

RFP: Refugee Social Services Program (RSSP)

OVERVIEW

On May 30th, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Bureau of Refugee Services (BRS) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Refugee Social Services Program (RSSP). Approximately \$3 million in annual funding will be available for organizations that provide employability and other services to assist refugees and their families achieve economic and social self-sufficiency. Services should address barriers to employment for refugees such as social and cultural adjustment, job search skills, work experience, and English proficiency with the goal of long-term job retention.

The full RFP is attached and is available on Grants Gateway. Applications are due on July 12th.

FUNDING

Approximately \$3 million in federal RSSP funding will be available for the first year of the program. Contracts will be performance-based; organizations will not be reimbursed for line-item expenses. Payment for achievement on deliverables/outcomes will be derived from the unit rates proposed in each application. Proposed rates must not exceed the following maximum rates for each deliverable/outcome:

Deliverable/Outcome	Maximum Rate	Payment Limits Per Participant Per Contract Term
Employment Preparation	\$700	10
Job Placement	\$1,300	No Limit
90-Day Retention	\$1,500	No Limit
Transitional Supports	\$600	10
Self-Sufficiency	\$2,800	No Limit

The final award amount granted to New York State will likely be announced in July and will be divided among three regions as follows:

Region	Allocation
New York City (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, Queens)	27%
Metro Region (Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Ulster, Westchester)	3%
Rest of State	70%

The allocation for the Rest of State is further divided by county based on the total percentage of refugees resettled and other immigration populations served as indicated in the RFP. Applicants who are interested in serving multiple regions or counties must submit separate and complete proposals for each region or county within the Rest of State region.

Contracts will last from January 1, 2019 to March 31, 2024. However, awarded organizations are only expected to provide services through the first five years of the contract. The last three months of the contract are designated for achievement of specific contract outcomes (90-day Job Retention and Self-Sufficiency).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be one of the following entities:

- Not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies, including charitable organizations;
- Faith-based organizations; and
- Educational institutions.

TARGET POPULATION

The target population for the RSSP program is individuals residing in New York State who:

- Have eligible immigration status;
- Are at least 16 years old;
- Have been in the United States for no more than five years from the date of arrival, or from the date the eligible immigration status is granted; and
- Are not enrolled in Matching Grant.

Priority for services must be given to the following individuals:

- All newly arriving refugees during their first year in the U.S. who apply for services;
- Refugees who are receiving cash assistance;
- Unemployed refugees who are not receiving cash assistance; and
- Employed refugees in need of services to retain employment or to attain economic independence.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Awarded organizations must provide all of the following services to eligible participants:

- Application and assessment to determine an individual's eligibility for the program and to develop a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan;
- Job development leading to job placement;
- Employment preparation in conjunction with job placement activities;
- Follow-up with employer and/or participant to promote job retention; and
- Transitional supports services, such as child care and transportation to the job.

APPLICATION

Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Program Specific Questions and Pre-submission Uploads (25 points)
- Budget (25 points)
- Work Plan (50 points)

Proposals with the highest overall scores in each region/Rest of State county based on the above criteria will receive funding through this RFP.

Timeline

Proposals are due on July 12th. There will be an optional Applicant Conference call on June 13th at 2pm and interested parties may call 1-866-394-2346 (code: 7722932505) to join.

Questions may be submitted to Denis Mistic at Denis.Mistic@otda.ny.gov by June 20th. Responses will be posted on OTDA's website [here](#) by June 29th. Awards will be announced on October 1st.