

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 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.