



HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

WA MIGRANT & ASYLUM-SEEKER PROJECT (WA MASS) CONTRACTS

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 10, 2024



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

Our purpose is to present to the Parks and Recreation (P&R) Committee both the contract from the State to the City of SeaTac and the contract the City plans to present to Sub-Contractor for the Washington Migrant and Asylum Seeker Support (WA MASS) project.

The presentation will update the committee on SeaTac's progress in supporting asylum seekers, specifically related to the \$750,000 State grant.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?

- 1. Building Effective and Accountable Government:** Managing the grant and implementing the WA MASS project demonstrates the City's ability to deliver on state-funded initiatives, ensuring transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to community needs, increasing community trust.
- 2. Creating and Preserving Housing:** The project directly addresses the critical need for housing solutions, helping to provide stable living conditions for asylum seekers while preserving housing resources in the region. Ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing, and basic human services.

POTENTIAL COMMITTEE ACTION

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED:

- Recommend approval of the budget amendment ordinance and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract with Washington State and Congolese Integration Network on the consent agenda.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- Recommend approval of the budget amendment ordinance and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract with Washington State and Congolese Integration Network on the consent agenda.

NO ACTION REQUESTED:

REVIEWS TO DATE:

- Parks & Recreation Committee (May 9, 2024) - Grant Application/Funding Opportunity
- Council Meeting (August 13, 2024) - Grant Acceptance
- Administration & Finance Committee (October 3, 2024) – Asylum Seeker Support Update



BACKGROUND & RECAP

- **June 13th, 2024:** Grant Proposal Submitted
- **July 19th, 2024:** Successful Award Notification
 - Initial focus was on Migrant Housing paired with Culturally Relevant Case Management Services.
 - City of SeaTac funded to provide Migrant Housing Services.
- **August 13th, 2024:** Grant Award of \$750K accepted by Council.
- **September 30th, 2024:** Received draft contract from State.
 - Purpose of the Award: Provide emergency housing through hotel/motel program to eligible asylum-seekers.
- **October 3rd, 2024:** Presented to Administration & Finance Committee.



WHO ARE ASYLUM SEEKERS?



An asylum seeker is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from conflict, persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn't yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim.

(Amnesty International, UNHCR)



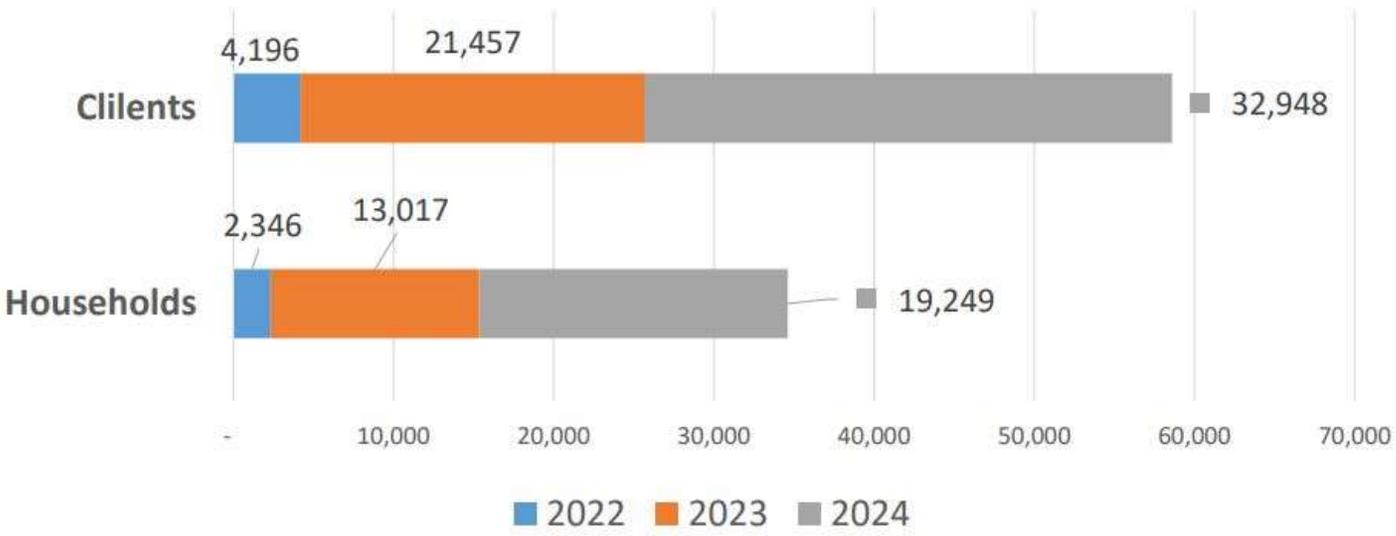
At the end of 2023, there were **6.9 million** asylum-seekers globally.



