



The Integration Journey

An Introduction to Refugee Services

Rotary Club of Conifer

4.19.22



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Department of Human Services

Today's Agenda

- Colorado Refugee Services Program
- Integration Framework
- Key Definitions & Terms
- Displacement & Resettlement
- Our New Neighbors
- Programs & Services
- Question & Answer / Group Discussion
- Learn More & Stay Engaged



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We are human beings.
Refugees are human beings
just like you.

- Mohamed Juma



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Colorado Refugee Services Program

- Program of the Colorado Department of Human Services
- Responsible for the statewide coordination of refugee resettlement
- Works through network of contracts and partners to achieve our goals



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OUR MISSION

Ensure the effective resettlement of refugees and promote refugee advancement past self-sufficiency and to long-term integration.



OUR VISION

Refugees are safe, healthy, and prepared to achieve their greatest aspirations.

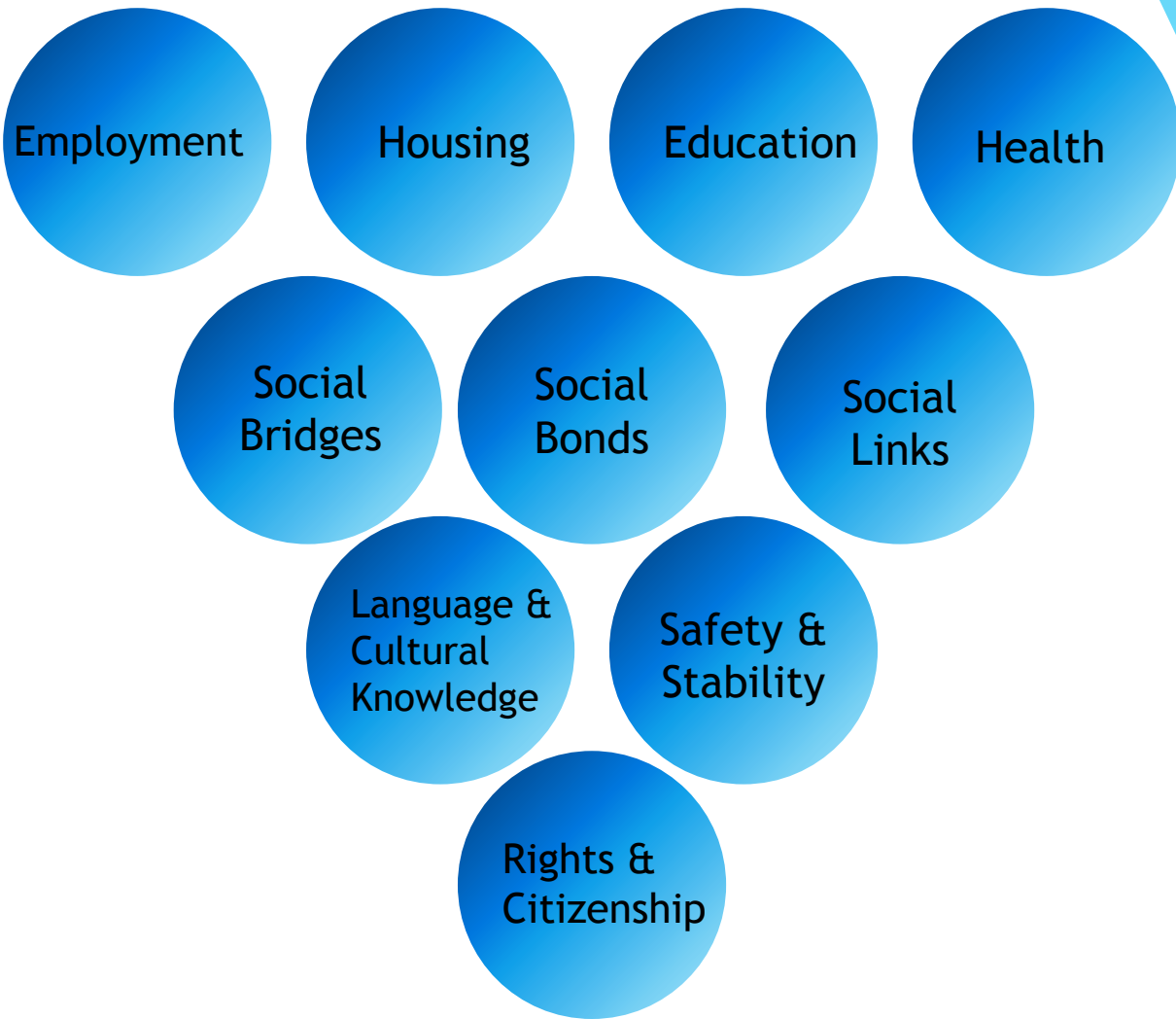


OUR VALUES

- Elegant, effective, and efficient services
- Holistic approach
- Engage newcomer & welcoming communities
- Build social capital



