,150	\$4,669,000
Federal	Cash and Medical Benefits (ODHS Administered)	\$17,702,367	Unknown

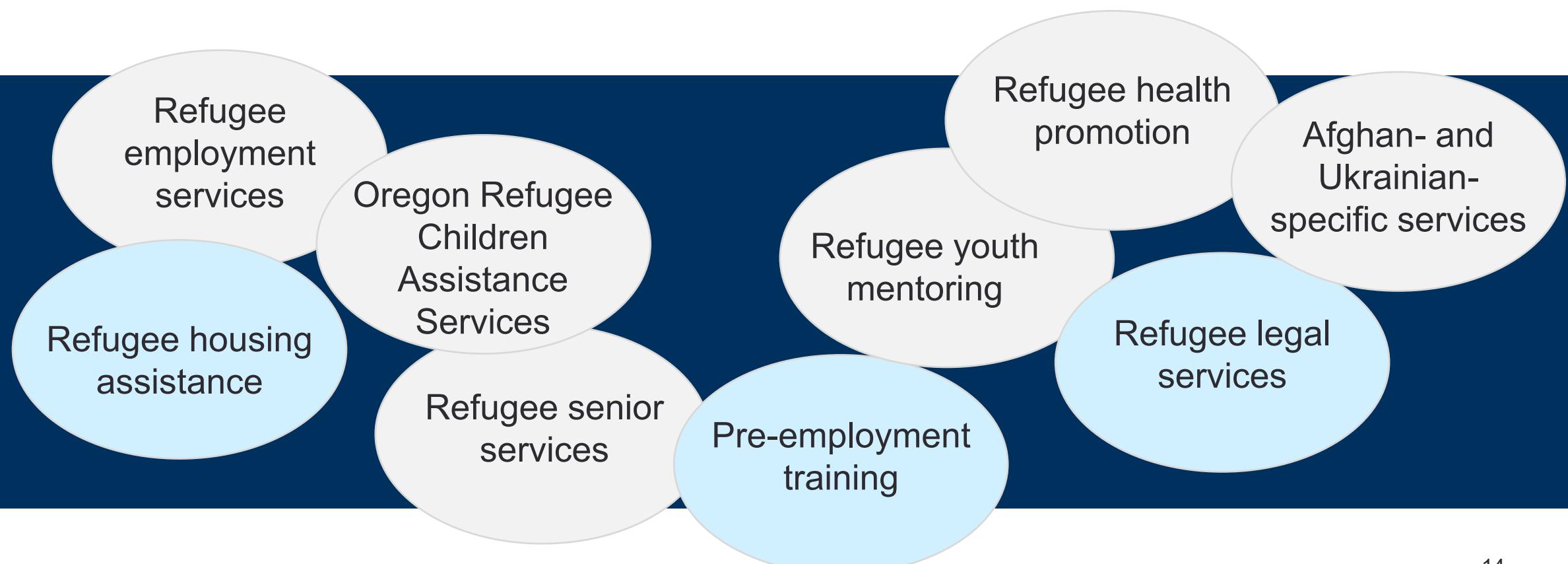
Refugee Program: Design Staff

Current Design Positions	Class Title	Filled / Vacant	% Breakdown of Salaries and Benefits		
			CMA	RSS	TANF
Lead Policy Analyst	Operations & Policy Analyst 3	Filled	50%	23%	27%
State Refugee Health Coordinator	Program Analyst 3	Filled	100%		
State Refugee Housing Coordinator	Program Analyst 3	Filled	50%	23%	27%
Data Advisor	Operations & Policy Analyst 3	Filled	100%		
Sponsorship Coordinator	Program Analyst 3	Vacant, in recruitment	100%		
Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Coordinator	Program Analyst 3	Vacant	100%		
Program Analyst	Program Analyst 2	Vacant	50%	23%	27%
Program Analyst	Program Analyst 2	Vacant	50%	23%	27%

The Refugee Program Manager's position is charged via Cost Allocation.

