

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Title of Rule: REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Rule Identifier: 218-RICR-20-00-6

Rulemaking Action: Direct Final Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: July 6, 2022

End of Public Comment: August 5, 2022

Rulemaking Authority:

THE REFUGEE ACT OF 1980

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42.35

45 C.F.R. Part 400

Refugee Resettlement Program.

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

This proposed change is made in accordance with the Director of ORR's announcement of expansion of the Refugee Cash Assistance eligibility period from 8 months to 12 months for participants whose date of eligibility for benefits is on or after October 1, 2021. This rule change was made public on 3/28/22, and is being incorporated into the DHS rule to comply with this federal regulation.

The Agency does not expect this filing to be controversial and therefore, a public hearing will not be held.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

If no formal objection is received on or before August 5, 2022, the Department of Human Services will file the Amendment and the Final Rule will take effect on this date.

Objections should be addressed to:

Karen Vartebedian

Department of Human Services

Hazard Bldg. 1st Floor

74 West Road

Cranston, RI 02920

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Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

Extending the eligibility period from 8 months to 12 months will lead to more effective resettlement by providing refugee and other ORR eligible populations with additional time to become self-sufficient.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.