



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

CARLA WEST • Division Director, Human Services

April 1, 2025

**Dear County Directors of Social Services**

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

**Subject:** Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance Change of Eligibility Period Shortening from twelve (12) months to four (4) months

**Priority:** Information Only

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has announced a change in the eligibility period for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA). Effective May 5, 2025, the eligibility period will be reduced from 12 months to 4 months for participants who qualify for ORR benefits after 45 days from the publication of this notice on March 21, 2025.

In 2022, there was a surge in refugee admissions, which led ORR to increase the eligibility period from 8 months to 12 months. However, to prevent a significant budget shortfall, ORR has decided to shorten the RCA and RMA eligibility period to 4 months.

All eligible populations of the Office of Refugee Resettlement who hold a qualified status and entered the country on or before May 5, 2025, are entitled to full benefits. If they apply for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) or Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) before this date, they will receive benefits for 12 months, regardless of their specific arrival or entry date.

For those applying for RCA or RMA after May 5, 2025, the benefits will be limited to only 4 months, regardless of their specific arrival or entry date.

If you have programmatic questions, contact your specific program Operational Support Specialist (OSS) and/or Continuous Quality Improvement Specialist (CQIS). For specific Refugee Cash and Refugee Medical Assistance questions please email the Refugee Assistance policy box at [RefugeeAssistance.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:RefugeeAssistance.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov)

Sincerely,

Allison W. Smith, Deputy Director  
Economic and Family Services Section

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

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**EFS-RA-03-2025**