

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, the following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Department of Human Services

DIVISION: *(If any)*

RULE IDENTIFIER: 218-RICR-20-00-6

RULE TITLE: REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REASON FOR RULEMAKING: This proposed change is made in accordance with the Director of ORR's announcement of expansion of the Refugee Cash Assistance eligibility period from 8 months to 12 months for participants whose date of eligibility for benefits is on or after October 1, 2021. This rule change was made public on 3/28/22, and is being incorporated into the DHS rule to comply with this federal regulation. This applies to all those with a refugee designation with the exception of Afghan refugees who's eligibility begin on their date of entry into the state of Rhode Island and is to continue for a 12 month period.

ANY FINDING REQUIRED BY LAW AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RULE: None

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS: The comment period ended on August 5, 2022. No comments were submitted.

CHANGE TO TEXT OF THE RULE: No changes have been made between the text of the rule as proposed and the final rule.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: Extending the eligibility period from 8 months to 12 months will lead to more effective resettlement by providing refugee and other ORR eligible populations with additional time to become self-sufficient.