

# ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

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Office of Refugee Resettlement

Fiscal Year 2021



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

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# Executive Summary

The Annual Report to Congress for fiscal year (FY) 2021 was prepared in accordance with the Refugee Act of 1980 (the Act). The report presents the activities, expenditures, and policies of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and information about the individuals receiving ORR benefits and services. A summary of the information contained in this report is outlined below.

## Refugee Resettlement Program

- ORR’s FY 2021 funding level for the Refugee Resettlement Program, which is part of a lump sum appropriation, was \$603,201,000.
- In FY 2021, 11,508 refugees arrived from 60 countries. The most common country of birth<sup>1</sup> for refugees was Democratic Republic of Congo.<sup>2</sup> Refugees arrived in all states, except for Alabama, Hawaii, Mississippi, and Wyoming. There were no refugee arrivals in the District of Columbia in FY 2021. California and Texas resettled the largest number of refugees.
- In addition to refugees, 75,281 individuals from other groups became eligible for ORR Refugee Resettlement Program services.<sup>3</sup>
- The Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program served 1,873 youth, including 248 new enrollees.

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<sup>1</sup> ORR uses the generally recognized term “country of birth.” However, the data on “country of birth” comes from the U.S. Department of State database, which calculates data by “country of chargeability.” The country of chargeability is the independent country to which a refugee entering the United States under a ceiling is accredited by the U.S. Department of State. Chargeability is usually determined by country of birth, although there may be exceptions.

<sup>2</sup> Although Afghan humanitarian parolees who arrived to the United States in FY 2021 eventually became eligible for Refugee Resettlement Program benefits and services per the Additional Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, their eligibility began in FY 2022.

<sup>3</sup> ORR is authorized to provide services to refugees and other populations, including asylees, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders, Amerasians, Victims of Trafficking, Special Immigration Juvenile Status holders, U-visa status holders, and other populations as designated by Congress. While “Refugee” is used in ORR’s name and the names of many ORR programs, throughout this document ORR uses the term “ORR eligible populations” for the full range of individuals eligible for ORR refugee program benefits and uses “refugees” for those who specifically hold refugee status.

## Unaccompanied Children Program

- ORR's FY 2021 funding level for the Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program, which is part of a lump sum appropriation, was \$1,303,245,000.<sup>4</sup>
- ORR served 122,731 unaccompanied children referred to its care by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- The majority of unaccompanied children placed in ORR custody were from three Central American countries: Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.
- ORR released unaccompanied children to sponsors residing in 50 states and the District of Columbia.

## Policy, Research, and Evaluation

- ORR continued to develop and exercise flexibilities helping service providers and communities effectively serve eligible individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ORR conducted on site and remote monitoring of refugee programs in 29 states.
- ORR completed the Annual Survey of Refugees, which tracks the progress that refugees specifically (not including any other ORR eligible populations) make toward achieving self-sufficiency and integration during their first five years in the United States.
- ORR continued its partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the multiyear descriptive study of the URM Program and began a study of outcomes for the Survivors of Torture Program.
- ORR also continued its work developing its first learning agenda, to help identify and prioritize areas of learning and research relevant to ORR's refugee and UC bureaus to better support evidence-based decision-making, performance management, and evaluation.

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<sup>4</sup> The amount is the enacted appropriations level. Funding levels do not include any prior year funding or transfers to ORR available during FY 2021.

## Statutory Requirement

The Refugee Act requires the preparation of a report to Congress addressing the activities, expenditures, and policies of ORR and the characteristics of refugees.<sup>5</sup> Specifically, the Act calls for the following information:

- (1) Employment and labor force statistics for refugees who entered the United States in the preceding five fiscal years and for refugees who entered earlier who are disproportionately dependent on welfare;
- (2) A description of the extent to which refugees received refugee resettlement assistance or services during the preceding five fiscal years;
- (3) A description of the geographic location of refugees;
- (4) A summary of the results of the monitoring and evaluation conducted during the fiscal year;
- (5) A description of the activities, expenditures, and policies of ORR and the activities of states, voluntary agencies, and sponsors;
- (6) A description of the director's plans for improvement of refugee resettlement;
- (7) Evaluations of the extent to which the services provided are assisting refugees in achieving economic self-sufficiency, achieving ability in English, and achieving employment commensurate with their skills and abilities;
- (8) Evaluations of the extent to which any fraud, abuse, or mismanagement has been reported in the provisions of services or assistance;
- (9) A description of medical assistance provided by the director to refugees who do not qualify for the state's Medicaid program;
- (10) A summary of the location and status of unaccompanied refugee children admitted to the United States; and
- (11) A summary of the information compiled and an evaluation regarding applications for adjustment of status.

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<sup>5</sup> See Pub. L. 96-212, 8 U.S.C. § 1523.

Additionally, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008<sup>6</sup> requires the following: “The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit a report describing the activities undertaken by the Secretary to authorize the appointment of independent Child Advocates for trafficking victims and vulnerable unaccompanied children to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.”

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<sup>6</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(6)(D).

# Appropriations

The total enacted appropriation for ORR in FY 2021 was \$1,906,446,000. This includes \$603,201,000 to support the Refugee Resettlement Program and the Survivors of Torture Program and \$1,303,245,000 for the UC Program. Table 1 provides ORR's funding by program.

Table 1: FY 2021 ORR Funding by Program<sup>7</sup>

Program	Amount
Transitional and Medical Services	\$354,000,000
Cash and Medical Assistance	
Wilson/Fish Program	
Matching Grant	
Refugee Support Services	\$232,201,000
Ethnic Community Self-Help Program	
Individual Development Account Program	
Microenterprise Development Program	
Preferred Communities Program	
Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program	
Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Program	
Refugee School Impact Program	
Youth Mentoring Program	
Services to Older Refugees Program	
Refugee Technical Assistance Program	
Refugee Health Promotion Program	
Survivors of Torture Program	\$17,000,000
Unaccompanied Children Program	\$1,303,245,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,906,446,000</b>

<sup>7</sup> The amount is the enacted appropriation level. Funding levels do not include any prior year funding or transfers to ORR available during FY 2021.



