

IRIS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY EXPLAINED FOR CO-SPONSORED CLIENTS

How much money does IRIS have to help each new refugee?

IRIS receives \$2275 from the State Department for each refugee client that it resettles.

- \$1025 must be spent on that individual client, this is the Reception & Placement grant, often referred to by clients as “Welcome Money”
- \$200 is flexible – for IRIS to spend on any refugee that IRIS feels needs additional assistance. These are called “flex” or “pool” funds, and are generally only spent on IRIS clients resettled without co-sponsors.
- \$1050 is for IRIS’ operational and administrative expenses

This money must be spent by the client’s 90th day after arrival in the U.S.

It is important to understand that this money does not belong to the client. The U.S. government gives the money to IRIS and entrusts IRIS to use it to support the client in the way they feel is most efficient.

The government prohibits IRIS and all resettlement agencies from giving the R&P Grant in a lump sum directly to a client; rather the funds must be spent on the client’s behalf to secure his/her basic needs.

What is the R&P grant used for?

- pocket money (\$50 per adult, \$25 per child)
- groceries (4-5 days’ worth) and/or food allocation(s)
- a cell phone and 1 month of service
- bus passes (up to 3 months’ worth)
- utility bills (30 days of service)
- beds, kitchen and household supplies
- housing (3-6 months of rental assistance)
- other basic needs, as relevant

Rental assistance - How long will I receive assistance for?

Based on IRIS policy, clients generally receive 3-6 months of rental assistance. The duration of the assistance is defined shortly after a client’s arrival based on the following barriers to employment: English language, childcare and health. All clients receive assistance for at least 3 months. An additional month of assistance is provided for each barrier to employment.

- If no employable adult (18+) in the family speaks English at a “group 3” level
- If only one adult (18+) is present in a household that contains one or more children under age 14 or day care and/or after-school care for children is needed in order for an employable adult to be able to work sufficient hours;
- If one or more adults whose employment is needed in order for the family to be self-sufficient has a health condition that needs to be either treated or accommodated in order to make employment and self-sufficiency possible.

How much assistance will I receive?

The first month of rent is paid in full. Then beginning in the second month after arrival (the month that begins after you have started receiving cash) and through the duration of the initial rental assistance period (3-6 months), you are required to contribute 50% of your monthly DSS cash assistance toward their rent, The remainder will be paid for you. You are expected to pay your entire rent (or up to the New Haven Standard amount) at the end of the rental assistance period.

