

Narrative Report:

Include information such as current trends, program developments, special events, publicity or community education efforts, etc. Be sure to address any discrepancies between the level of services actually provided and performance goals. Attach additional pages as necessary.

With the economic crisis and Washington State's budget deficit and cuts in services, many newly arriving refugee families are struggling financially, and the recent 15% Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) income reduction has had a major impact on their households. The demands for emergency financial assistance as well as other social services needs such as housing, job search assistance, Basic Food application, citizenship are rising tremendously. With the reduction in income, many refugee families couldn't even afford basic household spending and often face with eviction or utility shut off notice. With funding of \$1,500.00 for emergency assistance per year funded by the city Renton, we supposed to spend them accordingly and spread them out over the course of 4 quarters. However, the demands for financial assistance were so great; we provided financial help for a total of 3 families who are in dire needs of help.

In addition, the elderly population are concerning about losing their SSI benefit if they do not become U.S citizen. It appeared to be that numerous elderly desperately sought for the citizenship naturalization, even their age and health status is sometimes a significant factor. For the 1st quarter, we had assisted a total of 16 families with housing, utility, Job Search, Basic Food and citizenship. Out of the 16 families, 3 families were received help with financial assistance with a total of \$650.

In February, 2011, ReWA had hosted our 5th Refugee and Immigrant Legislative Day. The event was a great success. Over 2,200 participants had attended the event over across Washington State. Without the essential services like citizenship, ESL and employment; thousands of immigrants and refugees will not be able to success in America.