



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations
for Human Services

May 24, 2022

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Work First Managers and Supervisors, Medicaid Managers and Supervisors

Subject: Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance Eligibility Period
Expansion from 8 months to 12 months

Priority: Information and Action

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The US Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) announced the expansion of the eligibility period for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) from 8 months to 12 months for ORR-eligible populations whose date of eligibility for benefits is on or after October 1, 2021. This extension will lead to more effective resettlement by providing refugee and other ORR-eligible populations with additional time to become self-sufficient.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

The expansion of the RCA and RMA eligibility period will positively impact refugees who are not eligible for TANF or Medicaid in North Carolina. While most RCA clients will gain employment as soon as possible, given the low rate of cash assistance and the high costs of housing and living, by providing extended cash and medical coverage the RCA and RMA eligibility period will enable certain ORR-eligible populations to have additional time in which to address any medical and mental health issues that impede their ability to become self-sufficient.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-855-6335 • FAX: 919-334-1018

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III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The change will not require any action of the county Department of Social Services (DSS) and changes will be NC FAST system generated. Please submit any questions regarding this information to RefugeeAssistance.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla West".

Carla West, Senior Director for Economic Security
Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services

CLW/cg

EFS-RA-02-2022