THE U.S. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM AND THE ROLE OF STATE AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS
From 1975 to the start of this year, the U.S. resettled a total of 3,261,561 refugees.

- 45% from Asia
- 18% from the former Soviet Union
- 12% from Near East/South Asia
- 10% from Africa
- 10% from Europe
- 4% from Latin America

While refugees in the 1980’s and 1990’s came from just a few countries, today’s refugees come from more than 60 countries.
STATES WITH LARGEST REFUGEE POPULATION

From 2008 – 2013, 55% of 393,000 refugees were resettled in ten states

- 12% in California
- 10% in Texas
- 6% in New York
- 5% in Florida
- 5% in Michigan
- 5% in Arizona
- 4% in Georgia
- 4% in Pennsylvania
- 4% in Washington
- 4% in Illinois
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IS A FEDERAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED ACROSS 50 STATES

REFUGEE SCREENING AND ADMISSION PROCESS is handled by:
- U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)

REFUGEE EARLY EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL SERVICES AND BASIC ASSISTANCE is handled by the U.S. Health and Human Services/Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
REFUGEE SCREENING AND ADMISSION PROCESS

- **Key** entities/agencies: Countries of Origin, Countries of First Asylum, Refugee Camps, UNHCR, PRM, USCIS/Homeland Security.
- 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.
- Does not include ORR, State Government or local Resettlement Agencies.
REFUGEE RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT (R &P) PROGRAM

States are consulted by local Resettlement Agencies and PRM in this process

NINE NATIONAL RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES WITH 350 LOCAL AFFILIATES

1. Church World Service (CWS)
2. Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM)
3. Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)
4. Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
5. International Rescue Committee (IRC)
6. Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service (LIRS)
7. U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
8. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
9. World Relief (WR)

R & P SERVICES PROVIDED

› Matching refugees from overseas with local affiliates
› Setting up housing and providing refugees with basic necessities
› Providing community orientation and linking refugees with local services, including public benefits, health, education and employment services.
ORR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SERVICES

LOCAL PARTNERS
➢ State and County Refugee Programs
➢ Local Resettlement Agencies
➢ Community Colleges
➢ Community Social Service Agencies

KEY SERVICES
➢ Short-term (8 month) cash and medical assistance for those refugees not eligible for Federal benefits (i.e. TANF, Medicaid)
➢ Employment, English language class, case management services
➢ Education orientation and assistance for refugee youth
ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENT

- Administers ORR funding to: a) provide short-term cash/medical benefits, and b) contracts with local agencies to deliver employment, case management, English language training and health screening services.

- Coordinates refugee-funded services with other state-administered programs, such as TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, education, workforce development, etc.

- Serves as refugee information clearinghouse, and addresses inquiries and problems associated with refugee resettlement in the state.
Illinois Refugee Resettlement Program

- Medical Assistance (Income Based)
- Adjustment/Case Management Services
- School support for refugee children
- Victims of Torture services
- Employment Services
- Mental Health services
- Services for refugee seniors
- English language training
- Cash Assistance for single person (8 months)
- Cash Assistance for family with dependent children TANF (60 months max)
- Refugee Health Screening (90 days)
- Matching Grant Program (180 days)
- Reception & Placement Services (90 days)

Orange = Funding from State Dept.; Yellow = Funding from ORR; Blue = Funding from both Federal and State Government; Green = Funding from State and Private Resources
Consultation/agreement between Federal and State governments on refugee admission policies.

In addition to refugees, states are also expected to serve asylees and Cuban/Haitian entrants whose number has increased significantly over the last five years. (New policy on Cuban refugees announced in January, 2017 has resulted in the declined in Cuban refugee arrivals.)

ORR funding to States to provide refugee services has not kept up with the eligible population.

Cultural and linguistic capacity to serve refugees from more than 60 nationalities speaking 162 primary languages.

Capacity to serve refugees with complex medical and mental health conditions.