A Missouri that values and champions refugees.

MO-ORA

DSS Learning Lab

August 18, 2022
History of Missouri Refugee Resettlement Program

- US Refugee Act of 1980 - Adopted the UN refugee definition, created general policy for admission.

- MO Department of Social Services - Administrator of Refugee Resettlement Programs until April 30, 2018

- MO-ORA - ORR transferred administration of program May 1, 2018
What is MO-ORA?

- Replacement Designee (RD) for the State
- Administers certain Refugee programs for Missouri
- Separate, autonomous office within IISTL
- Provide resources, training, coordination, advocacy
Who is MO-ORA?

Paul Costigan
Refugee State Coordinator

Linda Haus, MSW
Asst State Refugee Coordinator

Carol Gaal, CPA
Mgr of Grants Accountant

Mohammad Tamim
Afghanzada
IT Coordinator

Marisa Tesoro
Communications & Training Coordinator

Fatema Medhat, MSW
MO-RTAC Program Manager
Who is MO-ORA?

Lauren Baker
MO-RTAC Program Evaluator

Lyndsey Brainerd
Missouri Resource Coordinator

Abdullah Almatroodi
Eligibility & Compliance Specialist

Misha Smith
Resettlement Activities Coordinator

Shawn Cockrum
Refugee School Programs Manager
MO-ORA Organizational Plan

Vision:
A Missouri that values and champions refugees.

Mission:
Promoting the well-being and inclusion of refugees by resourcing and coordinating resettlement programs across the state.
## Structure – Subcontract Services FY22 & FY23

### Subcontractors

- **Local Resettlement Agencies**
  - Della Lamb Charter Services, Kansas City
  - Jewish Vocational Services, Kansas City
  - Catholic Charities of Central & Northern MO, Columbia
  - International Institute Southwest MO, Springfield
  - International Institute, St. Louis
  - Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education (RAISE), Joplin (FY2023)

- **MO Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Ed**

- **Local School Districts**
Structure – Subcontract Services FY22 & FY23

Programs - Employment focused
- Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)
- MO Refugee Temporary Assistance Connection (MO-RTAC)
  - MOU with MO Dept of Social Services
- Refugee Support Services (RSS)

Other Programs
- Services to Older Refugees (SOR)
- Youth Mentoring (YM)
- Refugee School Impact (RSI)
  - Early RSI
  - Support to Schools Initiative
Who are Eligible for these Services?

- **Refugees** - The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as:

  “someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.”

Currently 100,000,000 displaced worldwide
UNHCR – Durable Solutions

- 1st priority: Return to home country
- 2nd priority: Remain in country of asylum
- 3rd priority: Last resort - Third country resettlement
  - ~1% of world’s refugees are referred, to UNHCR
  - Top 5 countries that resettle refugees: U.S, Canada, Australia, UK, and Sweden
  - UNHCR attempts to match refugees to country requirements
From Registration to Arrival

1. UNHCR Registration
2. Referral to US
3. Initial interview
4. Security screening #1
5. Security screening #2
6. Security screening #3
7. Security screening #4
8. USCIS interview
9. Conditional approval
10. Security screening #5
11. Medical screening
12. Matching to Sponsor Agency
13. Cultural orientation
14. Admission to US
Other ‘Refugee’ Categories

- Asylees
- Paroled - as refugee or political
- Certified Victims of Trafficking
- Cuban/Haitian Entrants
- Certain Amerasians from Vietnam
- Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants (SIVs)
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolees
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees
- Permanent Resident Aliens who previously held one of the refugee statuses
State-wide Refuge/SIV Arrivals – Previous Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MO arrivals by Comparison (full year):</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017</td>
<td>1227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2016</td>
<td>2072</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
State-wide Refugee Arrivals – Current (since 10/1/2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immigration Status</th>
<th>As of...</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refugees</td>
<td>8/15/2022</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIVs</td>
<td>8/15/2022</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylees</td>
<td>6/30/2022</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/H Entrants</td>
<td>8/17/2022</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking Victims</td>
<td>6/30/2022</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghan HPs</td>
<td>8/17/2022</td>
<td>1809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian HPs*</td>
<td>8/17/2022</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for MO</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2952</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Total seen by agencies at this time, estimating 856 in total
Missouri Office of Refugee Administration

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