# Introduction

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) serves refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, Amerasians, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, youth with Special Immigrant Juvenile status, unaccompanied minors with U status, and unaccompanied children. ORR promotes their economic and social well-being by providing these individuals with critical resources.

The Refugee Resettlement Program creates a path to self-sufficiency and integration for people displaced by war, persecution, and devastating loss. The first step on this path is helping refugees and other individuals served by the program achieve economic self-sufficiency through ORR-funded employment services. Employment services equip ORR eligible individuals with skills, knowledge, and opportunities to succeed in the U.S. labor market. Social service programs build on the strengths of ORR eligible individuals as they continue on the path to becoming fully integrated members of their communities.

ORR also cares for unaccompanied children who are without lawful immigration status and without a parent or legal guardian able or willing to provide for their care. The Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program provides these children with a safe environment and client-focused care to better their opportunities for success both while in care and upon discharge from the program.

## Highlights from FY 2021

In FY 2021, ORR responded to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis by helping States and Replacement Designees (RDs) find innovative ways to serve ORR eligible individuals. ORR continued the policy from FY 2020 authorizing greater flexibility in providing services. ORR also continued the extension of eligibility periods for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) upon request: if a State or RD applied for relevant waivers, ORR extended the RCA and RMA eligibility period from eight months to up to 18 months for clients affected by the pandemic. ORR also provided flexibilities to help States and RDs make eligibility determinations for services, such as virtual or phone consultations, since many State offices and nongovernmental agencies transitioned to virtual operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In FY 2021, ORR provided additional guidance on the standards, goals, and priorities of the family self-sufficiency plan (FSSP) to assure the effective resettlement of refugees and facilitate their economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible. The new guidance also calls for addressing the needs of the whole family. Experience has demonstrated that individuals are

unable to achieve or maintain economic self-sufficiency if the needs of members of their household, including children and the elderly, are not met.

During FY 2021, administration of the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) in North Dakota transitioned to the North Dakota Department of Human Services (NDDHS), which assumed the coordination and administration of all components of the program, including RCA, RMA, Refugee Medical Screening (RMS), Refugee Support Services (RSS), and the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program. Prior to the change, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (LSSND) held primary responsibility for overseeing, coordinating, and administering the RRP in the state; LSSND withdrew from the program as of March 21, 2021. ORR, LSSND, and NDDHS worked together to ensure a smooth administrative transition and continuity of services to refugees and other ORR eligible individuals.

In the summer of 2021, the U.S. government initiated Operation Allies Refuge (OAR) which assisted certain Afghan civilians vulnerable to Taliban persecution, including those who worked alongside the United States and the coalition of allies in Afghanistan, to flee the country as Taliban forces advanced. In August of that year, ORR informed the refugee resettlement network that large numbers of Afghan individuals would be relocated to the United States in the coming months. Within weeks thousands of Afghans arrived in the United States, some of whom were immediately eligible for ORR benefits due to an ORR eligible immigration status such as Special Immigrant Visa holder. The majority, however, entered the country as humanitarian parolees under Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. These individuals were not eligible for ORR benefits and services until Congress passed the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-43), on September 30, 2021.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) led the multi-year implementation of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), the successor to OAR. OAW was a coordinated effort across the federal government to support vulnerable Afghans, including those who had worked alongside the United States in Afghanistan, as they safely resettled in the United States.

### **ORR's 2021 OAW Response**

To support OAR and OAW in the aftermath of the Summer 2021 collapse of the Afghan government and subsequent emergency evacuation of vulnerable Afghans, a team of ORR staff designed, established, and oversaw a health and prescription coverage program for Afghan arrivals to the United States. This program ensured access to health services for these newcomers during the transitional period from their arrival at domestic Safe Havens until departure to their final resettlement community. The team worked daily with clinical providers, hospital administrators, case managers, U.S. government colleagues, and claims administrators to troubleshoot and ensure all the arrivals were enrolled in the program and received coverage for necessary health care. As a result, all Afghans arriving as part of these efforts received coverage for any necessary medical care, including emergency, inpatient, dental, radiology,

surgical, obstetric, pediatric, rehabilitation, mental health, and specialty care services to address urgent medical needs.

The effort involved cooperation and agility among ORR, its federal partners, and the resettlement agency the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), particularly during the transition period before the Afghan Supplemental Appropriations Act was passed in FY 2022. ORR's Deputy Director and Director of the ORR Division of Refugee Health led the effort and set up the effective process for ensuring that all arrivals had health coverage and services.

Within weeks, this initiative was expanded to all the eight Safe Havens for all incoming flights. This effort was critical to the mission, given the diversity of medical scenarios, including pregnancies, traumatic injuries, infections, heart issues, cancer, and other conditions that required immediate attention and on-going follow-up. Deployees to the Safe Havens assisted with enrollments, trouble-shooting challenges, and networking with providers.

By using manifests, Safe Haven rosters, pharmacy, clinic, and hospital user lists, the ORR team enrolled more than 85,000 Afghan evacuees in this benefits program between July 2021-Sept 2022. By the time of the closure of the final Safe Haven in September 2022, 14 months later, ORR's initiative supported over 80,000 arrivals with medical coverage in eight Safe Havens and the second phase operation at the National Convention Center in Leesburg, VA. In all, more than 23,000 medical claims were submitted and processed.

This health coverage addressed both physical and emotional health, and ORR and its partnering federal agencies maintained a safe public health environment for new arrivals and staff at the Safe Havens and in the resettlement communities. In addition, the initiative supported respectful relationships with the local healthcare facilities, ensuring appropriate compensation for their services and preventing the influx of new arrivals from presenting a financial burden to these facilities and the local communities.

## **The Annual Survey of Refugees**

Since 1980, ORR has conducted the Annual Survey of Refugees (ASR) to provide data for its annual report to Congress and to strengthen understanding of refugees' economic self-sufficiency and integration during their early years of resettlement. Refugees are the only ORR eligible population who participate in the ASR.

Data from the ASR highlights refugees' progress toward self-sufficiency during their initial five years in the United States. In 2016, HHS began a multiyear effort to improve the quality and efficiency of the ASR. These changes mean that estimates produced by the 2021 ASR are not directly comparable to estimates prior to 2016. See Appendix B for more information,

including an overview of key improvements to survey design and administration implemented in the 2016 ASR and 2021 ASR.