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Integration Framework

(Ager & Strang, 2004)

Key Definitions & Terms

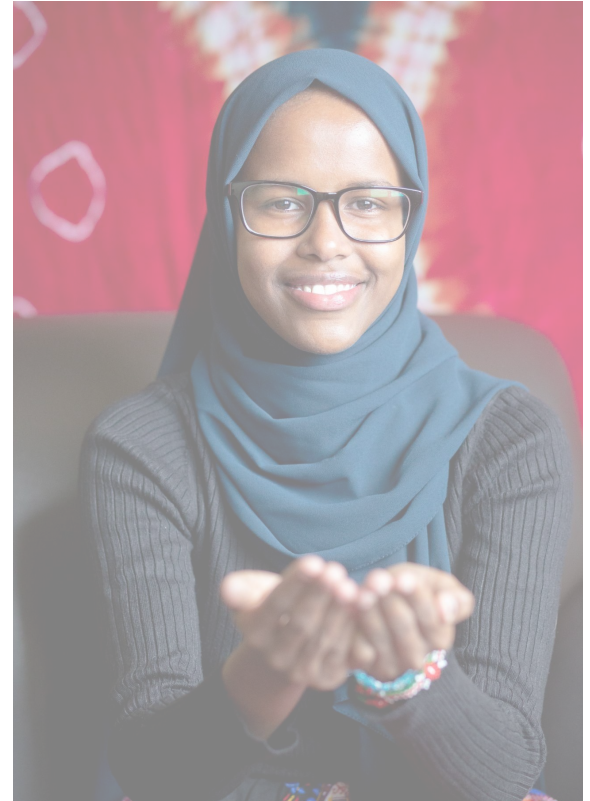


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Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)

Eligible Populations

- Refugee
- Asylee
- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holder
- Victim of Trafficking
- Amerasian
- Cuban/Haitian Entrant
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolee
- SI/SQ Parolee

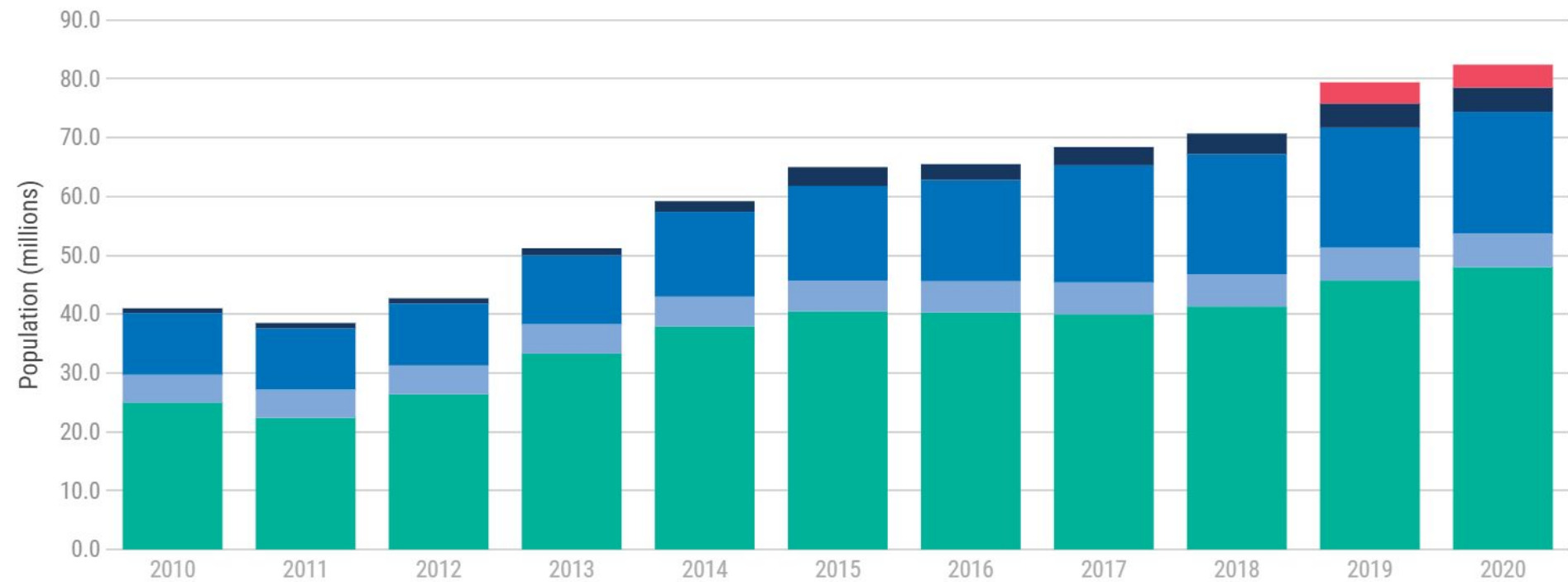


Displacement: A Global Perspective



Global forced displacement (at end-year)

Internally displaced people UNRWA refugees UNHCR refugees Asylum-seekers Venezuelans displaced abroad

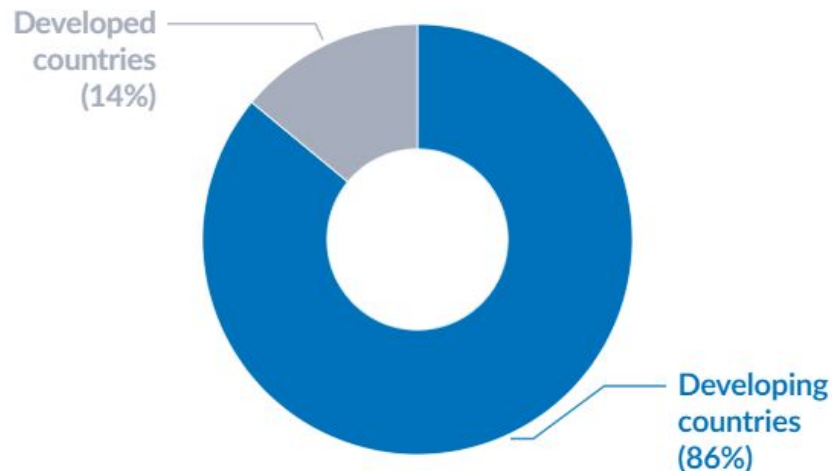


Source: [UNHCR Refugee Data Finder](#)

Geography of Displacement

86% hosted in developing countries

Developing countries hosted the vast majority of the world's refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad.

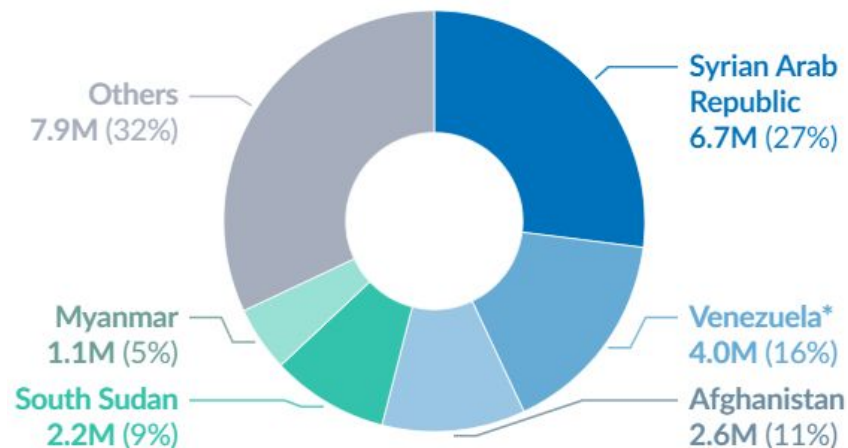


18 June 2021

Source: [UNHCR Global Trends 2020](#)

68% originated from just five countries

More than two thirds of all refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad came from just five countries.



18 June 2021

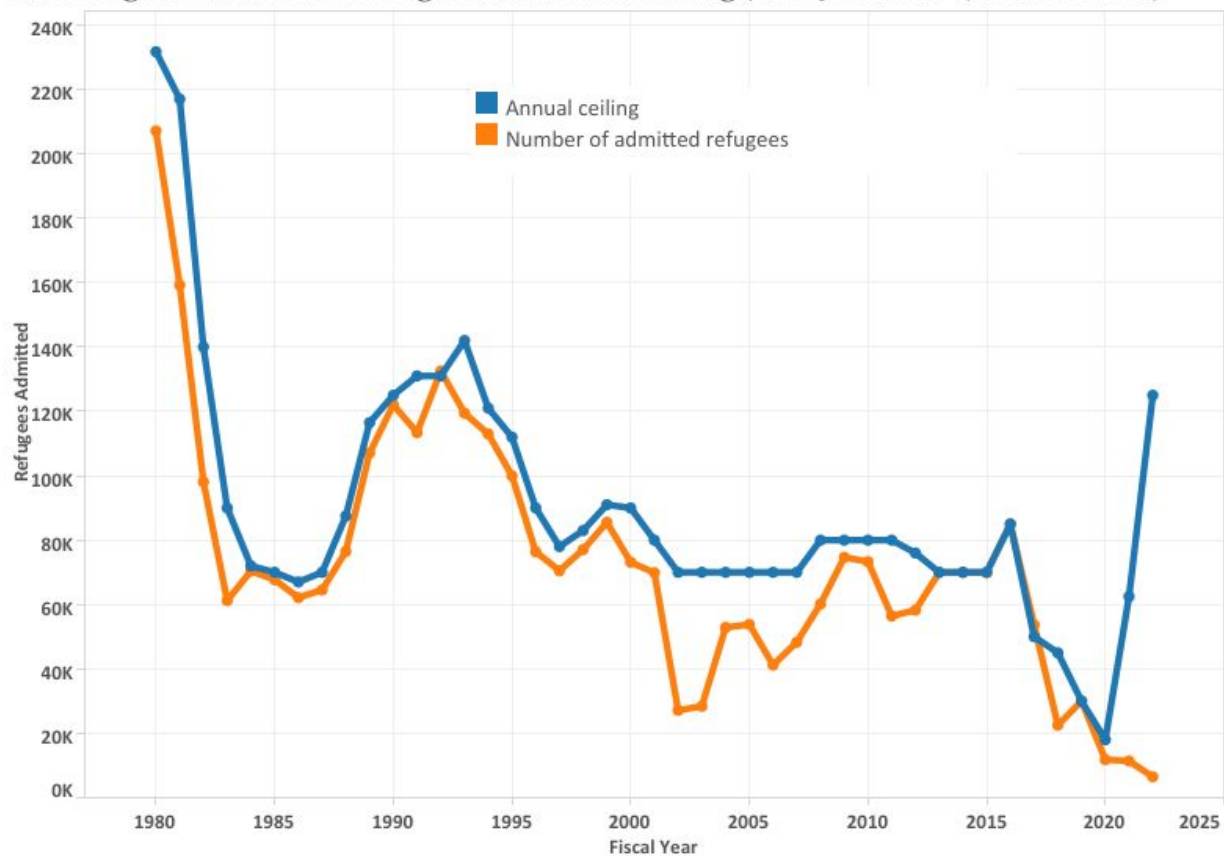
* This is the number of Venezuelan refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad.

A National Perspective



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U.S. Refugee Admissions & Refugee Resettlement Ceilings, FY 1980-2022* (thru Feb 2022)



Operation Allies Welcome

- Evacuation of Afghan allies - Summer 2021
- Federal Response led by Dept. of Homeland Security
 - <https://www.dhs.gov/allieswelcome>
- Approximately 77,000 Afghans resettled across United States
 - September 2021-February 2022



How Do Refugees Get To Colorado?

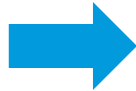


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A Rigorous & Lengthy Process



UNHCR refers only the most vulnerable cases to countries for possible resettlement. Refugees cannot pick their country of resettlement.



- > **8** Federal government agencies
- > **6** Different security databases
- > **5** Separate background checks
- > **4** Biometric security checks
- > **3** Separate in-person interviews
- > **2** Inter-agency security checks
- > **2** years on average before approval



Referral to one of nine national resettlement agencies

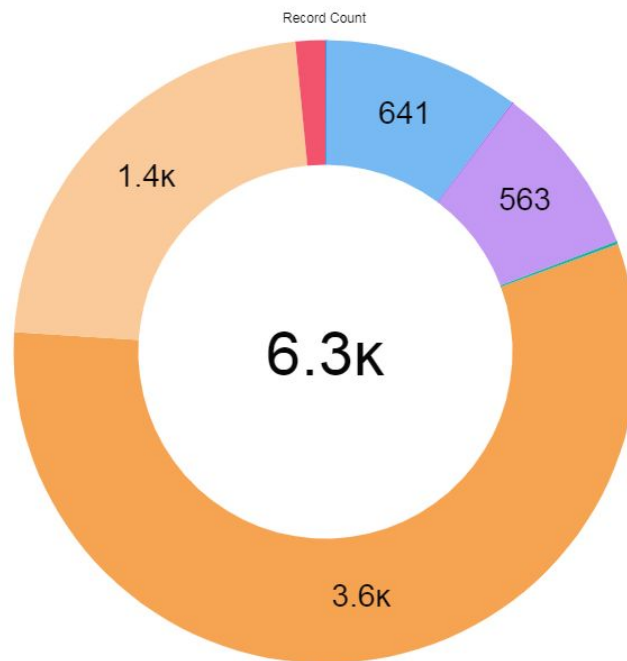


Refugee Arrivals to Colorado

Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2021

Newly Enrolled by Immigration Status

Refugee 101



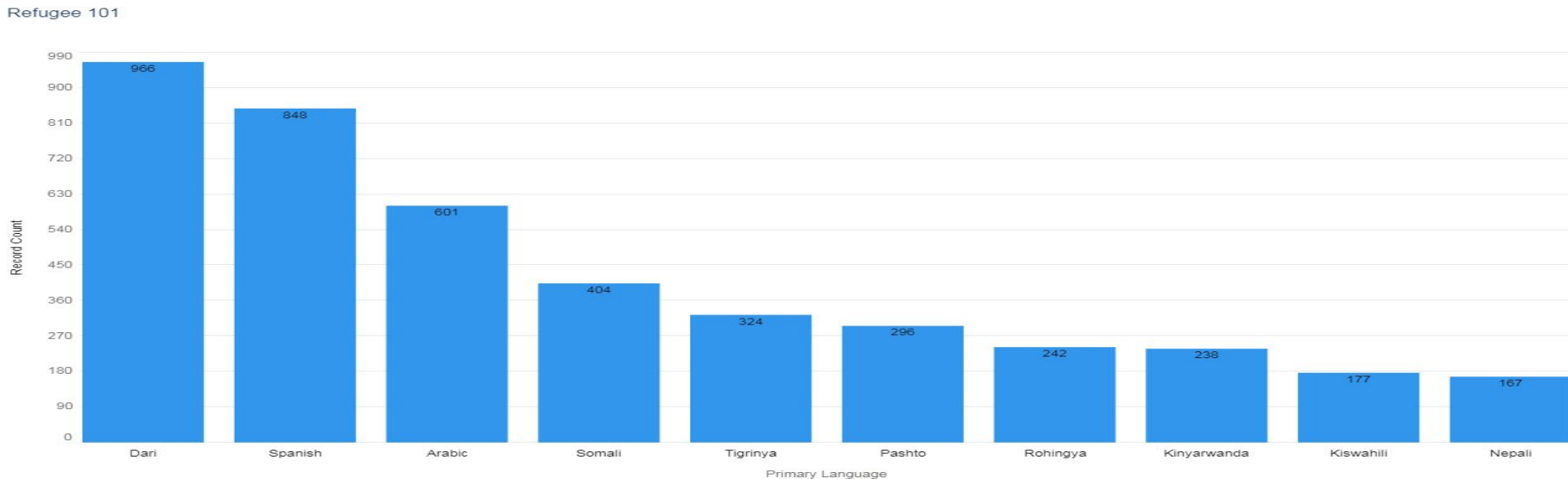
Immigration Status

- Amerasian
- Asylee
- Asylee/Kurd
- Cuban Haitian
- Humanitarian Parole
- Other
- Refugee
- SIV
- VOT

Refugee Languages in Colorado

Enrolled Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2021

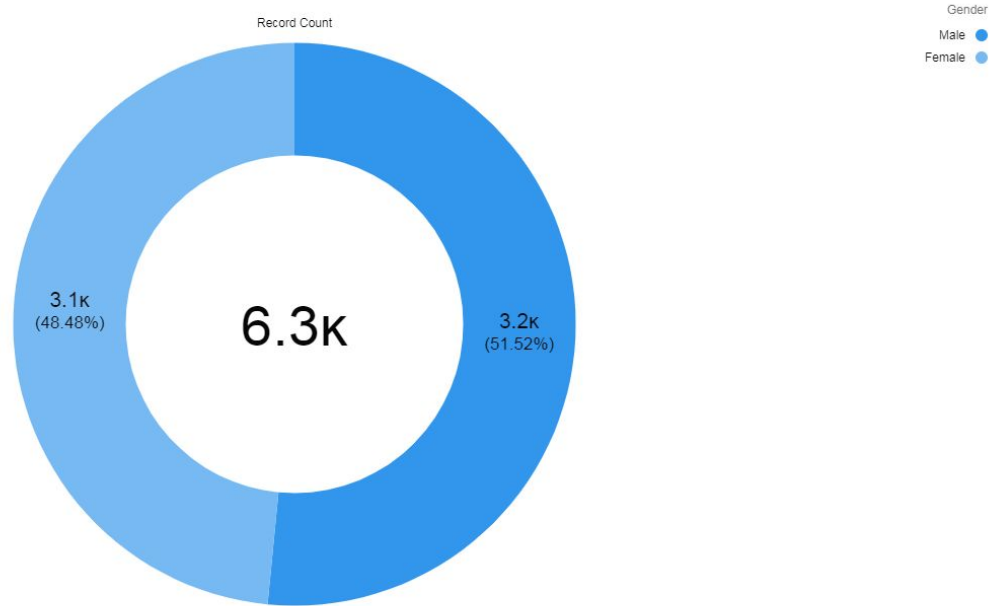
Top 10 Languages



Gender Breakdown

Enrolled Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2021

Refugee 101



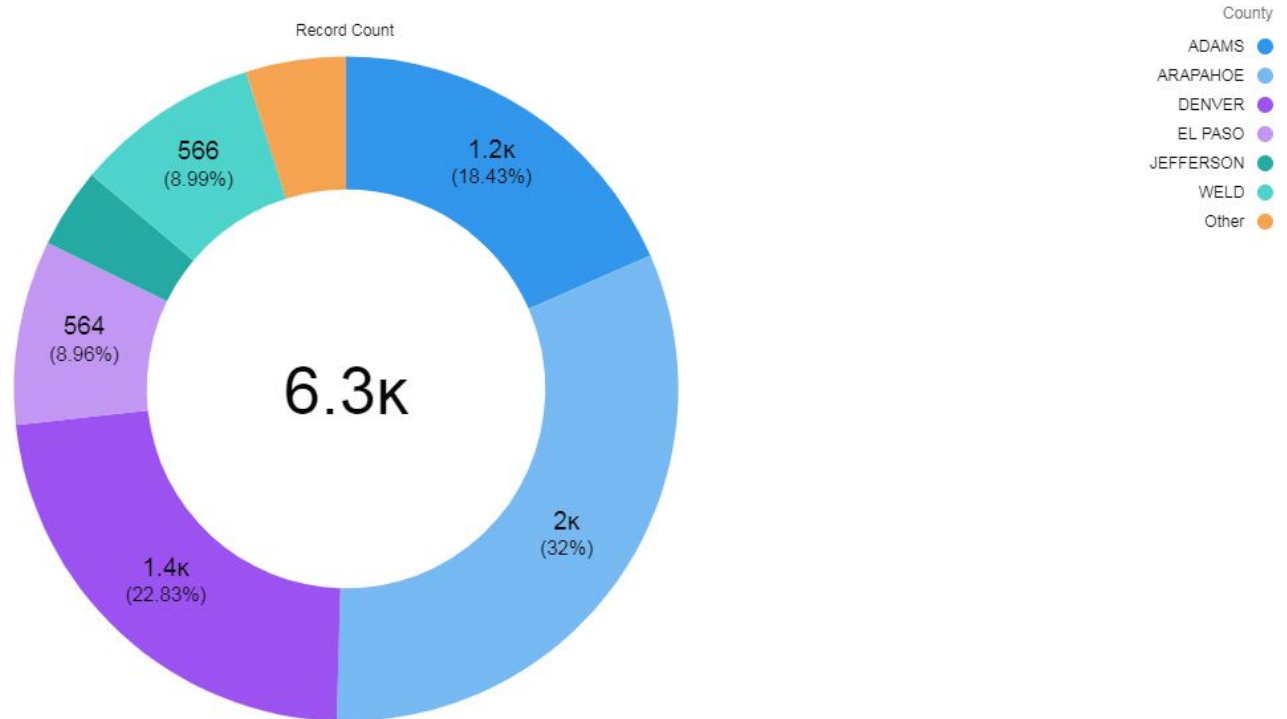
Jan 17, 2022 11:29 AM - Viewing as Troy Cox

Geographic Distribution

Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2021

County of Initial Residence

Refugee 101





Afghan Humanitarian Parolees

- 1970 Afghan Humanitarian Parolees arrived statewide
- Sept. 2021-Feb. 2022
- 90% Metro Denver, 10% Colorado Springs



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Challenges & Additional Support

- Access to affordable housing
- Mental health services
- Legal services
- Current staffing levels
- Creation of Transitional Housing Site
- Colorado Afghan Evacuee Fund
- Streamlined availability of existing housing assistance
- Multi-agency effort to for donations & apartment setups
- Addition of two temporary resettlement agencies



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Programs & Services



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SERVICE PLAN OVERVIEW

FROM ARRIVAL TO INTEGRATION

CORE SERVICES



Refugees are **WELCOMED** into their new homes by resettlement agencies and volunteers.

CULTURAL ORIENTATION helps refugees adapt to American culture and systems.

Refugees enroll in **EDUCATION**: ESL, adult ed, and neighborhood schools.

Local employers **HIRE** refugees; refugees support their families with **EARNED INCOME**.



Job clubs, training, and career counseling assist refugees along an individualized **PATH TO EMPLOYMENT**.



Refugees receive **HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS** check-ups at community health centers.

VILLAGE SUPPORT



Community programs assist refugees in **REBUILDING** their lives.



Refugees bring their skill sets into new **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**.

HOLISTIC services support refugees. Integrated refugees support newcomers.



Refugees continue on the path to **CITIZENSHIP** and **CONTRIBUTE** to their local communities.



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Initial Services

- Housing & basic furnishings
- Public benefits
- Social security card
- Medical screening & subsequent health services
- School registration for children
- Case management
- Employment services
- Support to become a legal permanent resident



CRSP-Funded Programs & Services

<https://cdhs.colorado.gov/crsp>



Resettlement agencies

Resettlement agencies support refugees and other eligible populations to integrate into the community. Services include securing initial housing, job search and placement, case management, access to public benefits, referrals to other services. Psychosocial support, women's empowerment, financial literacy, and legal help are also available.

▼ List of providers



English as a Second Language

The Colorado Refugee Services Program invests in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes because building linguistic and cultural skills are key drivers of integration and economic self-sufficiency. ESL classes are available in many locations and include instruction for all levels. Contact the individual providers in the list below for class schedules and registration information.

▼ List of providers



Career pathway planning

The CAREERS Program prepares refugees and other eligible populations for employment in fields with growth potential. This program has options for skilled professionals to return to prior professions or launch a new career, as well as options for individuals who are working in entry-level positions who want to establish a career with growth opportunities.

▼ List of providers



Health and wellness

Services include [initial medical screening](#), connection to primary care, health education, case management, and navigation to improve access to health services and promote health literacy. Collaboration with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Health Care Policy and Financing support medical screening processes, refugee health surveillance, and [Refugee Medical Assistance](#) administration.

▼ List of providers



Youth services

Programs for youth support our two-generation approach and provide holistic programming tailored to the needs and interests of youth. Youth programs utilize a positive youth development framework and incorporate educational and career-focused programming. Our partners' programs are designed to support youth across the state, and include both in-person and remote options.

▼ List of providers



Elder and other services

Programs for elders and additional groups support our two-generation approach and provide holistic programming tailored to the needs and interests of these groups. Elder services support elders' overall wellbeing through exercise, social bridging, and educational activities. Other providers support our communities with service navigation and educational workshops to build towards long-term integration.

▼ List of providers

Program Outcomes

- \$16.08/hour average wage FFY21
- Historic averages of 90 days to employment from arrival
- Explore RISE study to understand long-term integration
- Economic impact of refugees in Colorado



Keep Learning & Stay in Touch

- Colorado Refugee Services Program website
- Colorado Refugee Connect website to search for websites, books, movies & more
- Like & follow on Facebook:
 - Colorado Refugee Speakers Bureau
 - Colorado Refugee Connect
- Join CARES Listserv for refugee-service providers
- Email me:
Meg.Sagaria-Barritt@state.co.us
- General CRSP inbox:
CRSP@state.co.us



Q&A and Discussion