Roles of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

CBOs offer culturally responsive services to immigrant and ORR-eligible populations, contracting with ODHS SSP for refugee support but not Reception and Placement services



Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR): Eligible Statuses

***Refugees**

Iraqi & Afghan Special Immigrant Visa

Asylees

Afghan Humanitarian Parolees

Cuban, Haitian Entrants

Amerasians from Vietnam

Victims of Human Trafficking

Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees

Immigration Statuses: Benefit Eligibility

Immigration Status	Eligible for SNAP, TANF	Pathway to Permanent Residency	Resettled by *R&P/Welcome Corps
Refugees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Asylees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Immigrant Visa (SVI) holders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cuban/Haitian entrants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ukrainian Humanitarian parolees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General parolees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other non-ORR eligible immigrants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Benefits and Services by Population

Benefits and Services by Population					
Population	Benefits	Services	Employment	Other Services	Eligibility
Asylees (Asylum Granted)	Medical, SNAP, Cash, Child care		Employment, ORCAS, Seniors, Youth Mentoring, Health Promotion	Only Afghan refugees receive additional ORR funded services like housing, healthcare, and legal aid	ECM
Cuban/Haitian Entrants	Medical, SNAP, Cash, Child care		Employment, ORCAS, Seniors, Youth Mentoring, Health Promotion, Limited Legal Services		ECM
Victims of Human Trafficking	Medical, SNAP, Cash, Child care		Employment, ORCAS, Seniors, Youth Mentoring, Health Promotion		ECM

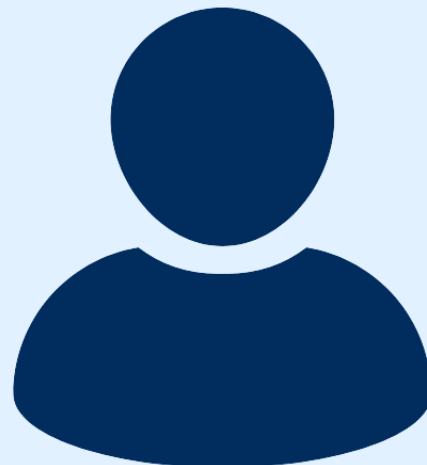
Benefits and Services by Population: Continued

ORR Eligible Populations	ODHS Benefits	R&P and Welcome Corps Services/Grant	ORR funded Services (Mainstream)	ORR funded Services (Population Specific)	State Funded Services (ECM)
Irqi & Afghan *SIVs, including Afghan SQ/SI Parolees and SI Conditional Permanent Residents.	Medical, SNAP, Cash, Child care	90 day resettlement support with a \$1,325 grant per household member, managed by RA	Employment, ORCAS, Seniors, Youth Mentoring, Health Promotion	Only Afghan refugees receive additional ORR funded services like housing, healthcare, and legal aid	ECM
Certain Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP)	Medical, SNAP, Cash, Child care	Only R&P arrivals receive 90 day resettlement support with a \$1,325 grant per household member, managed by RA	Employment, ORCAS, Seniors, Youth Mentoring, Health Promotion	Receive additional ORR funded services including housing, health/behavioral health, legal services	ECM
Amerasians	Medical, SNAP, Cash, Child care		Employment, ORCAS, Seniors, Youth Mentoring, Health Promotion		ECM
Certain Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees	Medical, SNAP, Cash, Child care		Employment, ORCAS, Seniors, Youth Mentoring, Health Promotion	Receive additional ORR funded services including housing, health/behavioral health, legal services	ECM

Refugee Cash Benefit Amounts:

One in Household

\$339 a month



Two in Household

\$432 a month

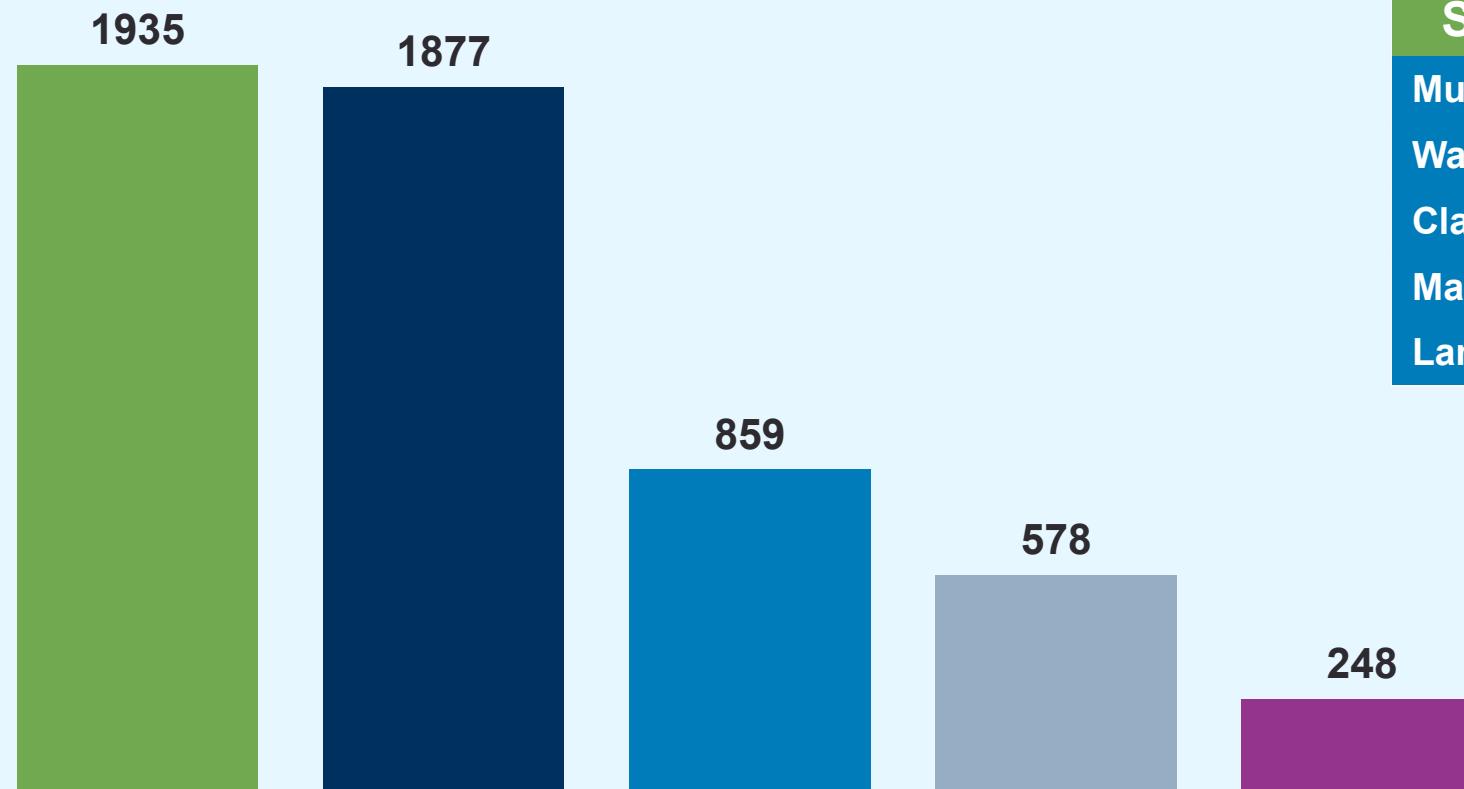


**Temporary Assistance for
Needy Families (TANF)**

\$618 a month



Demographics 2024: Number of Cash Recipients from Top Five Countries



County Settled In	Percentage
Multnomah	62%
Washington	11%
Clackamas	11%
Marion	10%
Lane	2%

Risk Factors Affecting Immigrants and Refugees

Before migration

- Exposure to war
- Persecution
- Economic hardship, instability

During migration

- **Life threatening events**
- **Physical harm**
- **Exhaustion**
- **Fear**

After migration

- Poor living conditions
- Social isolation
- Language barriers
- Difficulty paying rent/affording food
- Untreated PTSD
- Difficulties with acculturation/integration process
- Discrimination

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) **Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)**, **Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD)**, **anxiety** and **adjustment disorders** and **substance abuse** are the most common **mental health diagnoses among refugees**.

Process: Refugee Resettlement and Support in Oregon

Refugees assigned to sponsor overseas



Arrival and initial support

- Sponsor picks up refugees at airport
- Receive 90 days of initial support
- Enroll in cash, food and medical benefits, including Refugee Cash for up to 12 months



Continued support

- Employment assistance and other services for up to 60 months depending on status
- Extended case management to help with long-term integration



Arrival and Accessing Benefits: When the Process Begins stateside

Arrival in the state

- Apply for benefits through ODHS and receive referral to RRA/CBO

OR

- Walk into RA/CBO and receive referral to ODHS



- Enroll in cash, food and medical benefits (Refugee Cash up to 12 months)



Continued support

- RRAs/CBOs provide employment assistance and other services for up to 60 months depending on status.
- Refugees can receive extended case management for up to 24 months within an initial 60 months following arrival.