Respondents to the 2021 ASR were drawn from the population of refugees arriving in the United States during the five preceding federal FYs, 2016 – 2020 (October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2020). At the time of the survey field period, eligible refugees had lived in the United States between 1.5 years and 6.5 years.<sup>8</sup>

It is important to note that the demographic characteristics (educational attainment, work experience, English language ability, and resettlement location) can vary from year to year. Data about FY 2016 refugees in first quarter of 2021 are not a clear prediction of what FY 2020 entrants will achieve after five years in the United States. Each refugee’s family composition, education, language skills, work experience, and community placement may shape their trajectory in the United States.

The 2021 ASR sampled heads of refugee households to answer questions on behalf of themselves and their household members. For each adult member of responding households, the ASR collects basic demographic information such as age, level of education, English language proficiency and training, job training, labor force participation, work experience, and barriers to employment. Other data are collected by family unit, including information on demographic characteristics, housing, income, and utilization of public benefits.<sup>9</sup>

Throughout this report, results of the survey are broken out by topic (self-sufficiency, education, employment, etc.) to show the link with ORR program goals. All information from the ASR is indicated with a “Results from Annual Survey of Refugees” flag to differentiate the information from the program updates.

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<sup>8</sup> Data collection for the 2021 ASR occurred between January and April 2022; therefore, circumstances and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic may be reflected in the data reported.

<sup>9</sup> See Appendix B for more information on the ASR, including important information about data quality.

### **Interpreting the Precision of Estimates from the Annual Survey of Refugees**

All tables from the ASR include both *point estimates* and *margins of error* (MOEs) for refugees arriving during FY 2016 through FY 2020. Since the ASR is a sample survey, a degree of uncertainty accompanies all point estimates. The MOE is the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95-percent confidence interval. A *95-percent confidence interval* means that if the survey were repeated many times, the true population value would be included in the confidence intervals 95 percent of the time. When the confidence intervals of two point estimates do not overlap, the difference is *statistically significant* at a .05 level.

The footnotes to each table provide definitions of terms, information about missing data, and whether estimates refer to individual refugees or refugee households. This important information is intended to aid interpretation of the table.

While not all results are statistically significant, all group differences highlighted in the report are statistically significant.

# Refugee Resettlement Program

The Refugee Resettlement Program creates a foundation for new arrivals to achieve their full potential in the United States. States, RDs, and other nonprofit agencies administer Federal Financial Assistance awards (grants and cooperative agreements) that provide ORR eligible individuals time-limited health coverage, cash assistance, employment services, and English language training to facilitate both their initial resettlement and successful integration to life in the United States. ORR provides funding to ethnic and other community-based organizations, resettlement agencies, and other public and private nonprofit agencies, for additional specialized programs that further promote employment, economic mobility, and integration.

## Populations Served by ORR

ORR's Refugee Resettlement Program serves refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, Amerasians, and victims of trafficking; within the program's Unaccompanied Minors Program, ORR also serves minors classified as Special Immigrant Juveniles and U-status recipients.

Table 2: Individuals Newly Eligible for ORR Refugee Benefits and Services in FY 2021

Population	Number	Percentage of Total Arrivals
Refugees	11,508	13.3%
Asylees	20,451	23.6%
Cuban/ Haitian Entrants	43,227	49.8%
Special Immigrant Visa holders	9,766	11.3%
Victims of Trafficking	1,837	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,789</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note.** Amerasians are included in the number of refugees.

**Source.** ORR's Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS). Data as of November 15, 2023.

## Refugees

A refugee is any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> "Refugee" is defined under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(42)).

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) approves an individual's refugee status overseas. The U.S. Department of State oversees refugees' travel to and placement within the United States and supports their initial 30–90 days of resettlement in their new communities. ORR then supports their longer-term resettlement and integration into the United States through funding to States, Replacement Designees, resettlement agencies, and other public and private non-profit agencies. Refugees are eligible to receive ORR refugee benefits and services from the first day they arrive in the United States and are eligible to become legal permanent residents after one year of admission and naturalized citizens after five years.

### **Asylees**

Asylees do not enter the United States as refugees but they must apply for asylum from within the United States or at one of the official ports of entry. Some asylum seekers may enter the country on their own as students, tourists, business professionals, or as unauthorized individuals. Each asylum applicant must meet the legal definition of a refugee and be admissible to the United States to qualify for a grant of asylum.<sup>11</sup> Asylees are eligible for ORR refugee benefits and services beginning on the date of the final grant of asylum. They are eligible to adjust their status to legal permanent residents after one year of granting asylum, and are eligible to become naturalized citizens after five years.

### **Cuban and Haitian Entrants**

Cuban and Haitian entrants<sup>12</sup> are Cuban or Haitian nationals who are granted parole status as a Cuban/Haitian Entrant,<sup>13</sup> are in removal proceedings,<sup>14</sup> or have an application for asylum pending and with respect to whom no final, non-appealable, and legally enforceable order of removal has been entered. Cuban and Haitian entrants became eligible for ORR benefits and services under the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980. Cuban and Haitian entrants are eligible for ORR refugee benefits and services from the date in which the entrant meets the definition of “Cuban and Haitian entrant” and has documentation indicating that the entrant (1) has been granted parole; (2) is in voluntary departure status; or (3) is known by DHS as residing in a community in the United States.<sup>15</sup>

### **Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants**

Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants are individuals from Iraq and Afghanistan who assisted the U.S. government or U.S. military forces overseas. The U.S. Department of State grants

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<sup>11</sup> Asylum procedures are outlined in the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1158).

<sup>12</sup> See Pub. L. 96-422 for ORR authorities related to Cuban and Haitian entrants.

<sup>13</sup> Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act provides DHS with discretion to parole an individual into the United States temporarily under certain conditions on a case-by-case basis.

<sup>14</sup> The U.S. Department of Justice conducts administrative court proceedings, called “removal proceedings,” to decide whether foreign-born individuals who are charged by DHS with violating immigration law should be ordered removed from the United States or should be granted relief or protection from removal and be permitted to remain in the United States.

