



**State of Florida**  
**Department of Children and Families**

**Ron DeSantis**  
*Governor*

**Shevaun L. Harris**  
*Secretary*

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**DATE:** February 17, 2023      **TRANSMITTAL NO.:** I-23-02-0002

**TO:** Economic Self-Sufficiency Operations Managers  
Economic Self-Sufficiency Program Offices

**FROM:** Renita Robinson, Senior Management Analyst Supervisor,  
Program Policy  
**(Signature on File)**

**SUBJECT:** Refugee Assistance Program – System Update

**EFFECTIVE:** Upon Receipt

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This transmittal is to notify staff of an update in the FLORIDA system to calculate the 12-month eligibility period for the Refugee Assistance Program (RAP).

This system update obsoletes the System Instructions in Transmittal P-22-08-0012.

**Background**

On March 28, 2022, a notice was published by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), announcing the expansion of the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) eligibility periods from 8 months to 12 months of assistance for participants whose date of eligibility for ORR benefits is on or after October 1, 2021.

The extending of RCA and RMA to 12 months provides refugees additional time to become self-sufficient and address medical and mental health issues which may impede their ability.

**Current Process**

Refugees with a date of entry, status date, or date of asylum **on or after October 1, 2021**, will receive up to 12 months of cash and/or medical assistance. Refugees with an eligibility date on or before September 30, 2021, are not eligible for the RCA/RMA extension and will only receive eight months.

**System Instructions**

On 12/17/2022, the FLORIDA system was modified to correctly calculate the 12-month eligibility period for the Refugee Assistance Program (RAP). Effective immediately, staff must discontinue using the workaround outlined in Transmittal [P-22-08-0012](#).

The auto-closure process for these assistance groups resumed on 2/1/2023.

If the date of entry/asylum/status is prior to 10/1/2021, staff can close the benefits.

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**NOTE:** The eligibility period for RAP benefits is determined by the **date of entry**, the **date of status**, or the **date of asylum**. Refer to Transmittal [P-19-04-0005](#) for more information.

Regional Program Offices with policy questions related to this transmittal should submit them through the Policy Technical Assistance Request Page. System related questions should be directed to LaQuetta Anderson at [LaQuetta.Anderson@myflfamilies.com](mailto:LaQuetta.Anderson@myflfamilies.com).

cc: Assistant Secretary for Economic Self-Sufficiency (Casey Penn)  
Assistant Secretary for Office of Child and Family Well-Being (Jess Tharpe)  
Assistant Secretary for Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (Erica Floyd Thomas)  
Assistant Deputy Secretary for Economic Self Sufficiency (Shila Salem)  
Assistant Deputy Secretary for Operations (Tonyaleah Veltkamp)  
Director of Operations (Liesta Sykes)  
Regional Managing Directors  
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Business Operations (vacant)  
Customer Experience (Andrew Houghton)  
Data and Information Technology (Chris Presnell)  
ESS Programs and Policy (Patti Grogan)  
FLORIDA Help Desk (Natarsha Peacock)  
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Office of Appeal Hearings (Karina Sarmiento)  
Office of Communications (Mallory McManus)  
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AHCA (Tom Wallace, Ann Dalton, Paula James, Mia Harden, Jennifer Giddens)  
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