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Legal Services: Outcomes

Highly Successful

- In FFY 24, the Refugee Program **provided legal services to 1,893 people**
- More than **60% of participants submitted applications** to USCIS or immigration court with the program's help
- **99% of adjudicated cases were approved**

Currently Receiving Legal Assistance

- **Cuban & Haitian Entrants**
- **Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (ORR-eligible)**
- **Afghans** Evacuated through Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) (ORR-eligible)

Growing Need, Limited Capacity

- Legal assistance is **essential for employment, stability, and long-term integration**
- Without more funding, **thousands remain without legal pathways to stability**

Employment Services: Help People Achieve Economic Stability



Refugee
Employment
Program (REP)

Refugee
Employment
Services (RES)

Pre-
Employment
Training
(PET)

In FFY 2024, more than 2,100 individuals received Refugee Program-funded employment services

Cash assistance recipients were **1.8 times more likely** to secure jobs

The average starting wage was **\$18.50—\$2.50 above** Portland's minimum wage

Extended Case Management (ECM): Leads to Stability, Employment

HB 2508: A Game-Changer for Refugee Support

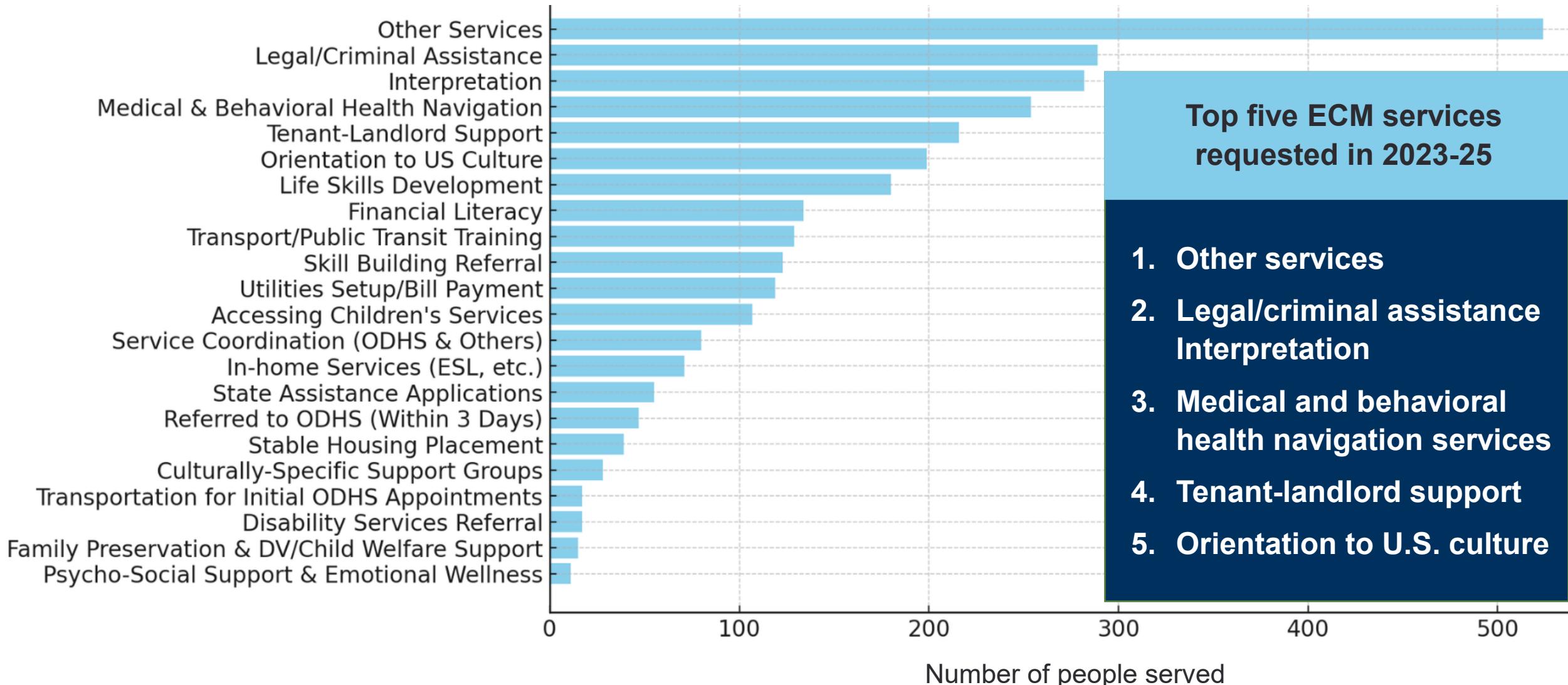
Additional ECM Investment Matters

Growing Need for Comprehensive ECM Support

This Biennium, 1,035 people served

HB 2508, Oregon's **Welcoming Refugees Bill** (2021), extends **case management services by 21 months** beyond the federally funded **90-day period**, ensuring refugees receive continued support for stability and self-sufficiency

