

**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: 08/31/2018

End of Public Comment: 09/30/2018

**Authority for this Rulemaking:**

THE REFUGEE ACT OF 1980

R.I. Gen. Laws § 42.35

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

To refile these regulations in accordance with RIGL 42-35-4.1.

DHS is amending the Refugee Assistance Program as follows:

- Reformatted and re-codified the Rule according to the Administrative Procedures Act.
- Removed language which described the history of the implementation of the final rule governing the Refugee Resettlement Program.
- Replaced all FIP references with RIW.
- Removed all procedural pieces.
- Legal Basis (0900.05) has been reworded and the section has been renamed to 6.1-Authority.
- Administrative Authorization (0900.10) has been removed as a section and some of the content has been moved to section 6.2-Purpose.
- Added section entitled 6.3-Definitions and placed terms defined throughout the regulation into this section.

- Identification/Verification under the RRP (0902.05) section has been removed. The relevant content has been placed into section 6.5-Verification.
- The sections Eligibility Factors (0904) has been renamed and rearranged for clarity and cohesiveness. Relevant content has been placed into section 6.4-Eligibility, which addresses eligible and ineligible groups and eligibility requirements and duration.
- Refugee Cash Assistance, Section 0906, has been rearranged for clarity and cohesiveness. Relevant content has been placed into the section 6.6-Application and Standards, which addresses requirements to apply for and continue RCA. The language regarding Sanctions has been removed.
- The section Refugee Medical Assistance RMA (0908) has been removed as the program is obsolete. In addition, any reference to RMA has been removed. Section 6.7-Requirements for Medicaid has been added to guide the reader to the proper program/regulation to obtain Medicaid coverage.
- Section 6.8-Fraud Unit Referrals has been added.
- Language regarding Hearings has been removed. Section 6.9-Appeals and Hearing Process has been added to guide the reader to the proper regulation.

**Additional Information and Comments:**

If no formal objection is received on or before September 30, 2018, Department of Human Services will file the Amendment without opportunity for public comment..

Objections should be addressed to:

Christina Clement,  
Department of Human Services  
57 Howard Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
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**Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:**

The reformatting and recodification will make the regulation consistent with those of other social services programs in the state. The rearrangement and rewording of the document will more clearly convey the benefits available to the refugee population.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above.