

DATE: October 08, 2019

TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators, Fair Hearing Officers

FROM: Linda Glassman, Deputy Commissioner
Housing, Refugee Services and Disability Determinations

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Employment and Income Support Programs

SUBJECT: Refugee Cash Assistance and the Treatment of Reception and Placement Grants

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Bureau of Refugee Services: (518) 474-7209 or:
otda.sm.bria.contact@otda.ny.gov.
Temporary Assistance Bureau: (518) 474-9344 or:
otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov

Purpose

The purposes of this GIS are to remind social services districts (districts): (1) when Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) must be explored; and, (2) that Reception and Placement (R&P) grants must be exempted and disregarded as income and resources for purposes of determining non-citizens RCA eligibility.

Background

RCA is a federal program that provides cash assistance provided under Section 412(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to eligible non-citizens who are ineligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funded assistance, Old Age Assistance (OAA), Assistance to the Blind (AB), Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD), Aid to Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). RCA is provided in New York State (NYS) under 18 NYCRR Part 373, in order to assist eligible non-citizens to achieve self-sufficiency as soon as possible.

Program Implications

Per [16-ADM-02](#), RCA eligibility must be explored when the district has determined that certain non-citizens, including refugees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, certain Amerasians, Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant visa holders, trafficking victims and asylees, are ineligible for cash assistance

under the Family Assistance (FA), Safety Net Assistance-Federally Participating (SNA-FP), and SSI programs.

When determining RCA eligibility for non-citizens, districts are reminded that any cash grant received from the United States (U.S.) Department of State (DOS) or Department of Justice (DOJ) Reception and Placement Programs must be exempted and disregarded as income and resources, including R&P grants. [16-ADM-02](#) contains additional guidance on determining RCA eligibility.

For questions on determining non-citizens RCA eligibility, please contact the Bureau of Refugee Services (BRS): (518) 474-7209 or otda.sm.bria.contact@otda.ny.gov.

For questions on determining non-citizens eligibility for Temporary Assistance (TA), please contact the TA Bureau: (518) 474-9344 or otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov.