

.04 RCA Program Selection Requirements

[Specified relationship](#) is not a requirement when determining budgetary unit participants. Consider the following:

- The [CA budgetary unit policy](#) must be followed.
- However, other participants may be included in the budgetary unit since specified relationship is not a requirement.

An RCA budgetary unit may consist of the following:

- Single adults with no dependents.
- Budgetary units with dependents and one or more adult participants.
- Budgetary units that include an eligible refugee married to either a U.S. citizen or an ineligible refugee.
- A caretaker with unrelated children.
- U.S. born children of RCA eligible parents.

EXCEPTION

When a U.S. citizen child is not a child of the refugee adult, do not include them in the RCA budgetary unit. In this situation, determine whether the child is potentially eligible for regular CA.

- Refugee children whose parents are not refugees.

Full-time students age 19 or older in high school, technical trade school, or institutions of higher education are NOT eligible to receive RCA. Consider the following:

- Full-time attendance in an institution of higher education is defined as enrolled for twelve semester hours or 24 clock hours per week.
- Part-time students can be eligible, but are not exempt from the [RCA work program requirement](#).

Dependent children who are age 18, may be eligible when they meet the CA [full time student criteria](#).

[Deprivation](#) is not an eligibility requirement when determining budgetary unit participants.

WARNING

When deprivation does exist, all [DCSE requirements](#) apply under the same circumstances as for CA. When a participant refuses or fails to cooperate with the requirements, disqualify the participant. (See [RCA DCSE Noncompliance](#))

As a condition of eligibility, refugees are required to participate in available and appropriate social service programs as required by the following:

- Law
- DES
- The State Coordinator for Refugee Resettlement

The designated RCA EI is informed when the refugee fails to participate in appropriate social service programs.

Refusal to comply with such requirements results in termination of RCA benefits FOR THAT PARTICIPANT after sending the appropriate notice. Impose the sanctions as described in Disqualification for Noncompliance with Work Program Requirements. (See [RCA Work Program Noncompliance](#))

RCA applicants and participants must comply with all SSN and enumeration requirements of the CA program. (See [SSN Enumeration](#))

WARNING

Refugees who have social security cards marked with "Valid For Work Only With USCIS Authorization" have met the SSN enumeration requirement for participation.

The same resource criteria applies to RCA budgetary units as for any CA budgetary unit. (See [CA Resource Limit](#))

EXCEPTION

Do not count the following resources toward the resource limit:

- Any property, assets, or resources that the refugees left behind in their country of origin.
- Resources of sponsors, unless the refugees are dependents of the sponsors.

Count and budget income for an RCA case using current CA policies. (See [Earned income Overview](#) and [Unearned Income Overview](#)) RCA participants are entitled to the [earnings deductions](#).

EXCEPTION

Count income of the sponsor ONLY when the refugee is a dependent of the sponsor. For budgetary units that include an eligible refugee married and living together with either a U.S. citizen or an ineligible refugee, complete the following:

- Allow the [COE](#) and the earned income [30% Deduction](#) for the spouse's income.
- After allowing the earned income deductions, count half of the spouse's adjusted COUNTABLE income.

Use the appropriate [CA need standard](#) for the number of participants in the budgetary unit.

RCA applicants and participants are subject to all other CA eligibility requirements. (See [CA Eligibility Factors](#))

These requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Reporting changes in income, living situations, or other factors affecting eligibility. When a change in the budgetary unit's circumstances may affect the program category, this must be reported.

- Applying for other cash benefits for which the refugee may be eligible.

EXCEPTION

Applying for SSI is not a condition of eligibility. However, a refugee who appears to be potentially eligible for SSI should be referred to SSA.

- Recipients of SSI are not eligible for RCA. When a refugee begins to receive SSI while an active RCA participant, remove them from the RCA benefit following the appropriate notice requirements. (See [Removing a Participant](#))

Keep the [case files\(g\)](#) for each RCA budgetary unit under separate case numbers in separate folders, unless other benefit programs are requested. When potential CA or GA eligibility exists at or before the RCA budgetary unit's eighth month time limit, schedule a renewal. Determine CA or GA eligibility from the date of the renewal application.