



Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 25.263

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Diane Hurley, Acting Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: April 25, 2024

Subject: **Funding Opportunity - Refugee Career Pathway Program**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other workforce partners of a funding opportunity out of The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for the Refugee Career Pathways (RCP) program.

Background: The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces funding for the Refugee Career Pathways (RCP) program. Through the RCP program, ORR will provide funding to enable refugees and other eligible populations to achieve self-sufficiency by obtaining the means to secure professional or skilled employment drawing upon previously acquired knowledge, skills, and experience. Under the RCP program, the primary focus is to assist participants in learning about career pathways and developing individualized plans to gain employment and advance within their chosen career field. Allowable activities will include case management, training and technical assistance, specialized English language training, and mentoring. In addition, eligible refugee participants may receive federal financial assistance

An equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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for costs related to the establishment or re-establishment of credentials, such as obtaining educational credits or enrollment in required certification programs. ORR is requiring that RCP programs have a partnership with at least one educational institution (i.e., university, college, community college, or other institution with expertise in career and technical education) to facilitate career opportunities in ways that supplement, rather than supplant, existing services. RCP programs implemented by an educational institution must collaborate with at least one refugee-focused entity (i.e., resettlement office and/or other organization with programming specifically aimed at refugees). Please see the FOA for complete details.

FOA:	<u>HHS-2024-ACF-ORR-ZM-0020</u>
Funding Available:	\$5,000,000
Anticipated Awards:	15
Award ceiling:	\$325,000 / Award Floor - \$250,000
Deadline:	June 28,2024
Eligible Applicants:	Special district governments, Native American tribal organizations, Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher ed, Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification), Independent school districts Public and State controlled institutions of higher ed, Private institutions of higher education, County governments, Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status w/the IRS, other than institutions of higher ed, Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, City or township governments

Eligible

Participants:

RCP Program participants must be eligible for ORR Refugee Resettlement Program benefits and services through their immigration status or category as one of the following:

- Refugee
- Asylee
- Cuban or Haitian entrant
- Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant
- Amerasian
- Victim of human trafficking
- Another individual made eligible by law, such as a humanitarian parolee from Afghanistan or Ukraine who arrived under specific circumstances during a defined period.

Eligible people must also meet these criteria:

- They are not U.S. citizens.
- Eligible for ORR services for 5 years or less when they enroll.
- They are authorized to work in the United States, or they provide evidence that they are eligible and have applied for work authorization.
- They are able and willing to begin or continue employment in a professional or skilled career field during the program period.

More information on eligibility for ORR-funded refugee resettlement program benefits and services can be found at [45 CFR § 400.43](#), and in [ORR Policy Letters 16-01, 22-01, and 22-13](#).

Action

Required: Please share with all managers, staff and partners as appropriate.
[Refugee Career Pathways \(link\)](#)

Effective: Immediately.