ECM: Types of Services Provided 2023-25



Refugee Program: Additional Outcomes

Supporting Afghan and Ukrainian Communities

- **90% of those served were Afghan and Ukrainian households**, reflecting Oregon's commitment to newly arriving populations

Broad Reach and Essential Services

- **More than 7,000 people** received services from the Refugee Program
- **99% of individuals receiving medical navigation support** successfully completed their care plans

Investing in Refugee Children and Families

- **307 children** participated in the **Oregon Refugee Children Assistance Services**
- **600+ households (2,700+ individuals)** received **housing assistance**, preventing homelessness and promoting stability

Strengthening Education and Data Systems

- Partnering with **ODE** to develop **Immigrant/Refugee Student Success Plan**
- Developing database to improve statewide refugee data collection and reporting
- Standardizing contractor reports for enhanced accountability and impact measurement

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Community-Identified Priorities for Refugee Support

Through **listening sessions** and collaboration with **Resettlement Agencies (RRAs)** and **Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)**, the six most pressing refugee needs were identified



Challenges: Federal Executive Orders, Local Impact

Executive Order or Memo	Key Dates	Summary	Policy Impact	Fiscal Impact
EO #14155 – Realigning the United State Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)	<p>Order: 01/20/25</p> <p>Effective Period: 01/27/25 - ongoing (90-day cycles)</p>	<p>Effective 01/27/25, USRAP operations were suspended indefinitely.</p> <p>Secretary of Homeland Security and Secretary of State are to submit a report to the US President every 90 days, to propose a plan for USRAP operations that would align with the President's priorities.</p> <p>The reporting period will cycle every 90 days until approved.</p>	<p>Arrivals of ORR eligible populations, with exception of asylum seekers, SIV Holders, and Cuban Haitian Entrants are suspended indefinitely.</p>	<p>Significantly cuts funding to Resettlement Agencies (RAs)</p> <p>Reduces ORR funding to ODHS SSP for staffing, Refugee Cash and Refugee Medical programs.</p>

Challenges: Federal Executive Orders, Local Impact

Executive Order or Memo	Key Dates	Summary	Policy Impact	Fiscal Impact
"Stop Work Order" for all Reception and Placement activities	Effective Date: 02/24/25	Department of State issued to all nine National Resettlement Agencies that they and their affiliates, (i.e. Resettlement Agencies in each state) immediately stop all activities charged to Reception and Placement funds.	Disrupts reception and placement support for all arrivals prior to 02/24/25 still within their initial 90-day eligibility period. Disrupts referrals to and service coordination with ODHS SSP.	Increases burden on Extended Case Management GFs Potentially contributed to reduction in ORR funds to SSP

Challenges: Federal Executive Orders, Local Impact

Executive Order or Memo	Key Dates	Summary	Policy Impact	Fiscal Impact
Department of Homeland Security issues notice of federal funding freeze for naturalization programs to Nonprofits	Notice Issued: 02/05/25	<p>Department of Homeland Services issued freezes of federal funding for naturalization services.</p> <p>Key Nonprofits impacted in Oregon were Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (SOAR Legal) program and Immigration Counseling Services (ICS).</p>	<p>If naturalization process cannot be completed, candidates for citizenship may become ineligible and deported.</p> <p>Individuals needing to adjust their status to remain eligible for various SSP programs may lose benefits.</p>	<p>This will greatly hinder otherwise eligible individuals from applying for or maintaining benefits for SSP, Medical and multiple other (non SSP) public programs.</p>

Challenges: Federal Executive Orders, Local Impact

Executive Order or Memo	Key Dates	Summary	Policy Impact	Fiscal Impact
<p>"Notice of immediate Termination" memo for all Reception and Placement (R&P) and Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA).</p>	<p>Notice Issued: 02/26/25</p>	<p>Department of State issued a notice that all contracts for R&P and ERMA services with all National Resettlement Agencies would be terminated, effective immediately.</p> <p>This came one day after a federal judge issued an injunction against EO #14155 – Realigning the United State Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).</p>	<p>Arrivals of ORR eligible populations, exception of asylum seekers, SIV Holders, and Cuban Haitian Entrants are suspended indefinitely.</p>	<p>Significantly cuts funding to Resettlement Agencies (RAs) Reduces ORR funding to ODHS SSP for staffing, Refugee Cash and Refugee Medical programs.</p>

Search for Safety



Fleeing persecution as Rohingya Muslims, Nurul Haque and his family **escaped Myanmar** and found refuge in a Bangladeshi camp before arriving in the U.S. in **search of safety and a new beginning**

Thank you.

