



The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

A Presentation by Refugee Council USA (RCUSA)

for members of SCORR and ARHC

June 24, 2015

Refugee Council USA

Refugee Definition

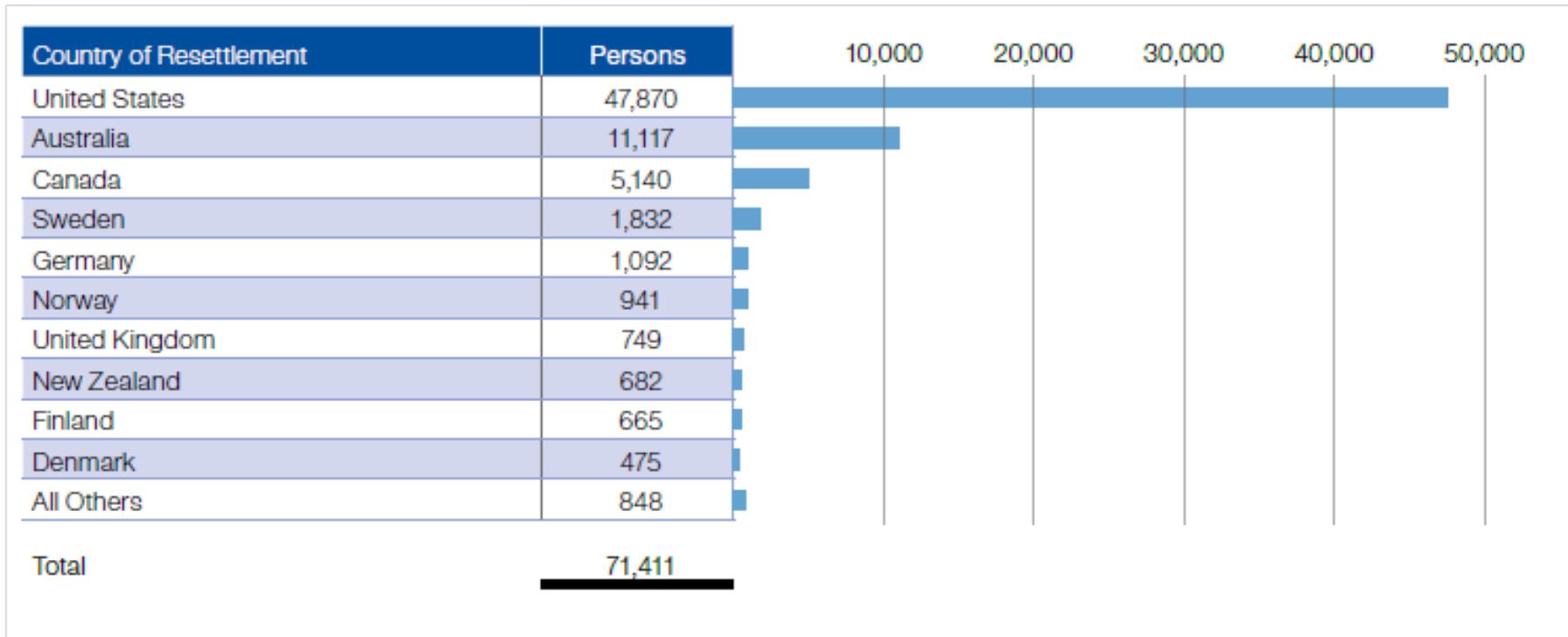
A refugee is someone who “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country...”

-The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees

Durable Solutions

1. Voluntary **Repatriation** - returning to one's home country.
If returning home is not feasible because of ongoing instability or conflict, then,
2. **Integration** in the second country of asylum - establishing roots in the host or asylum country.
If the refugee is not sufficiently protected in the original host country or is considered to be particularly vulnerable for various reasons (e.g., disabled/injured, women-at-risk, etc) then
3. **Resettlement** to a third country - establishing a new life in a new country.

Top Ten Resettlement Countries



Source: UNHCR Resettlement Departures in 2013

The U.S. is the leading resettlement country!

