



HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

WA MIGRANT & ASYLUM-SEEKER SUPPORT (WA MASS) PROJECT UPDATE

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 14, 2024



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

Provide committee with an update on the progress of SeaTac's efforts to support asylum seekers, particularly regarding the \$750,000 grant awarded by the State.

Update will cover the background of the regional crisis, strategies proposed by the State and our regional partners, and SeaTac's role in the pilot project.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?

- 1. Community Stability:** Addressing housing needs for asylum seekers prevents homelessness, reduces community strain, and promotes a stable environment for families and individuals during their transition period.
- 2. Humanitarian Responsibility:** Asylum seekers are a vulnerable population, and providing housing ensures their basic safety and dignity while they navigate the lengthy work permit process.
- 3. Regional Impact:** SeaTac is an important part of the regional effort to support asylum seekers. Ensuring effective coordination and resource allocation helps balance the responsibilities shared with neighboring cities and counties, while avoiding overburdening any one area.

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)

BACKGROUND & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Approximately 1,300 asylum seekers have made their way through the Tukwila-SeaTac area.
 - Riverton Park United Methodist Church and other faith-based entities.
- Thrive International, funded by King County, housed 100 families at the Double Tree for 9 months.
- Seattle and King County are working to secure additional housing, some relocations to SeaTac.



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

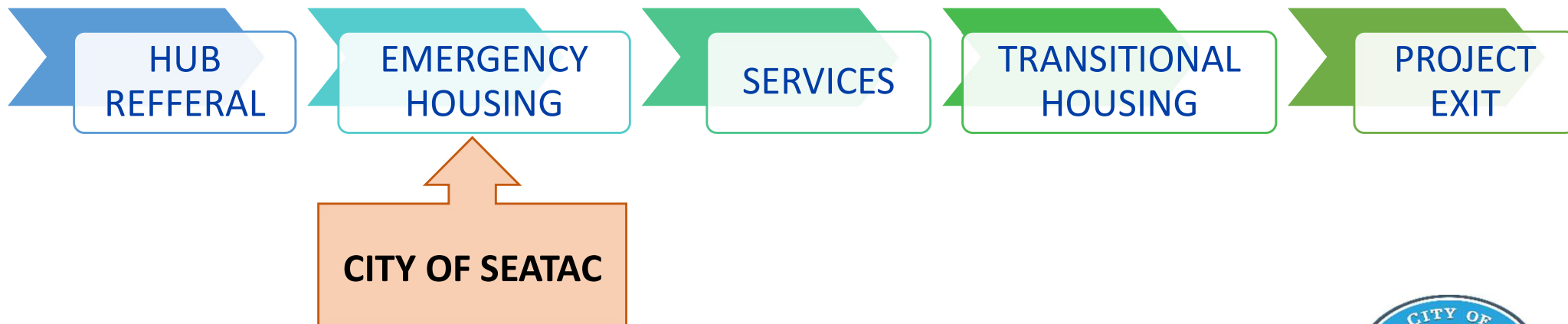
SERVICE AREA	NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS
Newcomer Reception and Navigation Hub	One Primary
Migrant Housing Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency Shelters and Hotels• Transitional Housing Subsidies	Multiple Organizations
Immigration-Related Legal Services	One Lead Multiple providing client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



CURRENT PROGRAM SCOPE

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

- Partner with local Community Based Organization to 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

- 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)



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



NEXT STEPS

- Anticipate Council approval of contracts on 10/22/24.
- Finalize contracts and begin service delivery by November.
- Focus on addressing housing needs through coordinated Community Based Organization partnerships.
- Balance local/regional support responsibilities for the duration of the project.



QUESTIONS



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