<sup>15</sup> See 45 C.F.R. § 401.12.

them a Special Immigrant Visa overseas, then DHS admits them to the United States in the status of Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant.<sup>16</sup> As with refugees, the Department of State, in conjunction with ORR, resettlement agencies and other service providers, assists with the resettlement and integration of Special Immigrants into the United States. Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants are eligible for ORR benefits and services as of the date of their arrival in the United States. Special Immigrants may be admitted as a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR). LPRs are eligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens after five years of residing in the United States.

### **Amerasians**

Amerasians are persons fathered by a U.S. citizen and born in Vietnam after January 1, 1962, and before January 1, 1976.<sup>17</sup> Amerasians are eligible for ORR refugee benefits and services beginning on the date of their entry into the United States. DHS admits Amerasians as LPRs, and they are eligible to become naturalized U.S. citizens after five years of residing in the United States.

### **Victims of Trafficking**

Victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents and who have been certified or provided a letter of eligibility from HHS or a T nonimmigrant visa by DHS are eligible for federal and state benefits and services to the same extent as a refugee.<sup>18</sup> Select family members of these individuals are also eligible for federal and state benefits and services to the same extent as a refugee. Eligibility for ORR-funded benefits for victims of trafficking begins on the effective date in the certification or letter of eligibility.

### **Special Immigrant Juveniles and U-Status Recipients**

In addition to children and youth who hold immigration status that qualifies them for ORR services, such as refugee or asylee, ORR's Refugee Resettlement Program also serves children and youth who are Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJs) or U-status recipients.<sup>19</sup> The Trafficking Victims Protection and Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-457; 8 U.S.C. § 1232 (d)(4)) extends Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program eligibility to Special Immigrant Juveniles who were in the custody of ORR (as well as those receiving services as Cuban or Haitian entrants) at the time a dependency order was signed. The Violence Against Women

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<sup>16</sup> Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants became eligible for refugee benefits and services for up to 6 months pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-161). This period was extended to the same time period as refugees with the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. 111-118).

<sup>17</sup> Amerasians are admitted to the United States as immigrants pursuant to section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1988 (Pub. L. 100-202).

<sup>18</sup> Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 7105(b) (1) (A) and (C).

<sup>19</sup> The legal definition of SIJs and U-Visa Holders are outlined in 8 U.S.C. §1232(d)(4).



Reauthorization Act (Pub. L. 113-4; 8 U.S.C. § 1232 (d)(4)) extends URM eligibility to child victims of crime with U status.

U status is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.

## Refugee Arrivals

In FY 2021, 11,508 refugees arrived from 60 countries.

The top 15 countries accounted for 95 percent of refugee admissions. The most common country of origin for refugees in FY 2021 was the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which accounted for 42.4 percent of admissions.

Table 3: FY 2021 Refugee Admissions by Country, Top 15 Countries

Country of Origin	Number of Refugees	Percent
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4,876	42%
Syria	1,255	11%
Afghanistan	874	8%
Ukraine	802	7%
Burma	769	7%
Sudan	510	4%
Iraq	500	4%
El Salvador	200	2%
Somalia	196	2%
Eritrea	185	2%
Iran	182	2%
Burundi	134	1%
Pakistan	128	1%
Republic Of South Sudan	97	1%
Honduras	83	1%

**Source.** U.S. Department of State's Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System. ORR's Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS).

In FY 2021, refugees arrived in all states, except for Alabama, Hawaii, Mississippi, and Wyoming. There were no refugee arrivals in the District of Columbia in FY 2021. Texas and California resettled the largest number of refugees, representing more than 8 percent of total admissions each. Table 4 provides the FY 2021 refugee arrivals by state. Table 5 provides the top 10 states for refugee arrivals.

Table 4: Refugees by State of Arrival in FY 2021

State	Number of Refugees	Percent
Alaska	12	0.10%
Arizona	426	3.70%
Arkansas	41	0.36%
California	986	8.57%
Colorado	273	2.37%
Connecticut	57	0.50%
Delaware	13	0.11%
Florida	226	1.96%
Georgia	368	3.20%
Idaho	269	2.34%
Illinois	369	3.21%
Indiana	202	1.76%
Iowa	239	2.08%
Kansas	167	1.45%
Kentucky	669	5.81%
Louisiana	7	0.06%
Maine	40	0.35%
Maryland	283	2.46%
Massachusetts	229	1.99%
Michigan	534	4.64%
Minnesota	273	2.37%
Missouri	287	2.49%
Montana	44	0.38%
Nebraska	125	1.09%
Nevada	97	0.84%
New Hampshire	66	0.57%
New Jersey	72	0.63%
New Mexico	36	0.31%
New York	706	6.13%
North Carolina	509	4.42%
North Dakota	30	0.26%
Ohio	453	3.94%
Oklahoma	46	0.40%
Oregon	138	1.20%
Pennsylvania	408	3.55%
Rhode Island	47	0.41%
South Carolina	99	0.86%
South Dakota	52	0.45%
Tennessee	318	2.76%
Texas	932	8.10%

State	Number of Refugees	Percent
Utah	184	1.60%
Vermont	47	0.41%
Virginia	272	2.36%
Washington	489	4.25%
West Virginia	2	0.02%
Wisconsin	366	3.18%

**Source.** U.S. Department of State's Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System. ORR's Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS).

Table 5: Top 10 States for FY 2021 Refugee Arrivals

State	Number of Refugees	Population
California	986	39,538,223
Texas	932	29,145,505
New York	706	20,201,249
Kentucky	669	4,505,836
Michigan	534	10,077,331
North Carolina	509	10,439,388
Washington	489	7,705,281
Ohio	453	11,799,448
Arizona	426	7,151,502
Pennsylvania	408	13,002,700

**Source.** U.S. Department of State's Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System; ORR's Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS); U.S. Census Bureau: 2020 Census Apportionment Results, Resident Population for the 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; 2020 Census

## Program Administration

ORR allocates funds to States and private nonprofit organizations to provide time-limited cash and medical assistance and support services to ORR eligible individuals. Each state, regardless of its administrative structure, has a State Refugee Coordinator and, in most cases, a State Refugee Health Coordinator, who oversees the administration and coordination of these services in their state.