U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program

The U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program is a private public partnership and has been providing safe haven to refugees since 1975.

The three-millionth refugee arrived in
February of 2012!

U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program

The Refugee Act of 1980 reformed the United States immigration law and admitted refugees on systematic basis for humanitarian reasons.

The Act created the Federal Refugee Resettlement Program to provide for the effective resettlement of refugees and to assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the U.S.

U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program

Annually, the President, in consultation with Congress, determines the authorized target for refugee admissions.

The target for federal Fiscal Year 2015 is 70,000 refugees and 7,000 Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients.

Regional Targets

Region	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Africa	15,500	15,000	12,000	12,000	15,000	17,000	20,000
East Asia	17,000	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	4,000
Near East and South Asia	35,000	35,500	35,500	31,000	33,000	33,000	28,000
Unallocated Reserve	5,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	1,000
Total:	80,000	80,000	76,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000

Top Nationalities

	Nationality	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015*	Total
1	Burma	16,693	16,972	14,160	16,299	14,598	9,595	88,317
2	Iraq	18,016	9,388	12,163	19,488	19,769	8,490	87,314
3	Bhutan	12,363	14,999	15,070	9,134	8,434	2,849	62,849
4	Somalia	4,884	3,161	4,911	7,608	9,000	5,208	34,772
5	Cuba	4,818	2,920	1,948	4,205	4,062	1,093	19,046
6	Dem. Rep. Congo	3,174	977	1,863	2,563	4,540	3,373	16,490
7	Iran	3,543	2,032	1,758	2,578	2,846	1,544	14,301
8	Eritrea	2,570	2,032	1,346	1,824	1,488	809	10,069
9	Sudan	558	334	1,077	2,160	1,315	535	5,979
10	Ethiopia	668	560	620	765	728	320	3,661
11	Afghanistan	515	428	481	661	753	480	3,318
12	Ukraine	449	428	372	227	490	858	2,824
13	Palestine	1,053	136	141	164	141	78	1,713
14	Moldova	356	331	255	119	142	255	1,458
15	Burundi	530	110	186	193	68	225	1,312
16	Vietnam	891	119	100	86	79	26	1,301
17	Colombia	123	46	126	230	252	408	1,185
18	Russia	326	165	197	125	139	174	1,126
19	Central African Republic	45	182	136	318	25	201	907
20	Syria	25	29	31	36	105	672	898

