HHS COMMITTEE #1
February 4, 2016

MEMORANDUM

February 3, 2016

TO: Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: **Overview and Discussion: Refugee and Asylee Resettlement in Montgomery County**

At this session, the HHS Committee will learn about the process, services, and supports provided to refugees and asylees that settle in the Montgomery County area during their transition period and after their federally-funded transition period is complete. The presenters will provide information on how they work with their clients, as well as share information about the challenges and barriers that are faced by refugees and asylees. Council staff is recommending the following order for presentations:

Presentations from Refugee Resettlement Agencies:

These three agencies are the State's partners for providing resettlement services in the Montgomery County area. Clients are not limited to resettling in Montgomery County and often reside in Prince George's and other nearby counties.

Sarah Zullo, Managing Director, African Community Center, Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)
Mamadou Sy, Program Director for Refugee and Immigrant Services, Lutheran Social Services (LSS)
Amber Mull, Interim Deputy Director, International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Presentation from Department of Health and Human Services:

JoAnn Barnes, Chief, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Children, Youth, and Family Services.
Dr. Ulder Tillman, Chief, DHHS Public Health Services

Presentations from Organizations that Provide Ongoing Support and Programming:

Kaori Hirakawa, Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity
Nouf Bazaz, Crossroads Program Director, International Cultural Center (ICC), World Organization for Resource Development and Education (WORDE)

Background

Definitions: The United States Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement provides the following definitions for refugee and asylees.

Refugee – A refugee is any person who is outside the country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside the country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

Asylees – Asylees are individuals who, on their own, travel to the United States and subsequently apply for/receive a grant of asylum. Asylees do not enter the United States as refugees. They may enter as students, tourist, businessmen, or even in an undocumented status. Once in the U.S., or at a land border or port of entry, they apply to the Department of Homeland Security for asylum

The process for refugee resettlement starts outside the United States. Attached at ©1-18 is an overview provided by the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees (MORA) and at ©36-44 are descriptions of case process from the U.S. Department of State and the White House. On average, it takes from 18 to 24 months for a refugee to complete the referral, screening, and review process before arriving in the United States.

As described on ©15, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement funds State Refugee Coordinators. MORA serves in this role for the State of Maryland. MORA collaborates with Resettlement Agencies and local public health and social services departments to provide employment services, English language classes, case management, transitional cash assistance, and health screenings. A description of these programs is included at ©17. The role of the Resettlement Agencies (ECDC, LSS, and IRC) are listed in ©14 and include airport reception, arranging for housing, community orientation, and assistance with basic support needs (food, clothing, pocket money, transportation, school registration.)

ECDC, LSS, and IRC will inform the Committee more about these programs but it is most important to understand that these programs are short-term and refugees and asylees are expected to move to self-sufficiency. For example, the Refugee Transitional Cash Assistance program provides assistance for up to 8 months. The agencies must work to help refugees find housing that they will be able to afford after the temporary assistance ends. Affordable housing in Montgomery County is a significant challenge for refugees.

Organizations such as the Gilchrist Center and the International Cultural Center/WORDE help refugees and asylees during transition but also with ongoing challenges that can continue after the transition period and funding are over.

Attached to this memo is some brief information on the organizations that will be presenting: ECDC (©19-23); LSS (©24-25); IRC (©26-28); Gilchrist Center (©29-33); and ICC/WORDE (©34-35).

Statistical Information

Data from the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees shows that for Federal Fiscal Years 2010 through 2014 (five years):

Refugees:

- 6,716 refugees from 50 counties resettled in Maryland; 43% resettled in Baltimore City, 34% in Montgomery County, and 9% in Prince George's County.
- Of the 2,256 refugees that resettled in Montgomery County, most were from Iraq (603), Burma (333), Afghanistan (273), Eritea (266), Congo (164), Ethiopia (121), and Bhutan (108).
- Statewide 55% were male and 45% were female.
- Statewide 35% were age 19 or younger and 56% were age 20 through 49.

Asylees:

- 3,955 asylees from 73 countries resettled in Maryland; 55% resettled in Montgomery County, 18% in Prince George's County, and 12% in Baltimore City.
- Of the 2,181 asylees residing in Montgomery County, most were from Ethiopia (968), Cameroon (440), Eritea (138), Congo (60), and Togo (60).
- Statewide 52% were male and 48% were female.
- Statewide 17% were age 19 or younger and 75% were age 20 through 49.

Of the 949 refugees and asylees residing in Montgomery County and enrolled in employment services, 35% were high school graduates or had some college and another 29% were college graduates or above.

Link to Statistical Abstract Report:
http://www.dhr.state.md.us/blog/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/MORA_Abstract_2010-2014.pdf

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US REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM (USRAP)

Program Overview

Augustin Ntabaganyimana, Director
Maryland Office of Refugees and Asylees
Augustin.Ntabaganyimana@Maryland.Gov

Who is a refugee?

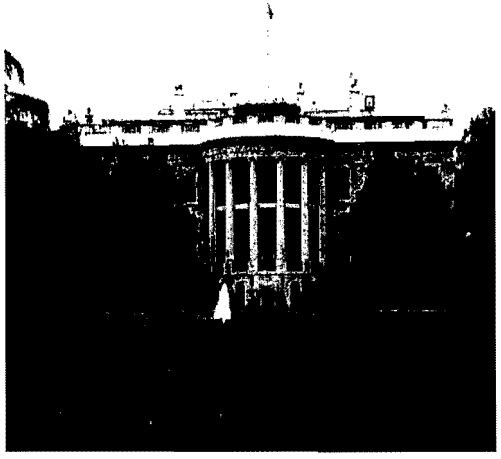
- According to the 1951 UN Convention, a refugee is "a person who is unable to return to his or her home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on **race, religion, nationality, political opinion**, or **social group."** The U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) expanded this definition to include in-country processing as deemed necessary by the President.

Durable Solutions for Refugees

- UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, explores three options in the following order:
    1. Repatriation
    2. Resettlement in first country of asylum
    3. Third Country Resettlement

Legal Basis for USRAP

- The refugee Act of 1980 gives the Executive Branch the authority to determine, every year, the number and sources of refugees to resettle in U.S.
- The President makes his decision in consultation with Congress (the Senate's Judiciary Committee)
- President's decision is know as the "Presidential Determination" and is signed at the beginning of every year
- States provide input in the decision making process and only serve a consultative role



The President, in consultation with Congress, establishes the number of refugees by geographic region eligible for admission each fiscal year.

U.S. Resettlement Structure

- Three federal agencies collaborate to make the resettlement program a reality.
  - The Department of State (DOS) is in charge of identification and overseas processing
  - The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) conducts interviews to determine eligibility for admission, and conducts background checks and security clearance
  - The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is responsible for post-arrival refugees integration

Refugees Processing Priorities

Group P-2
Referral

Individual P-1
Referral

Family
Reunification
P-3

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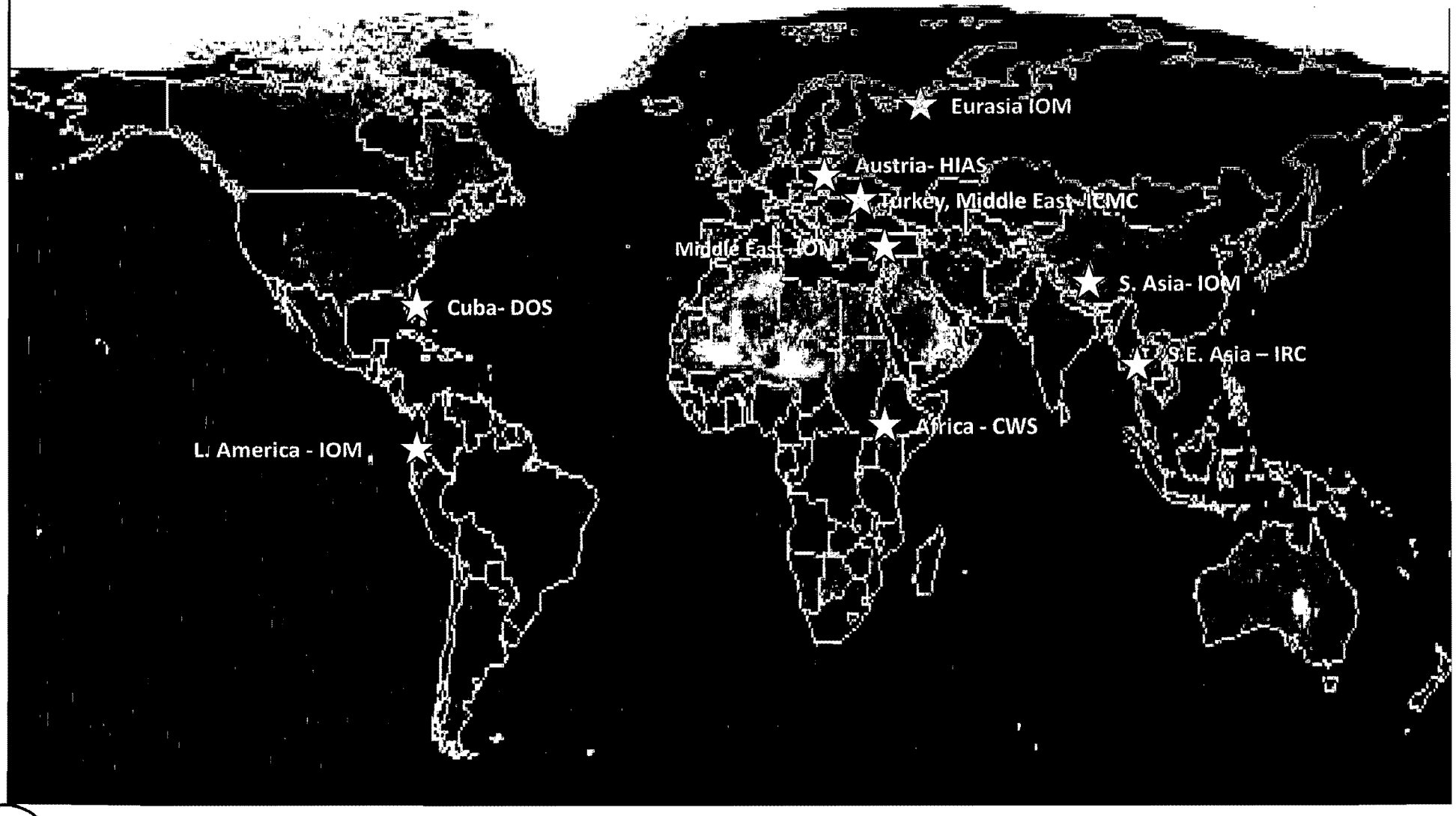
Resettlement Support Centers Locations