The following outlines the various structures for how the RRP is administered at the state level:

1. **State-Administered Programs** — Federal resettlement assistance and programming for ORR eligible individuals is primarily administered by state governments (States). States administer the provision of transitional cash and medical assistance and support services to help ORR eligible individuals obtain employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency and social integration as quickly as possible. Most States administer RCA

through a publicly administered model that is based on the requirements of the state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

2. **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** — Some States use a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to administer their RCA program. This option enables States to enter formal partnerships with local affiliates of national resettlement agencies for the provision of RCA.<sup>20</sup> The States also fund the local resettlement agencies that administer the public-private RCA program or other refugee service agencies to provide RSS programming. The objectives of the PPP model are to create an effective and quality resettlement program while maintaining State responsibility for policy and administrative oversight. Prior to establishing a PPP program, the State must engage in a planning and consultation process with local agencies in the state to create an RCA plan that describes the program's requirements, eligibility standards, and services.<sup>21</sup> During FY 2021, seven States operated a statewide PPP Program: Arizona, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Vermont. California and Minnesota also operated a PPP program in selected counties.
3. **Privately Administered Programs (Replacement Designees)** — ORR regulations authorize the ORR Director to designate a replacement agency (i.e., a Replacement Designee or RD) to maintain services in the event a State requests to withdraw from administering some or all of the RRP.

In FY 2021, RDs administered the RRP in the states of Alaska, Kentucky, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, Tennessee, and Texas (which had four regional RDs). There were also six states with hybrid systems, where administration of the program was shared by the State government and an RD: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Louisiana, New Jersey, and South Dakota. All RDs opted to use the PPP model to administer RCA. North Dakota transitioned from a hybrid RD in FY 2021 and became a full State-administered program mid-year when the RD withdrew from administering the program.

A Medical Replacement Designee (MRD), the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), administered all or part of the health-related elements of the RRP in Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas during FY 2021. The MRD, in collaboration with the State of Michigan's RRP, also provided health coverage for youth with Special Immigrant Juvenile classification enrolled in the URM Program in Michigan.

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<sup>20</sup> See 45 C.F.R. § 400.56.

<sup>21</sup> See 45 C.F.R. § 400.57.

## Core Benefits and Services

ORR's core benefits and services assist ORR eligible individuals to successfully resettle and achieve early self-sufficiency. Federal award recipients quickly connect new arrivals to the workforce while offering support services that focus on employment, English language instruction, and case management. As described below, these benefits and services include time-limited cash assistance, health coverage, interpretation and translation services, and other activities that address barriers to employment.

### Cash and Medical Assistance

ORR provides time-limited benefits and services to ORR eligible individuals through Cash and Medical Assistance (CMA) awards to States and RDs. CMA provides cash assistance, health coverage, domestic medical screenings to identify and treat medical conditions and diseases of public health concern, and services for children and youth enrolled in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor program. CMA also provides funding for State and RD administration, coordination, and oversight of the Refugee Resettlement Program.

ORR eligible individuals may qualify for the same federal benefits as U.S. citizens, with some limits.<sup>22 23</sup> These federal benefits include TANF, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Table II-1 in Appendix A shows CMA award recipients.



## *Results from the Annual Survey of Refugees*

### *Core Benefits and Services*

Table 6 presents information about refugee families' receipt of public benefits in the year prior to the survey. It also displays estimates for the whole refugee population entering between FY 2016 and FY 2020 and estimates of benefits use for arrival cohorts.

Estimates presented in Table 6 show that 38.2 (+/-2.5) percent of refugee families reported receiving cash assistance in the year prior to the survey from at least one source: TANF, SSI, or General Cash Assistance or other welfare. Overall, the share across all cohorts receiving all programs is higher than FY 2020, except SSI which remained within the margin of error (MOE).

<sup>22</sup> The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (Pub. L. 104-193; 8 U.S.C. §§ 1611 through 1613 and 1641) establishes eligibility restrictions for federal benefits.

<sup>23</sup> Refugees, asylees, noncitizens whose deportation is being withheld, Amerasians, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, and noncitizens treated as refugees under other federal statutes are eligible for SSI and Medicaid for 7 years provided they meet all other eligibility requirements in the state and TANF for five years after the date of entry or grant of status unless naturalized. See 8 U.S.C. § 1612.

Receipt of non-cash assistance was generally higher than cash assistance. This is likely because Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has wider income eligibility and can include households without children. SNAP receipt is significantly lower among refugees entering between FY 2018–FY 2019.

Table 7 reports information about family and personal sources of income by fiscal year of refugees' arrival. Overall, 33.5 (+/- 2.6) percent of refugee households rely on employment income while 7.0 (+/- 1.5) percent of households report public benefits as the only family source of income. Refugee families residing in the United States longer are more likely to rely only on employment income than the most recent arrivals.

Table 6: Refugee Family Public Benefits Receipt in Previous Year, by Arrival Cohort, 2021 ASR

	FY2016- FY2017	FY2018- FY2019	FY2020	All
<b>Years in U.S. at time of survey administration</b>	4.5 to 6.5	2.5 to 4.5	1.5 to 2.5	
Number of Families	500	501	500	1,502
<b>Received Cash Assistance in Previous Year</b>				
Any Type of Cash Assistance*	<b>37.7%</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>36.2%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>
(MOE %)	(3.6%)	(4.3%)	(4.7%)	(2.5%)
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>41.7%</b>	<b>44.1%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>
(MOE %)	(4.5%)	(5.4%)	(6.8%)	(3.5%)
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>
(MOE %)	(3.1%)	(3.5%)	(3.3%)	(2.3%)
General Assistance or Other Welfare	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.2%)	(3.3%)	(3.1%)	(1.7%)
<b>Received Non-Cash Assistance in Previous Year</b>				
SNAP	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>55.5%</b>	<b>62.8%</b>	<b>58.0%</b>
(MOE %)	(3.5%)	(4.8%)	(4.6%)	(2.8%)

\*In order to use as much information as possible, receipt of any type of cash assistance was imputed for families when one or two responses were missing among the three cash assistance programs.