*As of May 15th, 2015

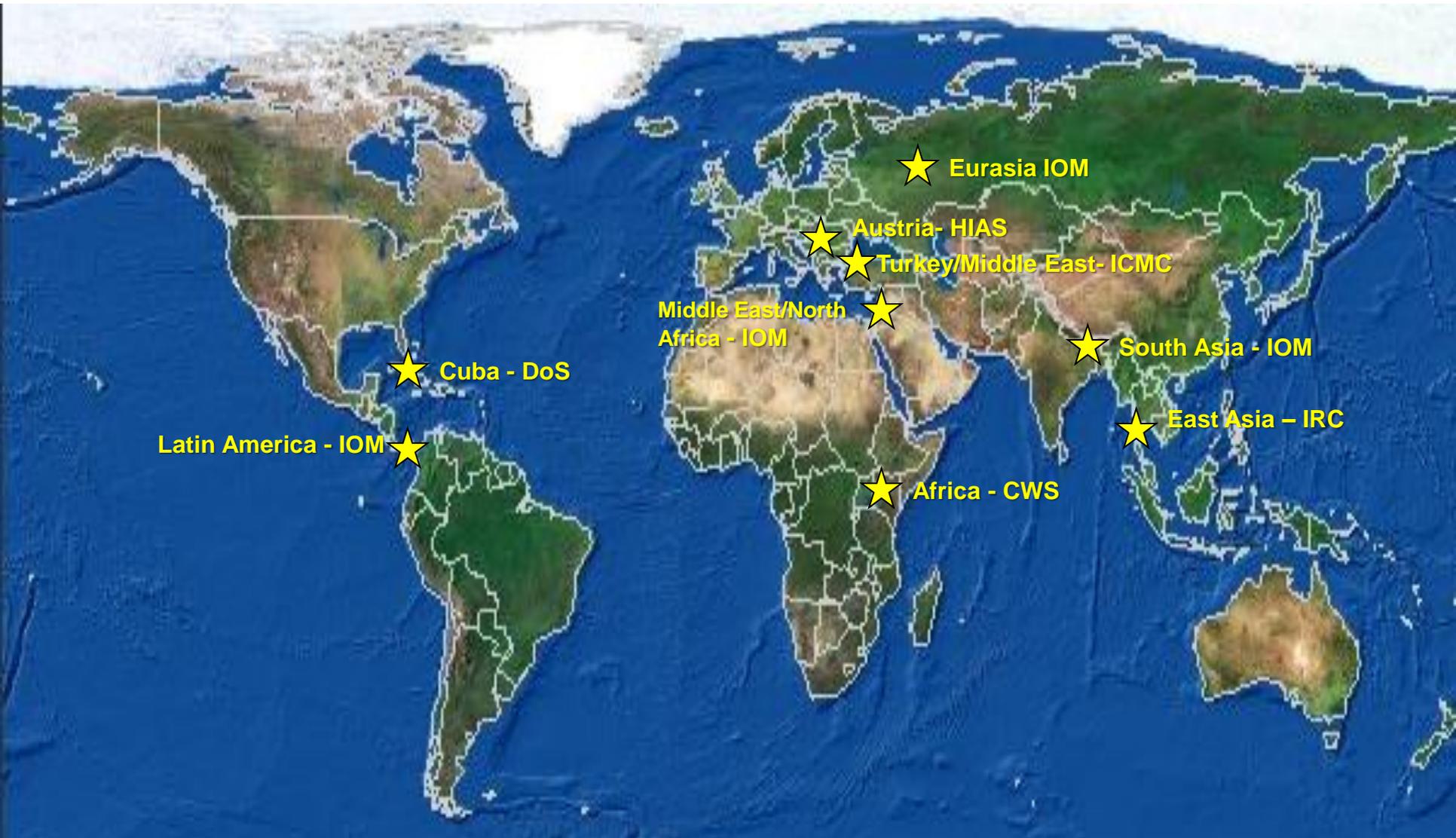
Resettlement Support Centers

The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) manages the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program through contracts with nine Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs) overseas and nine national Resettlement Agencies in the United States.

Resettlement Support Centers

RSCs are funded by PRM and are responsible for the accurate processing of refugees referred to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and approved for resettlement to the U.S. by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Resettlement Support Centers



Resettlement Support Centers

RSC Location	Region	Organization	Sub-Offices
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	US Department of State	
Quito, Ecuador	Latin America	International Organization for Migration	San Jose, Bogota, San Salvador
Vienna, Austria	Austria	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society	
Moscow, Russia	Eurasia	International Organization for Migration	ETCs in Timisoara and Humenne
Istanbul, Turkey	Turkey and Middle East (TUME)	International Catholic Migration Commission	Beirut
Amman, Jordan	Middle East and North Africa (MENA)	International Organization for Migration	Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo
Nairobi, Kenya	Africa	Church World Service	Pretoria
Bangkok, Thailand	East Asia	International Rescue Committee	Kuala Lumpur
Damak, Nepal	South Asia	International Organization for Migration	

Resettlement Agencies

Resettlement Agencies, also known as Voluntary Agencies (Volags) are non-governmental organizations that hold contracts with PRM to provide refugee resettlement services through the Reception and Placement (R&P) Program. There are currently nine national Resettlement Agencies that provide resettlement services through a network of nearly 350 local offices.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