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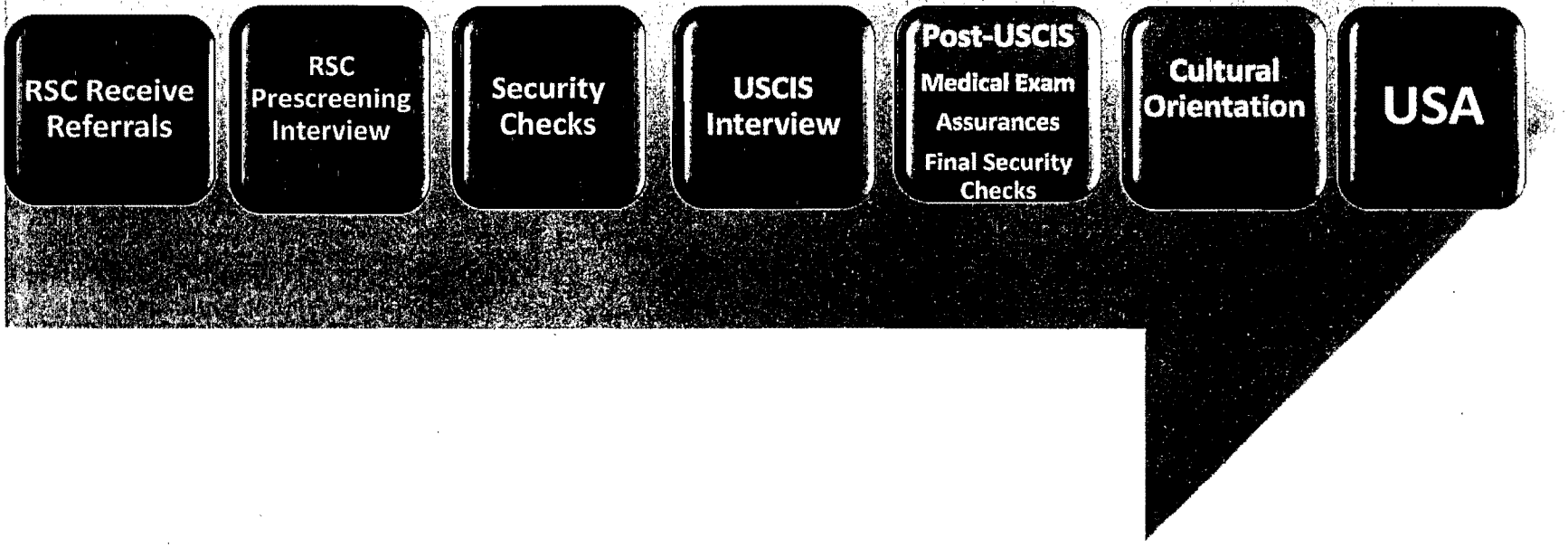
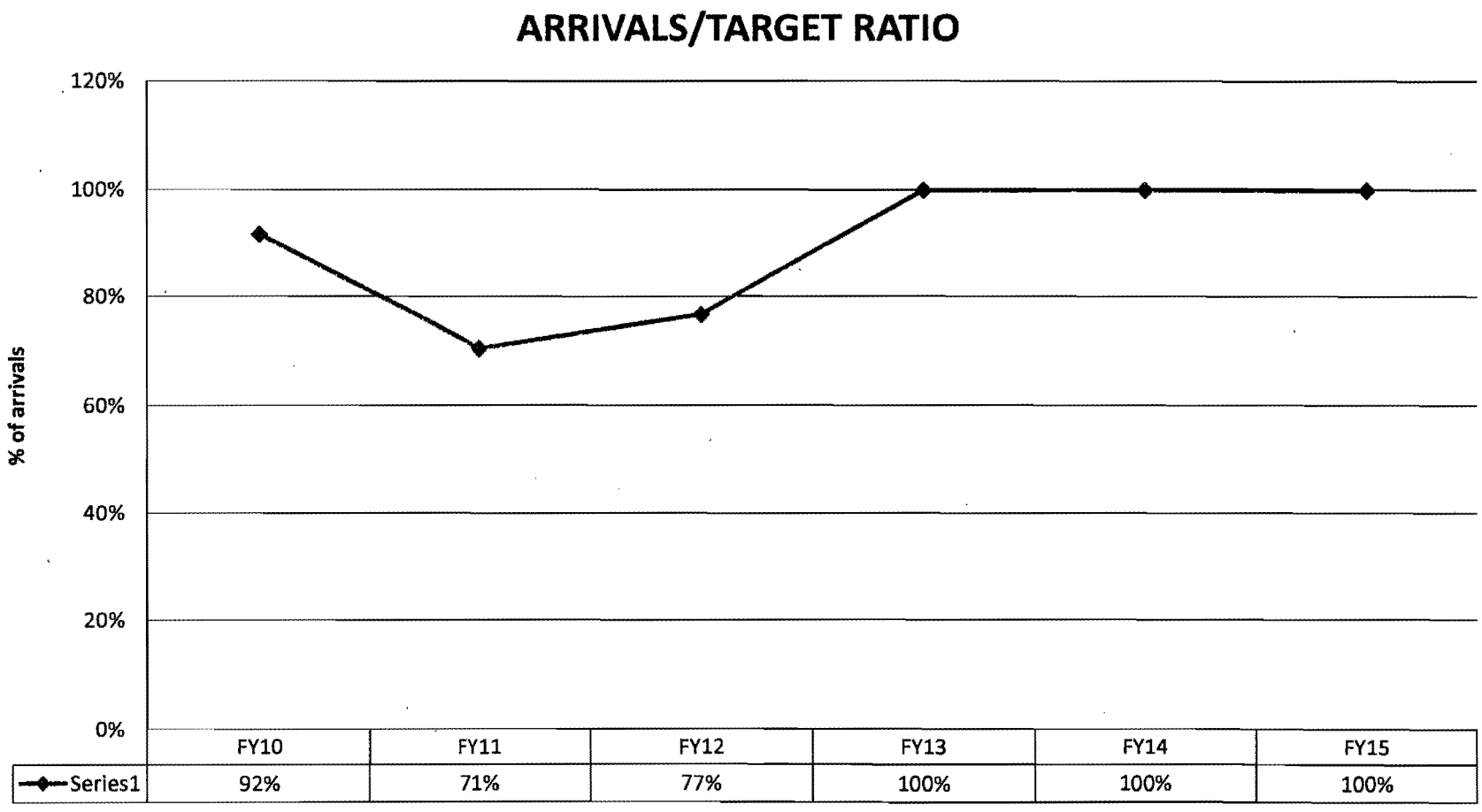
How Are Refugee Processed?



Admissions Ceilings By Region

Region	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Africa	17,000	15,000	12,000	12,000	15,000	17,000	25,000
East Asia	2,500	19,000	18,000	17,000	14,000	13,000	13,000
Europe and Central Asia	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Latin America and the Caribbean	5,000	5,500	5,500	5,000	5,000	4,000	3,000
Near East & South Asia	35,000	35,500	35,500	31,000	33,000	33,000	34,000
Unallocated Reserve	5,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Total:	80,000	80,000	76,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	85,000

Annual Refugee Admissions Totals



Placement

- Ten Resettlement Agencies (RAs) enter into Cooperative Agreements with DOS to welcome refugees. Each RA has local affiliates across the country
- RAs convene on weekly at the Refugee Processing Center (RPC) to allocate approved cases
- It can take weeks, months, or years for a refugee to arrive after they have been assigned to a resettlement agency

Maryland's Resettlement Agencies

HIAS

Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

world relief™

ECDC
Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

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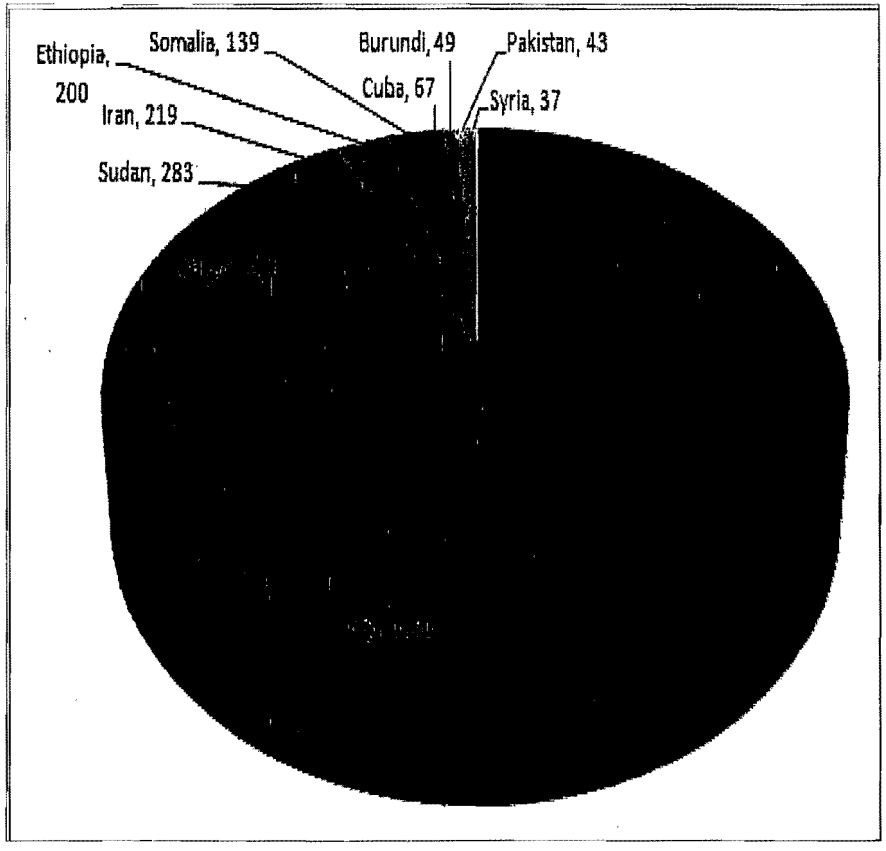
Resettlement in Maryland



FFY2011-FFY2015 ARRIVALS BY COUNTY	
Baltimore City	3255
Montgomery	2509
Prince George's	699
Baltimore	315
Howard	270
Frederick	163
Anne Arundel	147
Washington	8
Carroll	8
Hartford	5
Charles	3
Caroline	2

RAs' Role

R&P Core Services

- Housing Arrangement
- Airport Reception
- Case File Maintenance
- Intake Interview
- Community Orientation
- Assistance with accessing medical care
- Linkages with public resources

Basic Needs of Support

- Decent Housing
- Food before food stamps
- Seasonal Clothing
- Pocket Money
- Initial Medical Screening
- Registering children in school
- Transportation to job interview or training
- ESL Registration

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States' Role

- State Refugee Coordinators are funded by ORR. MORA serves this role in the State of Maryland.
- ORR funds states to provide employment services, ESL, Case Management, Transitional Cash Assistance, and Initial Health Screening
- MORA provides these services in collaboration with local RAs and local community service agencies
- MORA, as other State Coordinators, plays a consultative role in determining local refugee admissions

(5)

Other Populations under MORA'S Jurisdiction

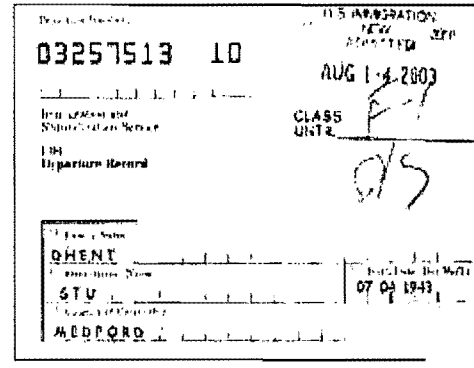
- Individuals granted asylum under Section 208 of the INA
- Cuban or Haitian entrants, in accordance with the requirements of 45 CFR Part 401
- Amerasian from Vietnam admitted to the U.S. pursuant to Section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Appropriations Act, 1988
- Certified Victim of a severe form of trafficking certified by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holder (SIV)

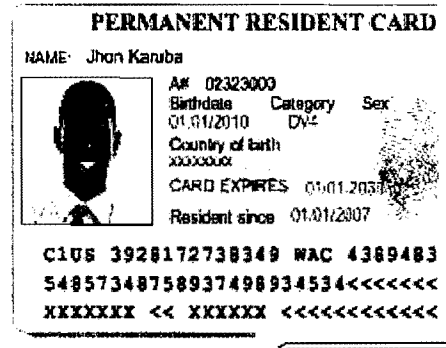
MORA Programs

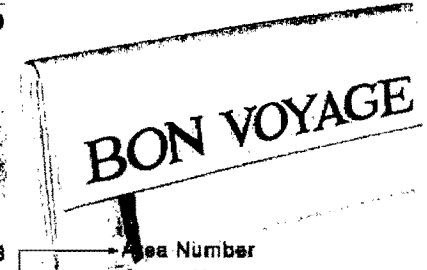
Program	Purpose and Services
Refugee Transitional Cash Assistance(RTCA)	RTCA is a state-administered and federally-funded temporary financial assistance program. It is available to qualified legal immigrants to allow them sufficient time to secure employment and become economically independent. The program is comparable to Maryland's Temporary Cash Assistance for Families (TCA) program in benefits and requirements, but is designed to help qualified immigrants without dependent children.
Initial Refugee Health Screening Program(HIS)	Resettlement agencies are responsible for ensuring newly arrived refugees receive an Initial Health Screening ("IHS") upon arrival to the U.S. IHS appointments determine if new arrivals have medical conditions that need immediate attention. Children also receive immunizations required for school enrollment at the IHS. After the IHS, clients are referred to a primary care physician for preventive health and ongoing care.
English as Second Language (ESL)	Helping refugees develop English language proficiency is critical to MORA's mission because refugees who speak English realize faster social integration and economic self-sufficiency. MORA makes free English Language Training (ELT) available to refugees in Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Baltimore City.
Workforce Development	Self-sufficiency is achieved through a wide range of social and employment services aimed at improving life for economically disadvantaged clients. Using an array of programs and strategies, MORA's grantees offer employment services tailored to each refugee's needs. A few examples of employment services funded by MORA include: Job Readiness Training, Resume Writing, Job Search Assistance, Vocational Training, Interview Preparation, Transportation Assistance, Interpretation during job interviews, Post-placement, mentoring for vocational success.

Pathway to Citizenship

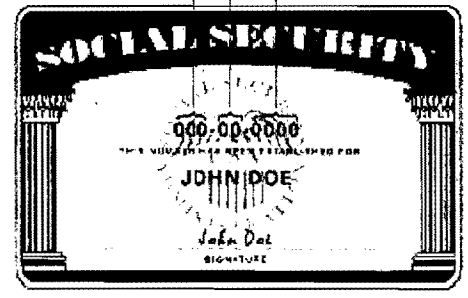
- U.S. is a resettlement country because with provide refugees with pathway to citizenship.
- Refugees arrive as legal residents w/ rights as Citizens except that they are not allowed to vote, hold certain elected offices, or federal gov't jobs.
- Refugees may apply to become permanent residents after one year of arrival, and they may apply to become citizens after 5 years
- Refugees may travel overseas, however , they cannot go to their home country.
- Refugees must notify DHS when they move at any time during the first 5 years in US.
- Refugees are subject to background check and will be denied citizenship if they committed crimes







Area Number
Group Number
Serial Number



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Our History

ECDC was established in 1983 as a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) community-based organization to respond to the needs of a growing Ethiopian community, both in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and around the United States. However, since its founding, ECDC has served newcomers from diverse cultural backgrounds from many parts of the world.

ECDC is a National Voluntary Agency, authorized by the Department of State, to resettle refugees. ECDC works locally, regionally, and nationally. ECDC's program of public education seeks to increase awareness within the wider community and among mainstream organizations about issues of concern to the newcomer community in general and to African refugees and immigrants in particular. As a national voice, ECDC brings an African perspective to issues that affect African refugees here and in Africa.

ECDC works closely with both the private and public sectors and has a broad base of financial support, which is derived from corporations, foundations, individual contributions, in-kind donations, religious institutions, and contracts and grants from federal, state, and local government agencies. ECDC is a member of InterAction and the Refugee Council USA.

In the 1980s, ECDC concentrated on bridging the gaps in mainstream services for newcomers. During the 1990s, ECDC expanded organizationally and programmatically to meet the needs of the African community. In 1991, ECDC inaugurated a national refugee resettlement program that operates through a network of African CBOs located across the United States. A micro-enterprise development project, launched in 1992, grew into an independent program center and was incorporated in 2001 as a subsidiary, the ECDC Enterprise Development Group.

Today, ECDC continues to develop programs that respond to the needs of newcomers to the country and to increase awareness about refugee and newcomer issues at home and abroad.

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ABOUT US

Our History

Our Staff

DONATIONS

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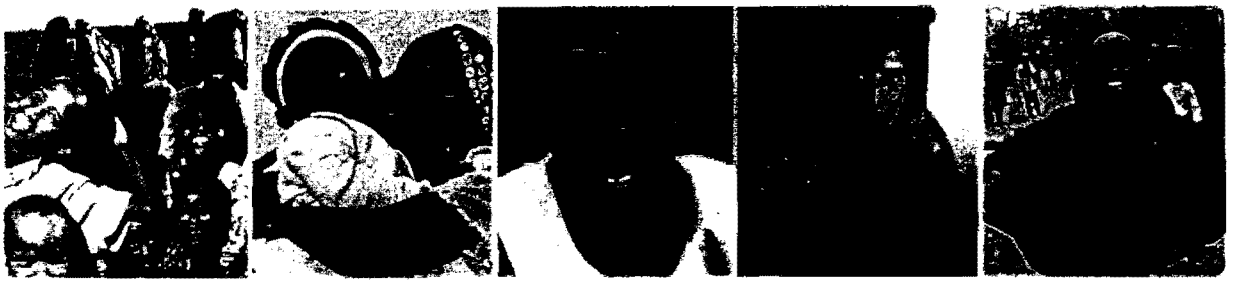

Provide Refugee Resettlement and Social Services

Refugee Program
Matching Grant Program
Preferred Communities Program
Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program
Other Social Services

The Ethiopian Community Development Council serves the African immigrant and refugee community in the United States through a broad spectrum of programs that are conducted locally and nationally.

ECDC's programs assist newcomers and improve their quality of life by helping them become productive individuals who give back to their community. On a national level, ECDC resettles refugees from around the world through a network of community-based affiliates and serves as a voice for African newcomers.

Refugee Resettlement

The United States has a long tradition of welcoming those forced to leave their homelands due to persecution. ECDC is one of nine national agencies authorized by the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) to resettle refugees in the U.S. Since the inception of our Reception and Placement (R&P) Program in 1991, we have resettled over 25,000 refugees from around the world.

ECDC has a network of three branch offices and 14 affiliate offices throughout the United States. These offices work with each refugee for an initial 30-day period that can be extended up to 90 days after arrival. Staff and volunteers at these offices provide basic services, including welcoming refugees at the airport; providing housing and household furniture supplies; ensuring that refugees have food and clothing; and assisting them to enroll in school, English language programs, employment services, health screenings, and other public services. The overall goal is to facilitate their transition into becoming self-sufficient members of their communities.

Matching Grant Program

The Matching Grant (MG) program, funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, supplements refugee resettlement programming within ECDC's affiliate network by providing employment services to eligible clients. The program helps refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking, Cuban/Haitian entrants, certain Amerasians from Vietnam, and Special Immigrant Visa holders. Since ECDC began administering the program in 1995, it has assisted over 8,000 clients.

Through the MG program, ECDC's affiliates provide a range of services to help clients obtain employment quickly. In addition to these direct employment services, they provide maintenance assistance in the form of a monthly cash allowance, rent and utilities payments, and funds for transportation. The primary purpose of these services is to help newcomers gain employment within 120 to 180 days of arrival in the U.S.

Preferred Communities Program

The Preferred Communities (PC) program, funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, is designed to support the resettlement of newly-arrived refugees in communities where they have many opportunities to become self-sufficient and integrated. Additionally, its purpose is to support refugees with special needs who require intensive case management.

ECDC's PC program seeks to expand and strengthen our affiliates' ability to resettle refugees without family or other social connections in the U.S.; to enhance job readiness services through intensive case management; and to generate cash, volunteer, and in-kind donations that directly support agencies' newly arriving refugee caseloads. We administer this program at a select number of our branch and affiliate offices.

Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program

In October 2010, ECDC established the Individual Development Accounts (IDA) program at our Las Vegas branch office. Funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the program helps low-income refugees save money towards education

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WHAT WE DO

Refugee Resettlement

Match Grant Program

Preferred Communities Program

Individual Development Accounts (IDA)

Other Social Services

Strengthen Community-Based Organizations

Engage in Public Education and Advocacy

Conduct International Projects

DONATIONS

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and asset building.

ECDC's IDA program matches the refugees' savings to be used toward first time home purchases, college education tuition payments, vehicle purchases, or microenterprise start-up costs. While participants are saving to achieve their asset goals, the program provides them with financial literacy and asset-specific education. The financial training is intended to help refugees understand budgeting, banking, the value of saving and turning savings to an asset, and the importance of having a good credit. The ACC also collaborates with banks and other community partners to augment its program.

Other Social Services

Our branch and affiliate offices provide a wide range of services including: • Immigration counseling; • Youth and after-school projects; • Domestic violence education; and • Health programs such as HIV testing, breast cancer awareness, and diabetes education.

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About the ECDC African Community Center DC Metro

The African Community Center DC Metro is a branch office of the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) serving Washington, D.C., northern Virginia, and Maryland. ACC is operational from two offices located in Arlington, VA and Silver Spring, MD.

With the main purpose of resettling refugees and asylees, ACC provides various services to newcomers in the United States.

About the Refugee Youth Program

Goal:

To provide emotional and academic support for refugee youth in the form of life skills classes, homework help/tutoring, and enrichment activities.

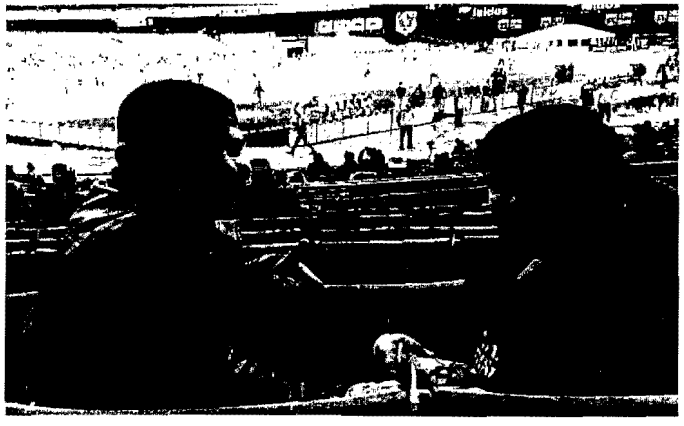
Who is eligible to join?

This program is for **refugee and asylee youth** between the ages of **10 and 21** who are in **middle or high school**.

Contact ECDC ACC DC Metro at:

Suburban Washington Resettlement Center
8719 Colesville Road, Floor 3
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: (301) 562-8633 ext. 328
Fax: (301) 562-8585
Email: Volunteer@ecdcus.org
ECDC website: www.ecdcus.org
ACC website: www.acc-dc.org



Refugee Youth Program

Provided by the

African Community Center

A community resource for newcomers of all cultures

What does the Refugee Youth Program do?

After School Help:

ACC provides after school sessions 1 to 2 days a week at local middle and high schools for program participants. Activities range from homework assistance to SAT prep to contests and group activities.

Workshops:

Interactive workshops help youth develop new skills. Topics include:

⇒ Study Habits

⇒ Stress Management

⇒ Nutrition

⇒ And many others

College Tours:

Students can tour schools such as Montgomery College and University of Maryland and talk to current college students about the application process, classes, and financing a college degree.

Field Trips:

The Refugee Youth Program plans fun and exciting field trips to encourage program attendance and good behavior.

In order to attend the field trips, students must earn participation credit by attending tutoring sessions and/or completing summer assignments.

Past field trips have included:

⇒ The National Zoo and Aquarium

⇒ The Natural History Museum

⇒ D.C. United professional soccer games

⇒ And many others!

Individual Attention:

Each student gets personal attention from our staff to empower them to grow as individuals and students. This may include:

⇒ Setting goals

⇒ Enrolling in extra-curricular activities

⇒ Mediating with schools

⇒ Assisting with scholarship or job searches

Parent Services:

This program is for parents, too! We can:

⇒ Explain letters from schools

⇒ Assist with parent-teacher communications

⇒ Track report cards and school attendance

⇒ Assist with school forms

For additional information or to enroll in the program, contact the Refugee Youth Program Coordinator at:

8719 Colesville Road, 3rd Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: (301) 562-8633 ext. 328
Email: Volunteer@ecdcus.org

Adoption & Foster Care (http://lssnca.org/programs/adoption_foster/)

Caregiver Support (http://lssnca.org/programs/caregiver_support/)

Disaster Response (http://lssnca.org/programs/disaster_response/)

Refugees & Immigrant Services (http://lssnca.org/programs/refugees_immigrant/)

Refugee Resettlement (http://lssnca.org/programs/refugees_immigrant/resettlement.html)

Refugee Employment Services (http://lssnca.org/programs/refugees_immigrant/employment_services.html)

Special Social Programming (http://lssnca.org/programs/refugees_immigrant/social_programming.html)

Refugee Resources (http://lssnca.org/programs/refugees_immigrant/resources.html)

Central American Minors (CAM) (http://lssnca.org/programs/refugees_immigrant

Refugee & Immigrant Services

In partnership with faith communities, foundations, local, state and federal partners and hosts of volunteers, LSS/NCA is proud to welcome hundreds of refugees from around the world to the United States every year. From the moment a new family arrives at the airport, our staff is at the gate waiting to provide guidance, encouragement and other welcoming services. While each family's story is different, their collective dreams are the same: to rebuild their lives in America and regain a sense of security after years of uncertainty and turmoil. We support our clients during this important transition by mobilizing community partners and offering a comprehensive range of services to newcomers including refugee assistance, employment training and immigration services throughout Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

Our goal is to help refugees gain self-sufficiency through resettlement (http://lssncaorg.presencehost.net/programs/refugees_immigrant/resettlement.html), employment services (http://lssncaorg.presencehost.net/programs/refugees_immigrant/employment_services.html), and social programming (http://lssncaorg.presencehost.net/programs/refugees_immigrant/social_programming.html).

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Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Refugees are people who cannot return home ...

People whose own government cannot or will not protect them.
People who are persecuted for their religious or political beliefs.
People who flee war or genocide.
People who are brutalized by a military regime.
People for whom escaping to another country is the only means of survival.

07:46

Refugees are people...and every person has a story. Stories of family and friends. Stories of lov loss. Stories of rebuilding hope and establishing self-sufficiency in a new land.

When refugees arrive in the United States they immediately begin the process of putting roots and establishing themselves in their new communities.

They enroll their children in school. They learn the local transit system. They sign up for Engl computer classes. And they are eager to find employment to be able to provide for themselve their families. As they work their way to self-sufficiency, refugees prove to be some of the dependable, hardworking and committed members of our communities, congregations and workp

Self-sufficiency is key to successful integration into American society. LIRS helps newcome engaging local churches and communities in the resettlement process and by promoting emplo and providing training and support to local job developers. Donate now!

Advocating with Refugees

As one of the nation's leading refugee resettlement organizations, LIRS draws upon decades of service expertise to inform our advocacy on behalf of people fleeing war and persecution. Read more ...

Connecting Employers with New American Talent

Refugees and migrants play an important role in the U.S. workforce. LIRS's innovative national employment initiative Higher, helps employers fill critical positions. Visit Higher today..

Resettling Refugees

LIRS is one of 9 na organizations that re refugees on behalf of the government. In partn with local organizations congregations, we stri create welcoming commu to receive refugees. Read ...

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IRC Programs in Silver Spring

Resettlement (#resettlement)
Economic Empowerment (#economic)
Community Integration and Development (#community)
Health and Wellness (#health)

Resettlement

Meeting the basic needs for food, shelter and legal rights in the early, critical stages of resettlement.

Reception and Placement: Through a partnership with the Department of State, the IRC assists over 10,000 refugees to resettle in the U.S. every year. IRC staff and volunteers meet refugees at the airport and provide initial housing, furnishings, food, and clothing. Additional services include employment assistance, health and social service referrals, vocational training, English-language classes, and orientation to their new community. The IRC helps refugees to move towards self-sufficiency and integration in 22 U.S. cities.

At-Risk Extended Services: The IRC provides additional assistance to refugees, asylees, holders of Special Immigrant Visas, Cuban-Hatian entrants and victims of human trafficking who are pursuing self-sufficiency beyond their initial eight months of assistance or are experiencing immediate crisis. While all clients come to the IRC with more resiliency than many can imagine, clients with significant barriers to self-sufficiency can find themselves experiencing a number of crises beyond their control. Extended Services reaches out through case management, financial assistance, community resource referrals, and more. The IRC is committed to helping refugees with unique challenges transition to life in Maryland.

Asylee Program: This program provides assistance to asylees through the development of individual self-sufficiency plans and by matching their needs and preferences to financial, medical, social and vocational resources.

Economic Empowerment

Protecting, supporting and improving household livelihoods and financial security.

Employment Program: The Employment Program manages the provision of services to assist refugee and asylee clients in attaining self sufficiency through employment. The Employment Program provides services that include employment preparation, placement, career enhancement services and follow-up.

Community Interpreter Program:

The IRC Community Interpreter Program provides interpreters to local organizations including resettlement partners, physical and behavioral health providers and non-profits in the greater Silver Spring, MD community. All interpreters have completed language proficiency testing, interpreter training and a 10 hour observation period during which they receive regular feedback on their work. Interpreters with specific medical or legal training may also be available. Over 40 languages are offered, with focus on refugee languages. For more information on working with IRC Community Interpreters please email **InterpreterSS@rescue.org** (mailto:InterpreterSS@rescue.org)

Interpreter Training

Interested in a career in interpreting? The IRC Community Interpreter Program offers a 40 hour interpreter training, "The Community Interpreter" in Silver Spring, MD. Click here (http://www.rescue.org/us-program/us-silver-spring-md/learn-about-community-interpreter-training) to learn more.

Community Integration and Development

Strengthening communities and preparing individuals to participate fully in American society.

Immigration Services: The IRC offers high-quality, low-cost immigration legal services, assisting refugees and other vulnerable populations. Services include representation in connection with filing of applications and petitions for adjustment of status, family reunification, naturalization and otehr immigration benefits. In many locations, the IRC also offers classes in English language and civics to prepare individuals for naturalization. In helping refugees to attain citizenship, the IRC strengthens communities and encourages civic integration and participation.

Cultural Orientation: The IRC provides thorough orientation to newly arrived refugee and asylee clients through its unique Cultural Orientation Program. Initial training is provided to clients within the first 30-60 days in America. The 12-16 hour course provides orientation for 5 to 15 clients at a time to topics including: transportation, public assistance, US laws, housing, health, employment and cultural adjustment. This group format allows participants to learn from and make connections with each other. Additional training is available to clients throughout their resettlement period on specific topics ranging

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from financial literacy and US schools to higher education and parenting. In addition to acquiring important knowledge and skills through these highly interactive and participant-focused sessions, newly arrived refugees and asylees have opportunities in class to express feelings and voice concerns about the often difficult transition to life in America.

Health and Wellness

Promoting wellness and ensuring access to healthcare services that address physical and psychological needs.

Public Health Program: IRC's Public Health Program delivers holistic services to newly arrived refugees and asylees to minimize their barriers to health care, resources and information. Through medical case management, health orientations and education, and community outreach, the Public Health program aims to better equip clients to access appropriate and timely health care services and ultimately achieve self-sufficiency.

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IRC and Upwardly Global Partnership Thrives

Since 2013, The International Rescue Committee and **Upwardly Global** (https://www.upwardlyglobal.org/) have strengthened a partnership to assist refugees in identifying advanced employment opportunities and career development skills. Today, the organizations help hundreds of refugees on site in Silver Spring to rebuild their careers in the United States.

"I really believe that the IRC and Upwardly Global complement each other," says Upwardly Global Employment Services specialist Hadya Abdul Satar. "In this partnership, the IRC provides initial support to immigrants to become financially stable. They begin with the short term goals of the job seeker rebuilding their life, we then work together on long term goals of going back into their field." The two organizations are proud of their complimentary histories; the IRC brings 80 years of refugee expertise and Upwardly Global brings 15 years of experience connecting immigrants to job searching support and technology.

Upwardly Global's Hadya – **who is also a former IRC client** (http://www.rescue.org/blog/graduation-day-dream-teaching-afghanistan) - works with the Economic Empowerment team at the IRC's office in Silver Spring. "Being born in Afghanistan and seeing the hardships that my parents have faced encouraged me to do the work that I'm doing with immigrants in this region," Hadya says. She shared that her favorite part of her job is helping refugees negotiate raises. "That is my favorite part because it is the pinnacle," she says. "Everyone works hard to reach that point. I feel so lucky to be there and experience it with them. I help them get the best offer that they can get."

IRC Employment Specialist agrees that this is a special partnership. "This is an exciting example of how different organizations can work together," William says. "In our case, we are in the same location and provide a complimentary, seamless service plan. I have served many clients with basic job development services whom, after having obtained their first jobs have been referred to Hadya to work on their long term job search and professional development."

Upwardly Global currently works with 160 clients at the Silver Spring location; these individuals are primarily professionals specializing in accounting engineering, health care and development. The organizations are also hoping to expand in connections to other IRC offices.

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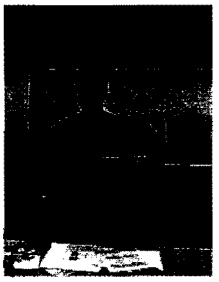
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Charles W. Gilchrist
Center for Cultural Diversity

New Americans Welcome Area (NAWA)

NAWA provides extensive information and referral to all Montgomery County residents regarding, but not limited to: consumer affairs, education issues, employment, English as a second language classes, health care, housing issues, legal assistance, recreation programs and senior services. NAWA also designs programs that will enlighten clients and encourage cultural diversity and integration into the County. For example, Citizenship Classes, Legal Aid Clinics, Computer Classes, ESOL Classes, Housing Seminars, and Immigration Seminars. As much as possible, individual counseling will be available to assist clients fulfill their needs in accessing services and information in the County.



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CHARLES W. GILCHRIST CENTER FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

VISION:

To help make Montgomery County a thriving multicultural community where every resident feels welcomed, participates civically, and contributes positively to the economy.

MISSION:

To be Montgomery County Government's welcome center where the County's diverse population can be connected to public and private services, volunteering, civic engagement, cross cultural activities, and economic empowerment.

WHAT IS THE GILCHRIST CENTER?

A WELCOME CENTER

A LEARNING CENTER

AN INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTER

A CELEBRATION OF MULTICULTURALISM

A SPACE TO BUILD COMMUNITY

WE CONNECTED CLIENTS TO RESOURCES THROUGH DIRECT AND REFERRED SERVICES.

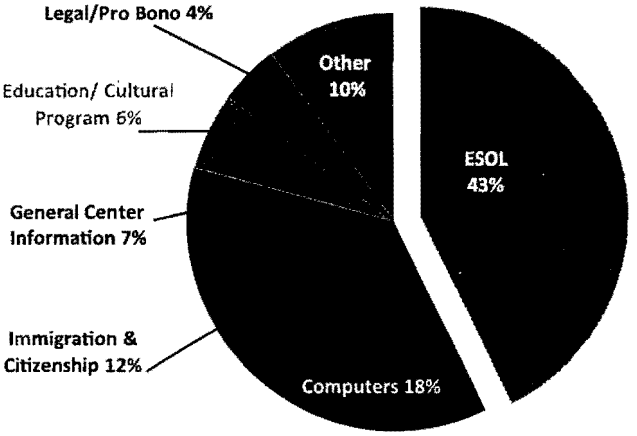
9,115 gained English as a Second Language (ESOL), Spanish or computer skills in volunteer-taught Gilchrist classes

8,490 referred to services by phone or in person

4,237 served through partners at Gilchrist Centers

118 number of classes taught this year

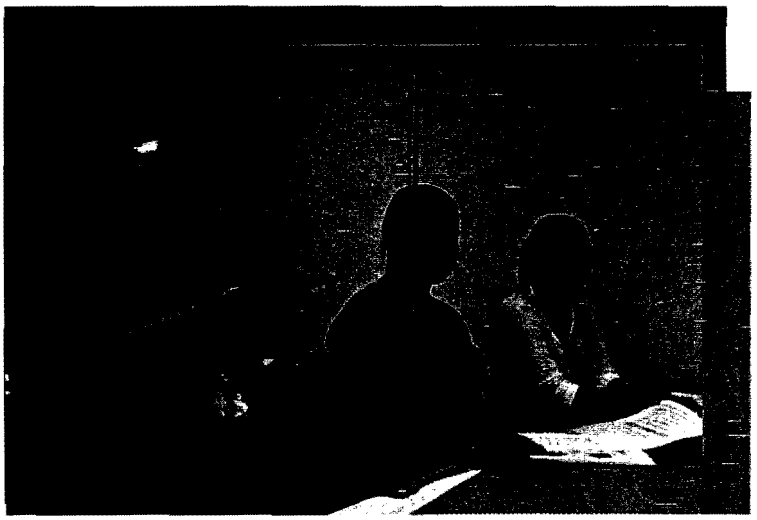
REFERRED SERVICES



[redacted]

WE LINKED CLIENTS TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS

- **1,400+** colleagues provided with up-to-date information through Community News & Announcements.
- **3,000+** people served through partnerships with:
  - Montgomery College,
  - Literacy Council of Montgomery County,
  - Montgomery County Bar Foundation, and
  - Baltimore City Community College Citizenship Program
- Promoted immigrants' needs and activism via Quarterly Network meetings with **40+** organizations.
- The Gilchrist Center participated in more than **12** events and informed the general public of services, for example:
  - World of Montgomery Festival
  - MCPS Back to School Fair
  - Taste of Wheaton
  - Ama Tu Vida Multicultural Health Festival
  - World Refugee Day
  - MCPS International Admissions

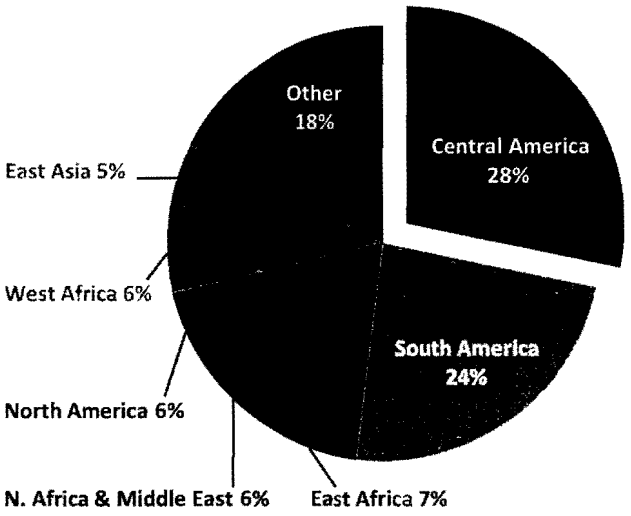


"Gilchrist [Center] has [a] good method to learn, [and is a] good place to study. [It] help[ed] me get citizenship and get me improve in English...Teachers and staff are good."

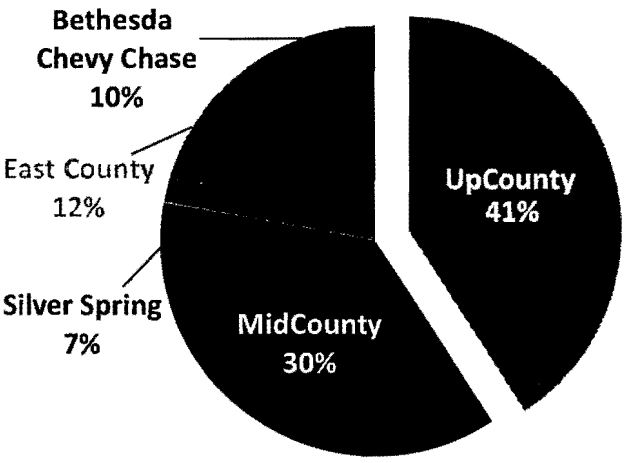
– Student, Gilchrist Center 2015

WE HELPED OUR DIVERSE CLIENTELE BUILD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGINS



CLIENTS BY AREA



AS A VOLUNTEER...

- I have loved teaching the ESL classes. I love being with the adult students who are learning English. They inspire me! Their drive and determination to learn a new language and make a new life for themselves and their families is a powerful reminder to me and my family.

  —Volunteer ESOL instructor for 3 years

- I love teaching adult ESOL. I work at the Wheaton Library location. The highlight has to be watching my adult students become empowered when they learn to communicate in English. This has happened because of the hard work by the Gilchrist staff to establish these classes.

  —Volunteer ESOL instructor for 1 year

WE BUILT CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND COMMUNITY THROUGH VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT.

143 volunteers taught classes and provided program support

6,485 total volunteer hours

$149,609 leveraged in volunteer hours*

*Value based on number of volunteer hours times national estimated value of volunteer time as stated by https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

> ***"Gilchrist Center [is a] pioneer that makes [an] unfamiliar person to give [an] initial ... boost-up."***
>
> *– Student, Gilchrist Center 2015*

THANK YOU

The Gilchrist Center thanks all the volunteers who have given their time, enthusiasm, understanding and energy to our work. We have succeeded in all we have done thanks to you!

JOIN US IN OUR WORK!

Become an ambassador for your community and welcome our new neighbors! Contact 240.777.4940 for more information. Or download the application from from the Gilchrist Center's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist.

Contact Information:

Bruce Adams,
Director of the Office of Community Partnerships

Kaori Hirakawa, Program Manager I

Anna DeNicolo, Program Specialist I

Nestor Alvarenga, Up-County Representative

Daniel Koroma, East County Representative

Main Number: 240.777.4940
Web: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist
E-mail: Gilchrist.Center@montgomerycountymd.gov
/GilchristCenterForCulturalDiversity

Locations:

Headquarters: Mid- County Regional Services Center
2424 Reedie Drive, Suite 220, Wheaton, MD 20902
240.777.4940

Wheaton Library Site:
11701 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902
240.777.4950

Gaithersburg Library Site:
18330 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20879
240.777.4960

Upcounty Regional Services Center Site:
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, MD 20874
240.777.6950

East County Regional Services Center Site
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring MD 20904
240-777-8406

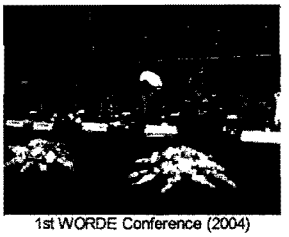
STUDENTS SAY, "THE GILCHRIST CENTER HELPED ME..."

- By providing information as well as encouraging me to enroll in classes which we need.
- So that I am no longer afraid of the English language.
- Know about services by Gilchrist Center. Then I choose the service I need.
- Improve as well as upgrade my ability for independence.
- Learn to write my resume and cover letter and prepare for a successful interview.
- So that I was able to write this letter because of the class at the Gilchrist Center.

Credits:
Photos and Text: Heather Ritchie
Design: Kelli Rogowski

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Charles W. Gilchrist
Center for Cultural Diversity

About Us


1st WORDE Conference (2004)

The World Organization for Resource Development and Education [WORDE] is a nonprofit, educational organization whose mission is to enhance communication and understanding between communities to mitigate social and political conflict. Utilizing a research-informed foundation for programming, we identify drivers of conflict and opportunities for building strong, resilient communities.

We believe that providing networks with the right resources to build community resilience against extremism is a requisite component to any long-term development strategy for building communities. Our work accomplishes this by investing in human capital and strengthening civil society by mobilizing local leaders, establishing community centers that emphasize civic responsibility, and providing institutional capacity building to those who share our vision.

WORDE shapes public policy by cultivating a better understanding of ideologies that promote pluralism and service to humanity -- while exposing the roots of extremism that disrupt the peaceful coexistence of societies everywhere. Our specialists are academics, theologians, development experts, and policy analysts who develop effective, long-term solutions in the key areas of educational reform, resource development, and international security. Many of them serve as advisers to various US government agencies as well as international organizations and governments around the world.

What We Believe

- One of the greatest challenges of the 21st century is to overcome radical ideologies that play a role in social conflict, political instability, and terrorism. WORDE believes that this ideological battle is the critical issue for which humanity must take a stand.
- The most effective strategy to counter radical ideologies is to utilize its theological inverse: moderate Muslims who share common values of social justice, freedom and pluralism.
- Our work is guided by the belief that terrorism is bred by ignorance and is fanned by extremists who attempt to legitimize political agendas by framing their rhetoric in religious terminology. With the right resources and education, moderate religious leaders and their institutions can serve as a prime bulwark against radicalism.
- Comprehensive public policies require thoughtful collaboration as we struggle with the new ideological dimensions which affect our world. We hope to strengthen the voice of the moderate mainstream around the world by providing them access to the public space and the opportunity to eradicate religious radicalism from *within*.

Annual Reports

Read more about our programs and services in our Annual Reports.

2013 Annual Report

2014 Annual Report

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Worde | 1875 Eye Street, NW, Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20006 | Tel (202) 595-1355 | Fax (202) 318-2582 | Email staff@worde.org

International Cultural Center

In 2011 WORDE established a new cultural center for the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Located in Gaithersburg, MD, the ICC is a forum where people of diverse backgrounds can come together to engage in community building programs, social action projects and educational programs built to promote pluralism and social cohesion based on mutual respect and harmonious coexistence.

We are developing the center to become a space for cultivating positive social networks — where the community can foster a sense of belonging and youth can channel their energy into peaceful, productive outlets. WORDE will organize educational programming for the community and host workshops, seminars and lectures on a range of issues including cultural pluralism, religious tolerance, civic engagement, and conflict transformation.