**Note:** Respondents who reported that anyone in their family had received either TANF, SSI, or General Assistance or Other Welfare in the previous year were considered to receive any type of cash assistance. "Don't know" and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations and total as follows: TANF: 53 responses; SSI: 26 responses; General Assistance: 42 responses; SNAP: 30 responses. Note that reported numbers of families include "Don't Know" and refusals to respond since each row reports on a different question with different missing data totals. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the table reported in prior years are detailed here: In the FY2020 and FY 2021 questionnaires, respondents were asked about benefits receipt within their family, while in prior years they were asked about benefits receipt within their household. "General Assistance" was rephrased as "General Assistance or other welfare," and Refugee Cash Assistance and Housing Assistance were removed.

Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program/Refugee Medical Assistance receipt is reported in the table "Medical Coverage Among Refugees 18 or Older."

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020. Data were collected at the family level.

**Table 7: Refugee Family Public Benefits Receipt and Employment by Arrival Cohort, 2021 ASR**

	<b>FY2016- FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018- FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Years in U.S. at time of survey administration</b>	4.5 to 6.5	2.5 to 4.5	1.5 to 2.5	
Number of Surveyed Families	499	500	500	1,499
<b>Public Benefits Receipt and Employment</b>				
Both Public Benefits and Employment	<b>57.7%</b>	<b>59.6%</b>	<b>62.0%</b>	<b>58.5%</b>
(MOE %)	(3.3%)	(5.1%)	(5.0%)	(2.7%)
Public Benefits Only	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.1%)	(2.2%)	(2.7%)	(1.5%)
Employment Only	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>	<b>29.0%</b>	<b>33.5%</b>
(MOE %)	(3.3%)	(4.8%)	(4.6%)	(2.6%)
Other	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
(MOE %)	(0.5%)	(0.2%)	(1.4%)	(0.3%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note:** Respondents who reported that they or any family members in their household had received either TANF, SSI, General Assistance or SNAP in the previous year were considered to receive any type of public benefits (N=95). Households with at least one eligible family member who had worked in the previous month or year were considered to have employment (N=492). 5 households refused or did not know if anyone was employed last month or last year. 7 households were missing information for both public benefits receipt and employment. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY 2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the table reported in prior years are detailed here: To address wide-scale missing data, any employment in the previous month or year by any eligible family member was used to categorize employment, instead of the reporting of at least \$800 of income by any adult in the household.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to household members in the five-year population consisting of refugees who arrived during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

## Employment and Economic Mobility

Employment is among the most important steps for ORR eligible individuals on the path to self-sufficiency and full integration into American society. Employment-related programs help them secure and maintain employment, navigate the labor market, advance in their careers, and obtain new certifications and credentials as needed. ORR supports employment services, economic mobility programs, and case management through funding to States, RDs,

resettlement agencies, ethnic community-based organizations (ECBOs), and other public or private nonprofit organizations.

## Refugee Support Services

ORR provides RSS base funding to States and RDs to support employment-related services and programs, such as interpretation and translation, child care, social adjustment and integration, and citizenship and naturalization, all of which are targeted to help clients overcome employment barriers.

ORR determines the formula allocation based on each state's total arrivals of the relevant population during the previous fiscal years.<sup>24</sup> Support services allocated via formula funds are provided to serve ORR eligible individuals who have been in the United States less than five years. Table II-2 in Appendix A lists the FY 2021 RSS award recipients.

Funding for Refugee School Impact (RSI), Services to Older Refugees (SOR), and Youth Mentoring (YM) are targeted to specific populations. These programs, as well as the Refugee Health Promotion (RHP) program, are considered RSS "set-asides." Funding allocations are based on each state's proportion of ORR eligible individuals who arrived and were served within a specific lookback period.

After the annual appropriation is determined, ORR develops a spending plan for RSS base and set-aside programs funding (described later in the "Continued Integration" and "Health Promotion and Mental Health" sections).

## Annual Outcome Goal Plans

States and RDs are required to establish annual outcome goals for the RSS Program aimed at improving the following outcome measures related to employment:

- **Employed**—Defined as the unsubsidized full-time or part-time employment of an active employment services participant. This measure refers to the unduplicated number of participants who enter employment at any time within the reporting period, regardless of the number of jobs.
- **Cash assistance terminations**—Defined as the closing of a cash assistance case due to earned income from employment in an amount that exceeds the State's or RD's eligibility standard for the case based on family size, rendering the case over-income for cash assistance.

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<sup>24</sup> ORR based the FY 2021 formula allocation for social services funds on each state's total arrivals during the previous fiscal year. The Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes ORR to allocate funding to states based on the total number of refugees who arrived in the United States not more than 36 months before the beginning of the fiscal year and who are actually residing in each state as of the beginning of the fiscal year (8 U.S.C. § 1522(c)(1)).



- **Cash assistance reductions**—Defined as a reduction in the amount of cash assistance that a case receives as a result of earned income.
- **Full-time employment with health benefits offered**—Defined as a full-time job with health benefits, offered within six months of employment, regardless of whether the ORR eligible individual actually accepts the coverage offered.
- **Average wage at employment**—Calculated as the sum of the hourly wages for the full-time placements divided by the total number of individuals placed in employment.
- **Job retentions**—Defined as the number of persons working for wages (in any unsubsidized job) on the 90<sup>th</sup> day after initial placement. This measure refers to the number of individuals who are employed 90 days after initial employment, regardless of how many jobs they enter during the reporting period. This is a measure of continued labor market participation, not retention of a specific job.

In FY 2021, 43 percent of the caseload entered employment. This represents a one percent increase from the previous period.