Episcopal Migration Ministries



**Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.**



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

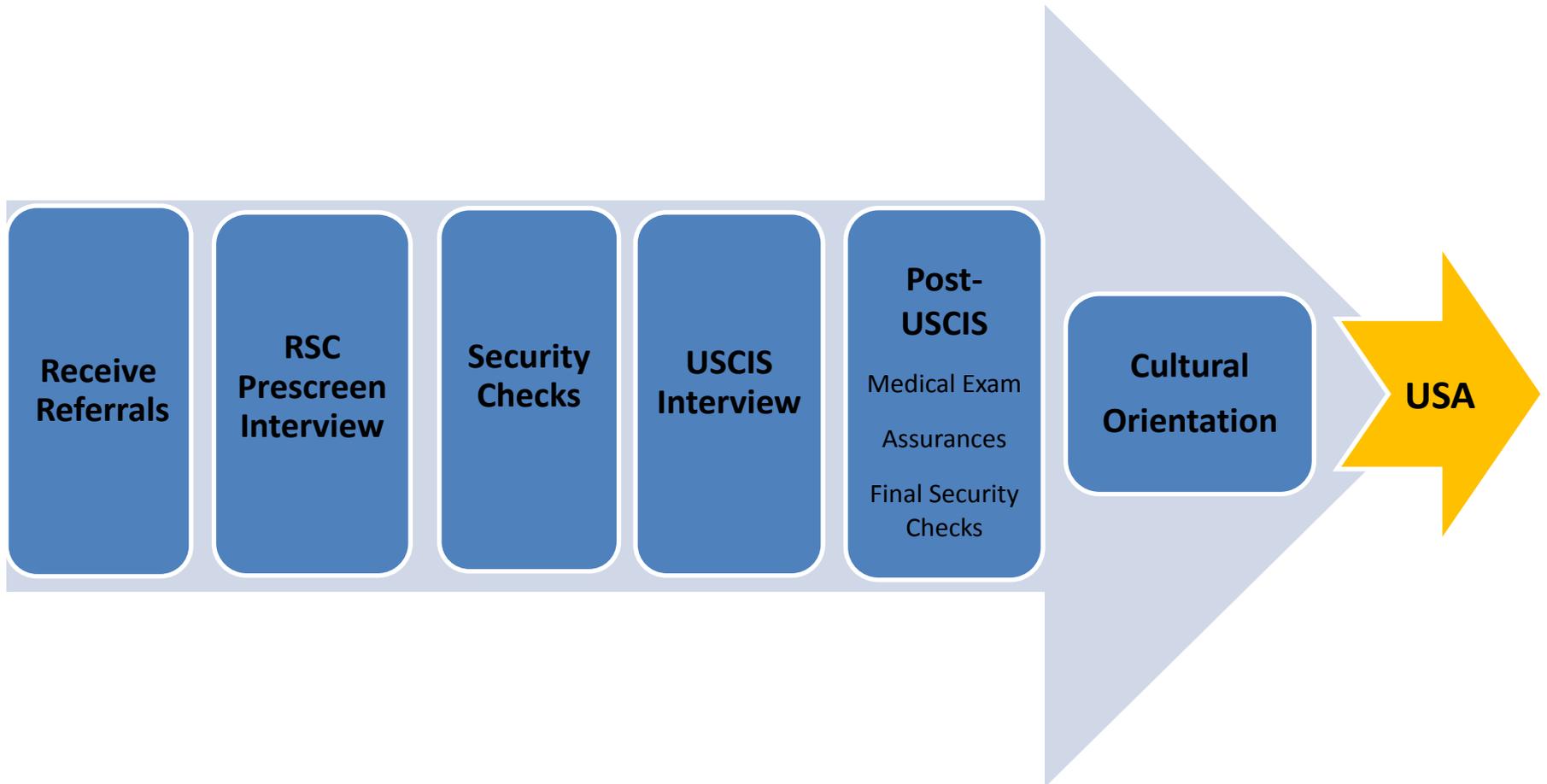


Resettlement Agencies

FY 2015 PROPOSED ARRIVALS BY RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES		
Agency	Projection	Number of Sites
CWS*	7,153	34
EMM*	5,005	30
ECDC	4,503	18
HIAS	3,281	23
IRC	9,917	22
LIRS*	10,549	56
USCCB	19,535	104
USCRI	9,226	32
WR	7,811	25
TOTAL	76,980	344

*Operate through a Dual Site Model

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program



Access to the USRAP

Priority Group determines how a case can access consideration for resettlement through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)

Priority 1 (P1): Individual cases referred by virtue of their circumstances and apparent need for resettlement

Priority 2 (P2): Groups of cases designated as having access by virtue of their circumstances and apparent need for resettlement

Priority 3 (P3): Individual cases from designated nationalities for purposes of reunification with anchor family members already in the U.S.