ICC Goals

- Promote the participation of individuals and families with diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds in cross-cultural dialogue and community service.
- Develop a vibrant community of engaged citizens with the resources to peacefully mitigate any social and political conflict.
- Decrease a culture of misunderstandings, fear and violence in collaboration with local government, law enforcement, faith and community-based organizations, and preeminent social service providers.

Renting the Facility

The 33,000 square foot building is available for educational, cultural and religious events, conferences, book launches, poetry readings, graduation celebrations, weddings, family events, and other community events. To reserve the space, please contact Samia Haque (samia@theicc.net).

For recent and upcoming events, please visit ICC Website.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

Application and Case Processing

When UNHCR — or, occasionally, a U.S. Embassy or a specially trained nongovernmental organization — refers a refugee applicant to the United States for resettlement, the case is first received and processed by a **Resettlement Support Center (RSC)**. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) funds and manages nine RSCs around the world, operated by international and nongovernmental organizations and one U.S. interests section. Under PRM's guidance, the RSCs prepare eligible refugee applications for U.S. resettlement consideration.

Some refugees can start the application process with the RSC without a referral from UNHCR or other entity. This includes close relatives of asylees and refugees already in the United States and refugees who belong to specific groups set forth in statute or identified by the Department of State as being eligible for direct access to the program.

The RSCs collect biographic and other information from the applicants to prepare for the adjudication interview and for security screening. Enhanced security screening is a joint responsibility of the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security and includes the participation of multiple U.S. Government security agencies.

Officers from the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) review all the information that the RSC has collected and also conduct an in-person interview with each refugee applicant before deciding whether to approve him or her for resettlement in the United States.

All USCIS-approved refugees undergo a health screening to identify medical needs and to ensure that those with a contagious disease, such as tuberculosis, do not enter the United States. Finally, the RSC requests a "sponsorship assurance" from a U.S.-based resettlement agency that is experienced in providing assistance to newly arrived refugees. Most refugees undergo a brief U.S. cultural orientation course prior to departure for the United States.

Those refugees who are approved by USCIS receive assistance upon arrival in the United States through the Department of State's Reception and Placement Program – a cooperative public-private program made up of a number of participants. The support of millions of Americans is fundamental to the program's success. Though Congress mandated the program, it is local communities that have ensured the success of the resettlement program by welcoming and helping refugees from around the world.

United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is comprised of:

- The Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) of the U.S. Department of State.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Five international or nongovernmental organizations operating Resettlement Support Centers around the world under the supervision and funding of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) of the U.S. Department of State
- Nine domestic nongovernmental organizations with a total of about 350 affiliated offices across the United States.
- Thousands of private citizens who volunteer their time and skills to help refugees resettle in the United States.

The total processing time varies depending on an applicant's location and other circumstances, but the average time from the initial UNHCR referral to arrival as a refugee in the United States is about 18-24 months.

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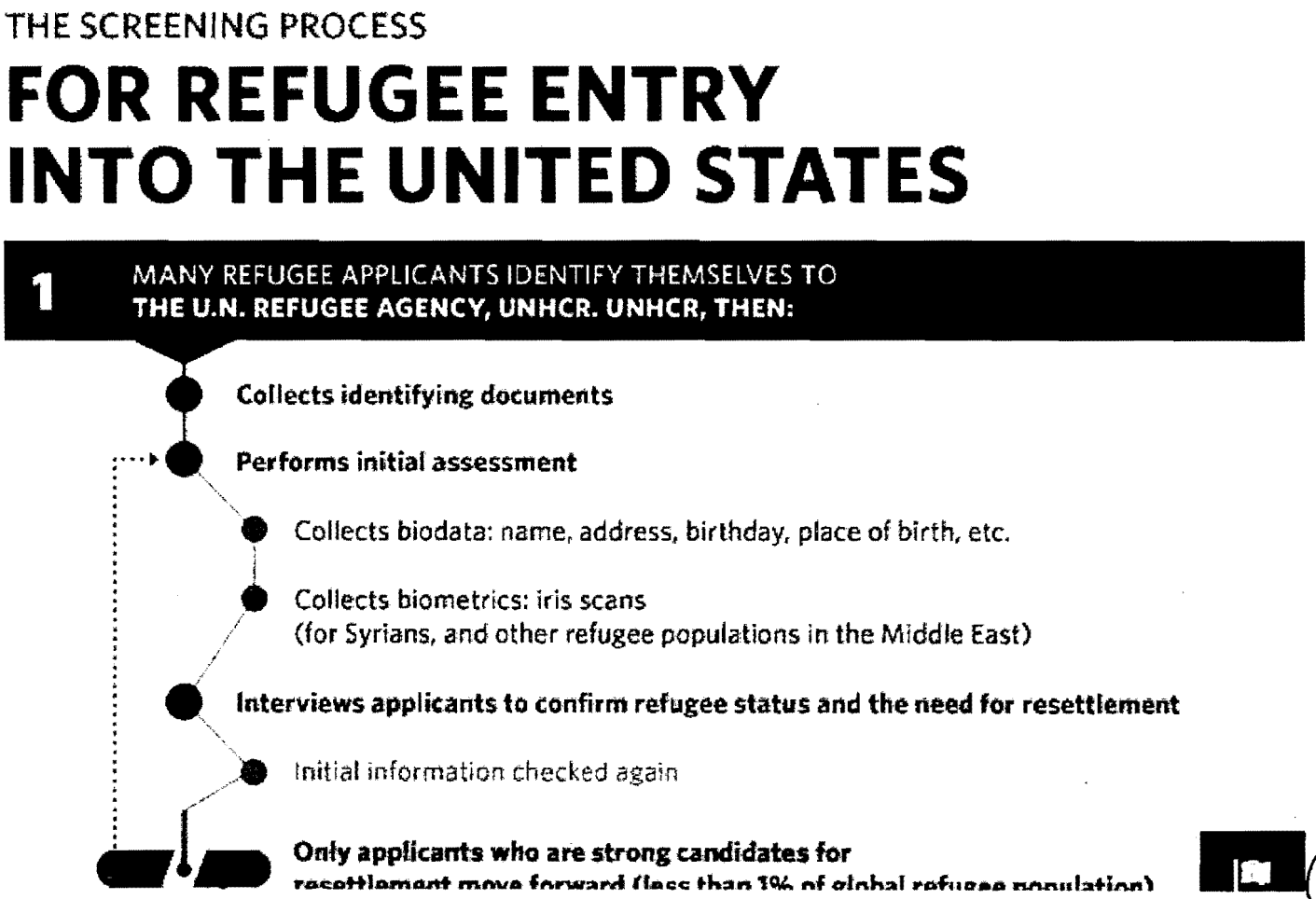
the WHITE HOUSE

Infographic: The Screening Process for Refugee Entry into the United States

NOVEMBER 20, 2015 AT 7:09 PM ET BY AMY POPE

Summary: A step-by-step guide to the rigorous process for refugee entry into the U.S.

Refugees undergo more rigorous screening than anyone else we allow into the United States. Here's what the screening process looks like for them:



resettlement move forward (less than 1% of global refugee population).

2 APPLICANTS ARE RECEIVED BY A FEDERALLY-FUNDED **RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT CENTER (RSC):**

- **Collects identifying documents**
- **Creates an applicant file**
- **Compiles information to conduct biographic security checks**

3 **BIOGRAPHIC SECURITY CHECKS** START WITH **ENHANCED INTERAGENCY SECURITY CHECKS:**

REFUGEES ARE SUBJECT TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SECURITY CHECKS of any category of traveler to the United States.

- **U.S. security agencies screen the candidate, including:**
  - National Counterterrorism Center/ Intelligence Community
  - FBI
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - State Department
- **The screening looks for indicators, like:**
  - Information that the individual is a security risk
  - Connections to known bad actors
  - Outstanding warrants/immigration or criminal violations
- ***DHS conducts an enhanced review of Syrian cases, which may be referred to USCIS Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate for review. Research that is used by the interviewing officer informs lines of question related to the applicant's eligibility and credibility.***

This process is repeated any time new information is provided, such as a previously used name or different phone number. Otherwise, the process continues.

4 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)/USCIS INTERVIEW:

- **Interviews are conducted by USCIS Officers specially trained for interviews**

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specially trained for interviews

Fingerprints are collected and submitted (biometric check)

Re-interviews can be conducted if fingerprint results or new information raises questions. If new biographic information is identified by USCIS at an interview, additional security checks on the information are conducted. USCIS may place a case on hold to do additional research or investigation. Otherwise, the process continues.

5 BIOMETRIC SECURITY CHECKS:

Applicant's fingerprints are taken by U.S. government employees

- Fingerprints are screened against the FBI's biometric database
- Fingerprints are screened against the DHS biometric database, containing watch-list information and previous immigration encounters in the U.S. and overseas.
- Fingerprints are screened against the U.S. Department of Defense biometric database, which includes fingerprint records captured in Iraq and other locations.

x **IF NOT ALREADY HALTED, THIS IS THE END POINT FOR CASES WITH SECURITY CONCERNS.**
Otherwise, the process continues.

6 MEDICAL CHECK:

The need for medical screening is determined

x **THIS IS THE END POINT FOR CASES DENIED DUE TO MEDICAL REASONS.**
Refugees may be provided medical treatment for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis.

7 CULTURAL ORIENTATION AND ASSIGNMENT TO DOMESTIC RESETTLEMENT LOCATIONS:

Applicants complete cultural orientation classes.