**Profile of DSHS Clients Who Arrived in the U.S. between January 2022 – June 2024:
Non-federally qualified immigrants receiving State Family Assistance or Food Assistance Program**

Unduplicated # of Clients	# of Clients	% of Total
January 2022 - June 2024	37,105	100.0%

County of Residence ⁵	# of Clients
King	17,887
Snohomish	4,219
Clark	3,027
Yakima	2,784
Pierce	2,601
Franklin	1,207
Benton	1,135
Grant	770
Spokane	704
Whatcom	457
Chelan	348
Mason	337
Thurston	291
Skagit	281
Douglas	226
Walla Walla	144



Source: DSHS-ESA/EMAPS Assignment #6099C using the ACES Data Warehouse as of the July 2024 load

Date: This report was produced on June 15, 2024
This report has been approved for external use (Outside of ESA)

HOW MANY ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE IN WASHINGTON?

- **DSHS estimates there are over 37,105 asylum seekers in WA**
- **In response, WA State Legislature appropriated \$25M to DSHS ORIA for asylum seeker services**
 - **\$16M - WA Migrant & Asylum-Seeker Support (WA MASS) Project SFY 2025**
 - **\$1M - School Districts serving Asylum-Seeking McKinney-Vento Students**
 - **\$250,000 for SFY 2024**
Awardees: Shelton, Tukwila, and Wapato School District
 - **\$750,000 for SFY 2025**
 - **\$700,000 - Services for Sub-Saharan African Community SFY 2025**
 - **\$500,000 - Statewide needs assessment and comprehensive statewide plan.**
 - **Competitive Request for Procurement SFY 2025**



WASHINGTON MIGRANT AND ASYLUM SEEKER SUPPORT PROJECT

The purpose of this pilot project is to build a statewide network of organizations that are coordinated to respond to the specific and immediate needs of recently arrived migrants and asylum-seekers in SFY 2025

SERVICE AREA	NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS
Newcomer Reception and Navigation Hub	One Primary
Migrant Housing Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency Shelters and Hotels• Transitional Housing Subsidies	Multiple Organizations
Immigration-Related Legal Services	One Lead Multiple providing client services
Culturally Responsive Case Management Services	Multiple Organizations



KEY CHANGES IN PROGRAM SCOPE

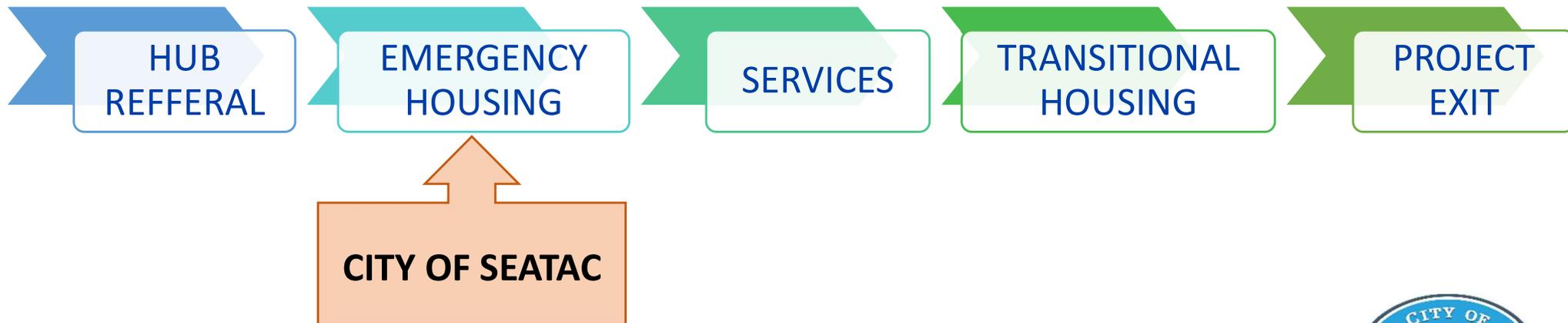
- **Shift in Focus:** From *Migrant Housing + Culturally Relevant Case Management To Emergency Housing via Hotel/Motel Master Lease* relationships
 - Rationale for Change: Streamlining services to meet immediate needs due to the escalating asylum-seeker housing crisis
- **Reduction in Partner Community Based Organizations (CBO)**
 - Started with seven (7) and we're now down to one (1) CBO
 - Drivers: Funder restrictions, operational and capacity limitations, and contract compliance
- **Next Steps**
 - Maintaining transparency with partners while strengthening the partnership and capacity of the remaining agency
 - Ensuring efficiency and higher accountability with the limited available partners