Table 8: FY 2021 Employment-Based Outcomes by State

State	Caseload	Employed	Cash Assistance Terminations	Cash Assistance Reduction	Health Benefits Offered	Average Hourly Wage	Job Retention
Alabama	24	14	3	0	13	\$11.88	14
Alaska	160	56	12	7	24	\$14.14	50
Arizona	464	170	14	0	83	\$13.53	180
Arkansas	82	37	0	0	24	\$15.69	34
California	2,744	1,418	187	283	293	\$16.27	1,189
Colorado	220	178	79	2	126	\$15.82	193
Connecticut	110	91	12	0	42	\$15.02	55
Delaware	31	14	0	0	2	\$14.51	10
District of Columbia	64	20	3	0	7	\$17.22	21
Florida	10,262	3,230	97	0	1,920	\$12.54	2,577
Georgia	674	374	21	0	342	\$14.24	275
Hawaii	21	7	0	0	2	\$15.00	4
Idaho	147	100	41	8	76	\$12.97	101
Illinois	1,014	517	24	21	406	\$15.50	433
Indiana	625	481	81	48	423	\$15.35	401
Iowa	424	104	14	2	79	\$14.31	75
Kansas	291	154	5	5	150	\$14.75	138
Kentucky	980	754	80	13	644	\$14.88	624
Louisiana	48	23	5	8	4	\$13.10	36
Maine	110	41	13	0	10	\$17.54	40
Maryland	907	376	173	0	202	\$15.42	301
Massachusetts	547	298	60	27	172	\$16.09	197
Michigan	445	187	10	1	144	\$14.33	183

State	Caseload	Employed	Cash Assistance Terminations	Cash Assistance Reduction	Health Benefits Offered	Average Hourly Wage	Job Retention
Minnesota	1,135	322	62	18	126	\$14.74	272
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0		0
Missouri	455	180	26	0	150	\$13.68	171
Montana	28	19	2	0	8	\$13.42	13
Nebraska	251	114	33	1	73	\$14.87	72
Nevada	480	212	28	11	139	\$14.17	151
New Hampshire	76	73	26	2	48	\$13.25	69
New Jersey	402	152	54	16	47	\$15.25	135
New Mexico	118	23	5	3	11	\$12.99	3
New York	2,008	551	162	83	150	\$15.17	604
North Carolina	537	407	43	4	333	\$13.46	295
North Dakota	17	14	6	0	9	\$14.43	13
Ohio	1,348	435	23	20	328	\$14.49	377
Oklahoma	68	33	30	0	24	\$12.77	28
Oregon	278	79	37	2	20	\$14.56	74
Pennsylvania	532	359	38	7	243	\$14.07	301
Rhode Island	82	55	4	2	24	\$14.14	29
South Carolina	483	112	12	0	74	\$13.00	112
South Dakota	60	28	14	0	28	\$15.92	27
Tennessee	475	125	19	4	99	\$14.06	130
Texas	5,302	1,726	237	97	1,297	\$13.43	1,630
Utah	448	194	35	0	120	\$13.61	125
Vermont	93	85	11	0	61	\$15.83	80
Virginia	4,874	3,286	62	0	1,790	\$14.23	952
Washington	1,674	534	63	10	119	\$18.08	494
West Virginia	7	5	2	0	4	\$14.05	5
Wisconsin	290	180	52	3	145	\$14.68	168
Wyoming	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,915</b>	<b>17,947</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>10,658</b>	<b>\$14.54</b>	<b>13,461</b>

# = Data unavailable. Wyoming does not have a refugee resettlement program.

**Notes.** Caseload consists of the number of Office of Refugee Resettlement-served individuals provided employment services, on-the-job training, English language instruction, or vocational training during the fiscal year.

**Source.** FY 2021 Annual Outcome Goal Plans.

## Matching Grant

The Voluntary Agencies Matching Grant (MG) Program helps ORR eligible individuals achieve economic self-sufficiency<sup>25</sup> within six months of enrollment after their arrival in the United States by providing intensive case management and employment services. MG services may also include housing and utilities, food, transportation, cash allowance, health and medical

<sup>25</sup> For reporting purposes, the MG guidelines provided to award recipients define “economic self-sufficiency” as earning a total family income at a level that enables the case unit to support itself without receipt of a cash assistance award. In practice, this means having earnings that exceed the income eligibility level for receipt of a TANF Cash Assistance award in the state and the ability to cover the family living expenses.

assistance, English language training, social adjustment and integration, and other support services.

MG is provided through the nine national resettlement agencies.<sup>26</sup> In FY 2021, the national resettlement agencies administered MG through their network of 172 local service providers in 40 states. In FY 2021, ORR issued \$2,750 on a per capita basis to each national resettlement agency, which then allocated funds to its local service providers based on actual enrollments. The per capita award supported both direct assistance and case management costs. Agencies are required to provide a 50-percent match to every federal dollar. This match is a community contribution made from non-federal funds. Contributions may be in the form of a cash match or an “in-kind” match, such as donated supplies, equipment, space, land, or volunteer services. Contributions must be for expenses that are necessary to support the objectives and operations of the MG Program.

In FY 2021, federal MG spending totaled \$40,513,000. As part of ORR’s ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response to ensure client well-being and continuity of services, the per capita spending limit and the fixed match requirement were waived for all of FY 2021. Nonetheless, the national resettlement agencies continued to receive and allocate private funds and in-kind contributions to the program at a reduced level.

In FY 2021, the MG Program served 7,855 new enrollees. As the U.S. economy stabilized with the release of the COVID 19 vaccine, MG outcomes began to rise, but they remained uneven regionally and locally depending on COVID-19 impacts. In comparison to FY 2020, FY 2021 self-sufficiency rose from 56 percent to 59 percent at day 120, and from 75 percent to 78 percent at day 180, when the program service ends.

For more information on MG recipients and MG highlights, refer to Table II-3 through Table II-6 in Appendix A.

## Wilson/Fish TANF Coordination Program

In FY 2021, the 21 entities selected for the discretionary program titled the Wilson-Fish TANF Coordination Program (WF TCP) began Year One of the project period. The goal of WF TCP is to help ORR eligible families obtain the resources and life skills to become self-sufficient and achieve sustained social and economic wellbeing, with a focus on ORR eligible families who are eligible for TANF. Most families of this type are eligible for and are enrolled in TANF, although TANF eligibility varies from state to state. ORR recognized that this family type may require additional services and resources to obtain sustainable employment and community support. WF TCP provides relevant, customized, or culturally and linguistically appropriate

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<sup>26</sup> The nine national resettlement agencies are nonprofit agencies that participate in the Reception and Placement Program under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State.

employability and other services for ORR populations. All award recipients were required to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the SRC's office and the state TANF office as a condition of their application for the program in FY 2020, to address the gaps between mainstream services and ORR eligible populations. By providing case management to all participants and developing specialized services to address participants' needs, the WF TCP is designed to strengthen refugee families' ability to navigate barriers, promote economic self-sufficiency, and improve families' social and economic wellbeing.

