State Program Accomplishments

2016 – 2017
State Program

• Designed a Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance Training that was approved and implemented by internal Staff Development. Training on RCA/RMA was provided to multiple County Assistance Office staff across the state.

• Provided open lines of communication to CAOs to clarify ORR policy including immigration and welfare benefits eligibility.

• Updated the Refugee Guidelines that detail all programmatic activities (last published in 2013). Statewide training to begin in FFY2018.

• Established and met with the Refugee Advisory Council.

• Redesigned the [www.refugeesinpa.org](http://www.refugeesinpa.org) website. Approval forthcoming.

• Created a new reporting mechanism for “one-click” monthly and annual contractor reports. Currently in beta testing phase.

• Coordinated a successful showing of After Spring, a film about life in a Jordanian refugee camp.

• Successfully moved the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors program to Bethany Christian Services after the closing of Lutheran Children and Family Service.

• Hired a new State Refugee Health Coordinator to oversee and manage refugee health activities.
• Re-established collaboration between the state’s Bureau of Emergency Preparedness to represent the interests of refugees, in particular to address cultural and linguistics differences.

• Ongoing partnerships with several community organizations to expand capacity in refugee health.

• Attendance and participation in numerous summits, conferences, and meetings that focused on employment services, English language training, health, and access to mainstream programs.

• Made successful contact with the Department of Aging to attain greater understanding of services to our elderly population.

• Provided increased case management support to resettlement workers looking for solutions to working with those who suffer from complex medical/mental health issues.

• Coordinated multiple Mental Health First Aid Trainings across the state in both Bhutanese and English.

• Sought to increase knowledge, establish interagency partnerships, and provide prevention funding for refugees suffering from substance abuse, treat lead-poisoning, latent TB, and a host of other medical-attention needs.

• Continued to fund 47 refugee programs with a wide variety of services from employment and job skills training, medical/mental health screening, elderly and youth involvement, urban grow projects, Nepali to American sign language classes, driving instruction, interpretation/translation, civic engagement, citizenship services, and many others.

• Always looking for new and innovative ways to serve refugees!
Employment Stats

Caseload – 1,807
Entered Employment – 1,135 (63%)
Cash Assistance (TANF/RCA) – 550
Cash Assistance Terminations – 386 (70%)
Employment w/ Health Benefits – 768 (68%)
State average wage at initial job placement - $9.71
90-Day Retention Rate – 81% (for job placements between July 2015-June 2016)
Cost per Entered Employment - $2,350
ELT services related to employment programs in FFY 2016 – 867 refugees served
Refugee School Impact Grant (RSIG) Activities (HIAS PA, Lancaster SD, Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, Lincoln IU12, Erie SD, Central Susquehanna IU16)

• After-school programs that address challenges in academic, social, and emotional integration into the U.S. education system.
• ELT programs that assist students with little to no English skills, as well as conversational English.
• Parent information and participation.
• Translation for parent-teacher conferences, and parent events.
• Summer programs.
• Wellness workshops.
• Cultural navigation services.
• Arts and music enrichment programs.