The Integration Journey
An Introduction to Refugee Services
Rotary Club of Conifer
4.19.22
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
We are human beings. Refugees are human beings just like you.  

- Mohamed Juma
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
**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.

- Elegant, effective, and efficient services
- Holistic approach
- Engage newcomer & welcoming communities
- Build social capital
Integration Framework (Ager & Strang, 2004)

- Employment
- Housing
- Education
- Health
- Social Bridges
- Social Bonds
- Social Links
- Language & Cultural Knowledge
- Safety & Stability
- Rights & Citizenship
Key Definitions & Terms
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.

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
Source: UNHCR Global Trends 2020

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

- Annual ceiling
- Number of admitted refugees

Fiscal Year

Migration Policy Institute (MPI) Data Hub
http://migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub
Operation Allies Welcome

- Evacuation of Afghan allies - Summer 2021
- Federal Response led by Dept. of Homeland Security
  - [https://www.dhs.gov/allieswelcome](https://www.dhs.gov/allieswelcome)
- Approximately 77,000 Afghans resettled across United States
  - September 2021-February 2022
How Do Refugees Get To Colorado?
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 Languages in Colorado
Enrolled Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2021

Top 10 Languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dari</td>
<td>956</td>
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<td>Spanish</td>
<td>848</td>
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<td>Kiswahili</td>
<td>177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepali</td>
<td>107</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Gender Breakdown
Enrolled Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2021

Male: 3.1k (48.48%)
Female: 3.2k (51.52%)
Afghan Humanitarian Parolees

- 1970 Afghan Humanitarian Parolees arrived statewide
- Sept. 2021-Feb. 2022
- 90% Metro Denver, 10% Colorado Springs
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
Programs & Services
SERVICE PLAN OVERVIEW
FROM ARRIVAL TO INTEGRATION

CORE SERVICES

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

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

CULTURAL ORIENTATION helps refugees adapt to American culture and systems.

Local employers HIRE refugees, refugees support their families with EARNED INCOME.

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.
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 based on the needs and interests of youth. Youth programs utilize a positive youth development framework and incorporate educational and career-focused programming. Our partner 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 based on 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