An assessment is made by a U.S.-based non-governmental

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organization to determine the best resettlement location for the candidate(s). Considerations include:

- Family; candidates with family in a certain area may be placed in that area.
- Health; a candidate with asthma may be matched to certain regions.

A location is chosen.

RECURRENT VETTING:

Throughout this process, pending applications continue to be checked against terrorist databases, to ensure new, relevant terrorism information has not come to light. If a match is found, that case is paused for further review.

IF THERE IS DOUBT about whether an applicant poses a security risk, they will not be admitted.

x **Applicants who continue to have no flags continue the process.**

8 TRAVEL:

International Organization for Migration books travel

Prior to entry in the United States, applicants are subject to:

- Screening from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's National Targeting Center-Passenger
- The Transportation Security Administration's Secure Flight Program

x **THIS IS THE END POINT FOR SOME APPLICANTS. Applicants who have no flags continue the process.**

9 U.S. ARRIVAL:

All refugees are required to apply for a green card within a year of their arrival to the United States, which triggers:

- Another set of security procedures with the U.S. government.

REFUGEES ARE WOVEN INTO THE RICH FABRIC OF AMERICAN SOCIETY!

WHITEHOUSE.GOV 11/25/15

The Full Text of the Graphic:

The Screening Process for Refugee Entry Into the United States

1. **Many refugee applicants identify themselves to the U.N. Refugee Agency, UNHCR. UNHCR, then:**
   - Collects identifying documents
   - Performs initial assessment
     - Collects biodata: name, address, birthday, place of birth, etc.
     - Collects biometrics: iris scans (for Syrians, and other refugee populations in the Middle East)
   - Interviews applicants to confirm refugee status and the need for resettlement
     - Initial information checked again
   - Only applicants who are strong candidates for resettlement move forward (less than 1% of global refugee population).

Recurrent vetting: Throughout this process, pending applications continue to be checked against terrorist databases, to ensure new, relevant terrorism information has not come to light. If a match is found, that case is paused for further review. Applicants who continue to have no flags continue the process. If there is doubt about whether an applicant poses a security risk, they will not be admitted.

2. **Applicants are received by a federally-funded Resettlement Support Center (RSC):**
   - Collects identifying documents
   - Creates an applicant file
   - Compiles information to conduct biographic security checks
3. **Biographic security checks start with enhanced interagency security checks**

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- U.S. security agencies screen the candidate, including:
  - National Counterterrorism Center/Intelligence Community
  - FBI
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - State Department

Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States.

- The screening looks for indicators, like:
  - Information that the individual is a security risk
  - Connections to known bad actors
  - Outstanding warrants/immigration or criminal violations
- *DHS conducts an enhanced review of Syrian cases, which may be referred to USCIS Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate for review. Research that is used by the interviewing officer informs lines of question related to the applicant's eligibility and credibility.*

4. **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/USCIS interview:**

- Interviews are conducted by USCIS Officers specially trained for interviews
- Fingerprints are collected and submitted (biometric check)
- Re-interviews can be conducted if fingerprint results or new information raises questions. If new biographic information is identified by USCIS at an interview, additional security checks on the information are conducted. USCIS may place a case on hold to do additional research or investigation. Otherwise, the process continues.

5. **Biometric security checks:**

- Applicant's fingerprints are taken by U.S. government employees

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    - Fingerprints are screened against the FBI's biometric database.
    - Fingerprints are screened against the DHS biometric database, containing watch-list information and previous immigration encounters in the U.S. and overseas.
    - Fingerprints are screened against the U.S. Department of Defense biometric database, which includes fingerprint records captured in Iraq and other locations.
  - If not already halted, this is the end point for cases with security concerns. Otherwise, the process continues.

6. **Medical check:**
  - The need for medical screening is determined
  - This is the end point for cases denied due to medical reasons. Refugees may be provided medical treatment for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis.

7. **Cultural orientation and assignment to domestic resettlement locations:**
  - Applicants complete cultural orientation classes.
  - An assessment is made by a U.S.-based non-governmental organization to determine the best resettlement location for the candidate(s). Considerations include:
    - Family; candidates with family in a certain area may be placed in that area.
    - Health; a candidate with asthma may be matched to certain regions.
  - A location is chosen.

8. **Travel:**
  - International Organization for Migration books travel
  - Prior to entry in the United States, applicants are subject to:
    - Screening from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's National

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Targeting Center-Passenger

  - The Transportation Security Administration's Secure Flight Program

- This is the end point for some applicants. Applicants who have no flags continue the process.

9. **U.S. Arrival:**

- All refugees are required to apply for a green card within a year of their arrival to the United States, which triggers:

  - Another set of security procedures with the U.S. government.

- **Refugees are woven into the rich fabric of American society!**

Amy Pope is Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security

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Correction: A previous version of the graphic and blog post stated in step 2 that the name of the RSC was the Refugee Support Center. This has been corrected to the proper name, the Resettlement Support Center.

Learn more:

- How We're Welcoming Syrian Refugees While Ensuring Our Safety
- Watch: Here's What the Refugee Screening Process Looks Like
- Here's What You Need to Know About Our Strategy to Defeat ISIL

FACT SHEET

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement
SUBJECT: Eligibility for ORR Benefits and Services – Refugees

REFUGEES

Definition

A refugee is any person who is outside the country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside the country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

Individuals and their family members granted refugee status overseas by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are brought to the United States for resettlement by the U.S. Department of State. Through a wide range of programs and benefits, the Department of State, Voluntary agencies and ORR assist refugees' resettlement and integration into the U.S.

Refugees are eligible to receive ORR benefits and services from their date of arrival in the U.S.

Acceptable documents for refugees admitted under §207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)

Documents/Codes	Comments
I-94 Arrival/departure card noting that the individual has been admitted under §207 of the INA	Notations may include references to employment authorization, indefinite status, and the requirement to obtain permission before leaving the United States.
RE-1 admission code on the I-94	Principal Refugee
RE-2 admission code on the I-94	Spouse of principal refugee
RE-3 admission code on the I-94	Child of principal refugee
RE-4 admission code on the I-94	Collateral relatives of principal refugee
RE-5 admission code on the I-94	Certain Haitian refugees
I-766 Employment Authorization Document with the code A03	
DHS Form I-571	United States Refugee Travel Document[1]
Visa 93 (or V-93) on the I-94 Arrival/departure card	May be accompanied by the words "section 207"; Individual is the spouse or minor child of a previously admitted refugee.

[1] The DHS Form I-571, which is a United States Refugee Travel Document, does not distinguish between refugees and asylees. An individual with a United States Refugee Travel Document may be a refugee or an asylee.

FACT SHEET

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement
SUBJECT: Eligibility for ORR Benefits and Services – Asylees

ASYLEES

Definition

Asylees are individuals who, on their own, travel to the United States and subsequently apply for/receive a grant of asylum. Asylees do not enter the United States as refugees. They may enter as students, tourists, businessmen, or even in undocumented status. Once in the U.S., or at a land border or port of entry, they apply to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for asylum.

To qualify for asylum status, the person must meet the definition of a refugee and meet an application deadline. Asylum status permits the person to remain in the United States. Individuals granted asylum are eligible for ORR assistance and services. (Note that asylum *applicants* are not eligible for ORR assistance and services. The only exception is for certain Cubans and Haitians. See Fact Sheet on Cuban/Haitian Entrants for more information.)

Eligibility

Asylees are eligible for ORR-funded benefits and services beginning on the date of final grant of asylum. Asylees can be granted asylum either by a DHS/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Asylum Office, or by the Immigration Court of the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Acceptable documents for asylees whose status was granted under §208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA):

Documents/Codes	Comments
I-94 Arrival/departure card referencing §208 of the INA	Notations may include references to employment authorization, indefinite status, and the requirement to obtain permission before leaving the United States.
AS-1 admission code on the I-94	Approved asylee principal
AS-2 admission code on the I-94	Approved spouse of an asylee principal
AS-3 admission code on the I-94	Approved child of an asylee principal
DHS Form I-571	United States Refugee Travel Document[1]

[1] The DHS Form I-571, which is a United States Refugee Travel Document, does not distinguish between refugees and asylees. An individual with a United States Refugee Travel Document may be a refugee or an asylee.

I-766 Employment Authorization Document with the code A05	
Order of an Immigration Judge Granting Asylum under §208 of the INA	An Order of an Immigration Judge will serve as proof of asylee status if the INS has waived the right to appeal the case. See Footnote below for information about cases where DHS reserves the right to appeal.[2]
Asylum Approval Letter from a DHS/USCIS Asylum Office	Letter will note that the individual has been granted asylum pursuant to §208 of the INA and may include information concerning refugee and asylee relative petition, work authorization and the refugee travel document.
Written decision from the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA)	
I-730 Approval Letter	The I-730 Approval Letter may be used as proof of asylee status for derivatives.
Visa 92 (or V-92) on the I-94 Arrival/departure card	May be accompanied by the words "section 208"; Individual is the spouse or minor child of a previously granted asylee.

[2] If DHS has reserved its right to appeal, an Immigration Judge Order will not serve, on its own, as proof of asylee status. If an asylee brings an Immigration Judge Order that shows DHS has reserved its right to appeal, eligibility workers must wait 30 days from the date on the Immigration Judge Order. On or after the 31 st day, the eligibility worker will need to call the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) case status line at (800) 898-7180 to find out whether the INS has appealed the case. (The EOIR reports that it may take up to 5 days after the appeal deadline for the information to be relayed to the case status line.) If DHS has appealed the case, the individual is not yet an asylee and is not eligible for benefits. If DHS has not appealed the case and 30 days have passed since the date on the Immigration Judge Order, the individual is an asylee and is eligible for ORR assistance and services.