Access to the USRAP under one of these processing priorities does not mean an applicant meets the statutory definition of “refugee” or is admissible to the U.S.

Final determination of admissibility according to the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) is made by Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS/USCIS)

Access to the USRAP

Additional points of access to the USRAP:

Visa 93 (V93): Arrived refugees may file I-730 follow-to-join petitions for spouse and children still overseas.

Special Immigrant Visa (SIV): Iraqi and Afghan nationals who have worked for the U.S. Government for at least one year may be eligible for SIVs and can request R&P benefits.

These types of cases are processed by Consular officials at U.S. embassies abroad.

Security Checks

All refugees are finger printed prior to arrival, and may undergo up to three types of security checks prior to departure:

- **CLASS:** Consular Lookout and Support System
- **SAO:** Security Advisory Opinion
- **IAC:** Inter-Agency Check

Medical Exams

Purpose of Refugee Medical Exam:

- Communicable disease detection
- Treatment to ensure refugees are fit for travel
- Medical escort arrangements for those who require assistance during travel

NOT A COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL EXAM

Medical Exams

Class A Conditions (See Worksheets DS-3025, DS-3026, DS-3030)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Hansen's Disease, untreated multibacillary or paucibacillary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Syphilis, untreated | <input type="checkbox"/> Addiction or abuse of specific substance on the CSA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chancroid, untreated | <input type="checkbox"/> Any physical or mental disorder (<i>including other substance-related disorder</i>) with harmful behavior or history of such behavior likely to recur |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gonorrhea, untreated | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrant visa applicant refuses vaccinations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Granuloma inguinale, untreated | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lymphogranuloma venereum, untreated | |

Class B Conditions (See Worksheets DS-3025, DS-3026, DS-3030)

Tuberculosis

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> B1 TB, Pulmonary | <input type="checkbox"/> Syphilis, treated within last year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B1 TB, Extrapulmonary | <input type="checkbox"/> Any physical or mental disorder (<i>excluding addiction or abuse of specific substance on the CSA but including other substance-related disorder</i>) without harmful behavior or history of such behavior unlikely to recur |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B2 TB, LTBI Evaluation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B3 TB, Contact Evaluation | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustained, full remission of addiction or abuse of specific substance on the CSA |

Hansen's Disease

- Multibacillary, treated
- Paucibacillary, treated

Allocations and Assurance

Resettlement agencies meet once a week to participate in distribution (allocation) of refugee cases.

Refugee cases are allocated through three “pools”:

- **U.S. Tie Pool:** cases that are destined to specific resettlement areas for reasons of family reunification

- **No U.S. Ties Pool:** cases that are not destined to a specific resettlement area for reasons of family reunification

- **No U.S. Ties Medical Pool:** cases with significant medical conditions not destined to a specific resettlement area

Cases are picked in a round-robin fashion according to PRM-approved percentages.

Allocations and Assurance

- After the weekly allocations meeting, the Refugee Processing Center (RPC) sends national resettlement agencies all biodata files and medical exams for the cases allocated
- Biodata files contain information on case composition, ethnicity, languages, religion, health, education, employment, and U.S. tie relationships
- National resettlement agencies send this information to their local affiliate offices for assurance
- Local affiliates contact U.S. tie if applicable, confirm capacity to serve the case, and notify national agency
- The national agency submits a datafile to RPC containing the assurance, including placement city, contact information, and closest airport

