WAC 388-466-0150 Refugee employment and training services. (1) **What are refugee employment and training services?**

Refugee employment and training services provided to eligible refugees may include information and referral, employment-oriented case management, job development, job placement, job retention, wage progression, skills training, on-the-job training, counseling and orientation, English as a second language, and vocational English training.

(2) **Am I required to participate in refugee employment and training services?**

If you are receiving refugee cash assistance (RCA) you are required to participate in refugee employment and training services, unless you are exempt.

(3) **How do I know if I am exempt from mandatory employment and training requirements?**

You may be exempt from participation in employment and training requirements if you are:

(a) An adult with a severe and chronic disability as defined below:

(i) You have been assessed by a DSHS SSI facilitator as likely to be approved for SSI and are required to apply for SSI. Your SSI application status may be verified through the SSI facilitator or state data exchange; or

(ii) Your disability is a severe and chronic mental, physical, emotional, or cognitive impairment that prevents you from working and is expected to last at least 12 months. Your disability must be verified by documentation from a behavioral health organization (BHO), regional service area (RSA), or evidence from another medical or mental health professional; or

(b) Required to be in the home to care for another adult with disabilities when:

(i) The adult with disabilities cannot be left alone for significant periods of time;

(ii) No adult other than yourself is available and able to provide the care;

(iii) The adult with the disability is related to you;

(iv) You are unable to participate in work activities because you are required to be in the home to provide care; and

(v) The disability and your need to care for your disabled adult relative is verified by documentation from the developmental disabilities administration (DDA), division of vocational rehabilitation (DVR), home and community services (HCS), division of behavioral health and recovery (DBHR), a behavioral health organization (BHO), regional service area (RSA), or evidence from another medical or mental health professional.

(c) Sixty years of age or older.

(d) Unable to participate in work activities because you are the victim of family violence.

(4) **If I am required to participate, what do I have to do?**

You are required to:

(a) Register with your employment service provider;

(b) Accept and participate in all employment opportunities, training, or referrals, determined appropriate by the department.

(5) **What happens if I do not follow these requirements?**

If you refuse without good reason to cooperate with the requirements, you are subject to the following penalties:

(a) You will be ineligible for refugee cash assistance if you, without good cause, voluntarily quit employment or refused to accept a bona fide offer of employment within 30 consecutive days immediately prior to your application for RCA; or

(b) If you are already receiving refugee cash assistance, your cash benefits will be subject to financial penalties.

(c) The department will notify your resettlement agency if financial penalties take place.

(6) **What are the penalties to my grant?**

The penalties to your grant are:

(a) If the assistance unit includes other individuals as well as yourself, the cash grant is reduced by the sanctioned refugee's amount for three months after the first occurrence. For each subsequent occurrence, the cash grant is reduced by the sanctioned refugee's amount for six months.

(b) If you are the only person in the assistance unit, your cash grant is terminated for three months after the first occurrence. For each subsequent occurrence, your grant is terminated for six months.

(7) **How can I avoid the penalties?**

You can avoid the penalties if you accept employment or training before the last day of the month in which your cash grant is closed.

(8) **What is considered a good reason for not being able to follow the requirements?**

You have a good reason for not following the requirements if it was not possible for you to stay on the job or to follow through on a required activity due to an event outside of your control. See WAC 388-310-1600(3) for examples.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 74.04.005, 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.04.770, 74.04.805, 74.04.820, 74.08.090, 74.08A.100, 74.08A.120, 74.09.035, 74.09.530, 74.62.030, P.L. 118-42, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024, Division G, Title II, Section 209(f); 8 U.S.C. §§ 1612, 1613 (b)(3) and 1641 (b)(8); H.R. 815, Division B pg. 11 - Ukrainian; and Final Rule for Classification for Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking in Persons. WSR 25-08-068, s 388-466-0150, filed 4/1/25, effective 5/2/25. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, and 45 C.F.R. § 400.211 and ORR P.L. 22-12. WSR 23-02-032, § 388-466-0150, filed 12/28/22, effective 1/28/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.08.090. WSR 16-05-034, § 388-466-0150, filed 2/9/16, effective 3/15/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, and 2011 1st sp.s. c 15. WSR 13-18-004, § 388-466-0150, filed 8/22/13, effective 10/1/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090. WSR 00-22-085, § 388-466-0150, filed 10/31/00, effective 12/1/00.]