CURRENT PROGRAM SCOPE

What is SeaTac's role in the WA MASS project?

- Provide short-term emergency housing using hotel/motel rooms to **65** eligible asylum-seeker households from November 2024 – June 2025.
- Referred participants will receive up to 90-days of emergency shelter. They will also be connected to case management and legal services.



90-DAY STAY MODEL

- **Policy Update:** 90-day maximum stay in emergency housing per household
- During the 90-days, households will receive:
 - Housing stability during the initial phase of project participation.
 - Case management services to ensure access to essential services such as healthcare and food benefits.
 - Immigration-related legal services for support with the asylum application process and legal support for those placed in removal proceedings.
- Households remain eligible during the duration of the WA MASS project (June 2025)



FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

TOTAL FUNDING	\$750,000
Housing Costs (65%) Direct	\$487,500
Operational (20%) Contractor	\$150,000
Administrative (15%) SeaTac	\$112,500



FUNDED HOUSING PARTNERS

EMERGENCY HOUSING	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
City of SeaTac: \$750,000.00	LIHI: \$1,000,000.00
Mary's Place: \$1,000,000.00	Compass Housing Alliance: \$300,000.00
Riverton Park United Methodist Church: \$750,000.00	LCSNW: \$1,000,000.00
	CCSWW: \$750,000.00
	RISNW: \$1,000,000.00

*Awardees and fund amounts are subject to change. Updates will be shared as they become available.



PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

Who is Eligible for WA MASS?

- Be a non-citizen that entered the U.S. for the first time after Jan. 1, 2022, and
- Do not hold one of the following immigration statuses, making them eligible for federal refugee resettlement services and benefits:
 - Refugees admitted under § 207 of the Immigration & Nationality Act (INA)
 - People granted asylum under § 208 of the INA
 - Cuban and Haitian entrants
 - Amerasians
 - Certified victims of human trafficking
 - Special Immigrant Visa Holders from Iraq and Afghanistan
 - Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (See ORR Policy Letter 22-01 and 22-02)
 - Afghan Special Immigrant Conditional Permanent Residents
 - Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (See ORR Policy Letter 22-13) who entered the U.S. between Feb. 24, 2022, and Sept. 30, 2024.
 - Minors eligible for the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program



PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

- Lack federal Employment Authorization Document.
- Have been placed in removal proceedings because they were apprehended in the U.S. or at a port of entry without proper documentation.
- Have been unsheltered, staying in a building illegally, or staying in emergency shelter.
- Pregnant persons or families with children under the age of 18.
- Persons with complex medical conditions.
- An unaccompanied youth between the ages of 18 and 24.
- Single women or single adults over the age of 65 years.



NEXT STEPS

- **Supporting Our Sub-Contractor:**
 - **Goal:** Ensure our named partner in this contract receives the capacity-building and technical assistance needed for program success.
 - **Commitment:** Foster a strong working relationship with our subcontractor and ensure they build a positive connection with the people they serve.
- **Capacity-Building Support:** Trainings and Workshops: Invoicing and reporting Data management and platform use Trauma-informed practices in service delivery
 - **Outcome:** A stronger, more effective partnership and improved service delivery for vulnerable populations



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QUESTIONS



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