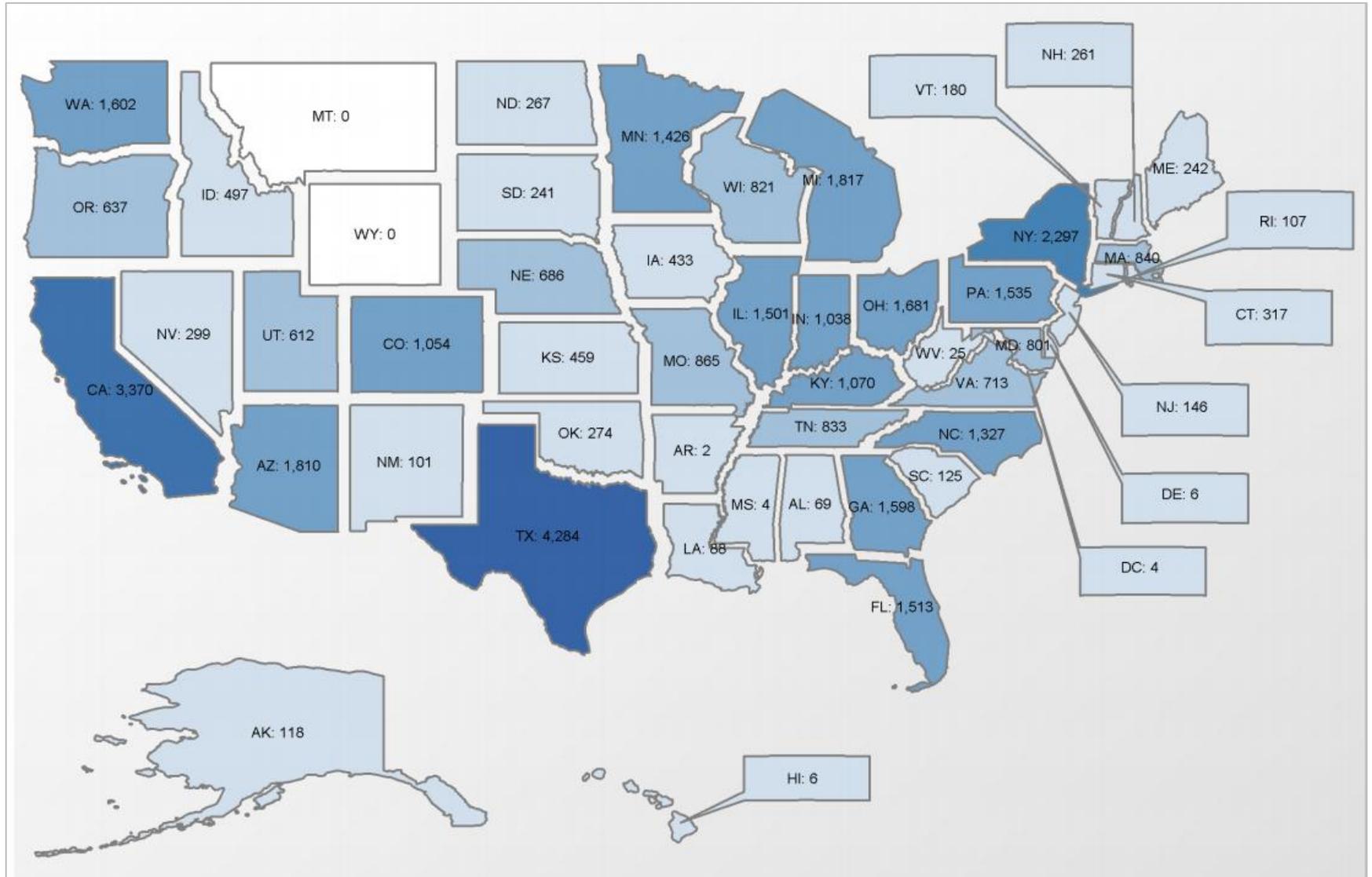
Cultural Orientation

- Refugees preparing for departure to the U.S. are provided with cultural orientation
- Orientation varies in duration, format, and content depending on the location and population
- The PRM-funded technical assistance provider for USRAP cultural orientation overseas and domestically is the IRC's Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange (CORE)

Travel to the U.S.

