



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

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| Transmittal: | 22 TA/DC040 Upstate and New York City |
| Date: | April 29, 2022 |
| To: | Subscribers |
| Suggested Distribution: | Commissioners, TA Directors, HEAP Coordinators, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Fair Hearing Officers, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators |
| From: | Linda Glassman, Deputy Commissioner Housing, Refugee Services, and Disability Determinations (HRDD) |
| Subject: | Expansion of Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance Programs (RCA and RMA) |
| Effective Date: | Immediately |
| Contact Information: | For RCA: Bureau of Refugee Services, Phillip Plessas, (518) 474-5764 or Ashlee Garland (518) 474-0982 For RMA: District Medicaid Liaison, Upstate (518) 472-8887 or New York City (212) 417-4500 |
| Attachments: | ORR DCL 22-12: Expansion of Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance Eligibility Period |

Section 2

Purpose

The purpose of this GIS message is to inform social service districts that on March 28, 2022, the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) announced the expansion of the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) eligibility period from eight months to twelve months of assistance for participants whose date of eligibility for ORR benefits is on or after October 1, 2021.

Background

The ORR within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) established the RCA and RMA programs to assure the availability of short-term cash and medical assistance to new refugee arrivals. At the time of program initiation, many states did not have benefit programs for singles or childless couples, so the RCA and RMA programs were necessary for new arrivals to receive benefits. The ORR determines the length of the eligibility period for RCA and RMA.

Program Implications

Per [22-ADM-03](#), districts shall determine RCA and RMA eligibility of refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, certain Amerasians, certified victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons (adults) and those determined eligible by the ORR (children under age 18), Afghan and Iraqi special immigrant visa holders, Afghan special immigrant SQ/SI parolees, Afghan humanitarian parolees, and Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents.

For those determined eligible for RCA/RMA on or after October 1, 2021, districts must ensure eligibility is extended up to twelve months, if otherwise eligible.

Eligibility determined prior to October 1, 2021, remains the eight-month eligibility period.

Additional guidance for districts regarding the new eligibility period of twelve months and any systems implications will be forthcoming.