- All refugee travel to the U.S. is coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Assuring resettlement agency receives an Advanced Booking Notification (ABN) from IOM
- Refugees receive a travel loan from IOM to cover the costs of flights to the U.S.
- Refugees begin paying back the loan six months after arrival
- The loan is interest-free and refugees have up to 42 months to repay
- Monthly payments are made to the assuring resettlement agency

Arrivals by State



Placement

After review of the biodata and medical information, non-U.S. Tie cases are assigned to local affiliates based on the particular needs of the case and the capacity of sites, considering many factors, including:

- Culturally appropriate services
- Integration services available
- Language capacity
- Public assistance rates
- Average rent amounts for refugee housing
- Employment opportunities
- Existing ethnic communities
- Approved capacity and current pipeline

Reception and Placement Program

- The R&P program supports newly arriving refugees during their first 30-90 days in the U.S., helping them secure early economic self-sufficiency and successfully integrate into American society
- Every year, national resettlement agencies sign a Cooperative Agreement with PRM to resettle refugees under the R&P Program
- National agencies work with their local affiliates and field offices to provide good and timely services to refugees as outlined in the Agreement

Reception and Placement Program

Resettlement Agencies are responsible for the daily management and oversight of the R&P program through:

- Case Placement
- Data Processing
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Assurance
- Program Reporting

R&P Per Capita Funding

\$1,975 Earned Per Refugee:

\$1,125 Direct Assistance + \$850 Administrative

At least \$925 is provided to or spent on behalf of the refugee

\$200 can be spent on that refugee or set aside for another case

\$850 is reserved for agency's administrative costs

R&P Core Services

- Pre-Arrival Services
- Reception Services
- Case File Preparation and Maintenance
- Intake Interview
- Community Orientation
- Assistance & Access to Health Services
- Service Plans, Assistance with Access to Services
- Welfare - Communication with authorities
- Assistance to Refugee Minors

R&P Basic Needs Support

- Decent, safe, sanitary, affordable housing in good repair
- Essential furnishings
- Food, food allowance
- Seasonal clothing
- Pocket money
- Assistance in applying for public benefits, social security cards, ESL, employment services, non-employment services, Medicaid, Selective Service
- Assistance with health screenings and medical care
- Assistance with registering children in school
- Transportation to job interviews and job training
- Home visits

Community Consultations

Required Invitees

- State Refugee Coordinator
- State Refugee Health Coordinator
- Local and/or county public health representatives
- Welfare and social services representatives
- Public education representatives
- Local governance

Required Topics

- Fiscal year Year-to-Date arrivals and projections
- Presentation of demographics for arriving resettlement populations
- Participating stakeholders' abilities to adequately receive and serve the actual and projected arrivals caseload
- Challenges preventing adequate resettlement support services

Wrapsnet.org

https://www.wrapsnet.org/default.aspx

Register Login

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

search

Home SIV/Iraqi P-2 CAM Program Reports

>> Home



The **R P C**

The **Refugee Processing Center** is the creator of **WRAPS**, a customized computer software system to assist the processing of refugees bound for resettlement in the **United States**.

Arrival Reports, Fact Sheets and FAQs, R&P Affiliate Directory

COResourceExchange.org



CORE

CULTURAL ORIENTATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE

[About CORE](#)

[About Refugees](#) ▾

[Tools for Trainers](#) ▾

[Resource EXCHANGE](#)

WELCOME to the Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange (CORE), a technical assistance program designed to strengthen linkages between overseas CO programs for refugees approved for admission to the United States and Reception and Placement (R&P) activities conducted upon their arrival. Managed by the U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, and administered by the International Rescue Committee, CORE provides information, materials and technical assistance to overseas CO programs and to domestic refugee service providers.

NOTE: This website is under construction, so please check back frequently for updates

The activities of the Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange are financed under an agreement with the United States Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

[Refugee Backgrounders](#), [Welcome Guides](#), [R&P Curriculum](#), [Lesson Plans](#)

Questions



 *Merci*

شكراً

Thank you!

 **Gracias**

Vielen
Dank