The WF TCP is administered through a cooperative agreement for a 48-month long project with four 12-month budget periods. The first year of awards for the WF TCP was issued in FY 2020. In FY 2021, ORR issued a total of \$8,048,352 to 21 award recipients for use in FY 2022, the second year of the WF TCP project period. For a list of WF TCP award recipients, please see Table II-7 in Appendix A.

## Microenterprise Development Program

The ORR Microenterprise Development (MED) Program promotes the provision of economic inclusion and integration opportunities for newly arrived ORR eligible individuals. More specifically, the MED Program supports the development, expansion, and/or sustainability of ORR population-owned microbusinesses, particularly through the provision of access to capital (up to \$15,000 per loan and \$20,000 per project period), the establishment of Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs), the ability to repair and/or establish credit, and the facilitation of culturally and linguistically appropriate Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA).

In FY 2021, ORR issued \$4,478,778 for 19 continuing awards, and approximately 1,065 ORR eligible clients were enrolled into MED Programs across the U.S. Moreover, MED Programs provided one-on-one business counseling, pre-loan and/or post-loan TA, and financial literacy trainings to its program participants. Additionally, recipient organizations disbursed approximately 385 loans to ORR eligible microentrepreneurs, and they supported the creation and/or retention of microbusinesses that contributed approximately 826 jobs to the U.S. economy.

For a list of FY 2021 MED award recipients, refer to Table II-8 in Appendix A.

## Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Development Program

The Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Development (RFCCMED) Program helps ORR eligible individuals establish small home-based child care businesses. ORR eligible individuals earn a reliable income while caring for their own children as well as other children, including those from other ORR eligible families. Award recipients and their partners design and implement comprehensive, culturally appropriate child care and microenterprise training programs to prepare participants to operate a child care business. After training participants,

award recipients provide follow-up assistance, including mentoring, assistance with the child care licensing process, and small stipends for business-related expenses.

In September 2021, ORR issued eight awards totaling \$1,485,672 for services in FY 2022. Recipients were nonprofit agencies located in six states. In FY 2021, recipients provided services to approximately 265 new participants and assisted approximately 84 in obtaining child care licenses and establishing child care businesses. For a list of RFCCMED award recipients, refer to Table II-9 in Appendix A.

## Individual Development Account Program

The Individual Development Account (IDA) Program uses an antipoverty strategy built on asset accumulation for low-income ORR eligible individuals. IDAs are matched savings accounts designed to support the individual in saving for a specific purchase. Under the IDA Program, the matching funds, together with the individual's own savings, are available for purchasing one (or more) of four savings goals:

1. Home
2. Microenterprise capitalization
3. Postsecondary education or training
4. Automobile or computer, if necessary for employment or educational purposes

Award recipients match up to \$1 for every \$1 the participating ORR eligible individual deposits into a savings account. The total match may not exceed \$2,000 for individuals or \$4,000 for households. Award recipients provide basic financial training to help participants understand budgeting, saving, credit, and the American financial system. Additional TA is provided to clients to ensure they can purchase and maintain the asset.

In FY 2021, the IDA Program supported 18 projects through awards totaling \$4,377,322. Eight IDA projects, representing \$1,882,476 of funding, were in the third year of a three-year project period. Ten of these projects, representing \$2,398,330 of funding, started their second year of a three-year project period.

During FY 2021, the Refugee IDA Program provided the following updates:

- 717 individuals and households enrolled in the program
- 5,527 hours of financial literacy training provided
- 3,856 hours of asset-specific training provided
- 5,164 hours of technical assistance provided
- \$3,990,171 of savings and IDA match funds used to purchase assets
- 671 assets purchased valued at \$25,053,503

For a list of IDA award recipients, refer to Table II-10 in Appendix A.

## Refugee Career Pathways

The Refugee Career Pathways (RCP) Program supports integration and self-sufficiency through employment by helping ORR eligible individuals obtain the necessary credentials, education, experience, and job skills to secure employment in professional and/or skilled career fields. It focuses support to individuals who arrived with professional skills and employment or educational certifications from their home countries.

In September 2021, ORR issued 17 awards totaling \$4,240,014 for services in FY 2022 in this program. The current project period is three years and will end in FY 2024. In FY 2021 RCP award recipients served approximately 3,000 new participants. More than 400 participants enrolled in a degree or certification program; over 350 earned a new credential or obtained recognition of an existing credential. Table II-11 in Appendix A lists the award recipients for RCP.

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### ***Results from the Annual Survey of Refugees***

#### ***Employment Status, Work Experience, and Labor Participation Rates***

To evaluate the economic condition of refugees in their first five years in the United States, ORR uses indicators that are standard measures of employment status used by labor economists. Data is reported for all working-age refugees (ages 16-64). Each refugee is assigned one of three statuses in the week prior to the survey:<sup>27</sup> (1) employed, (2) not employed but seeking work (unemployed), or (3) out of the labor force. Together, employed and unemployed individuals are “in the labor force.”

#### **Labor Force Participation Rate**

The overall labor force participation rate (LFP) for refugees was 63.2 (+/-2.0) percent. Male refugees work or seek work at higher rates than do female refugees from the point of arrival onwards (Table 9).

Table 9 presents the LFP, employment rate, and unemployment rate for working-age refugees. Employed male refugees are more likely to earn a higher hourly wage than female refugees (\$17.34 vs. \$14.60).

There are no patterns of significant statistical difference in LFP by year of arrival (Table 10). Compared to FY 2020, hourly wages are higher for all cohorts; however, a significant gender gap for hourly wage is salient across arrival years.

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<sup>27</sup> “Working” refers to the week prior to the survey; “searching for a job” refers to the month prior for those who are not employed.

Table 9: Labor Force Status and Hourly Wages for Working-Age Refugees, Arriving During FY 2016--FY 2020

	Male	Female	All
<b>Employment Status at Time of Survey Administration</b>			
<i>Number of Surveyed Individuals Aged 16 to 64</i>	1,531	1,491	3,022
<b>In Labor Force</b>	<b>76.0%</b>	<b>49.9%</b>	<b>63.2%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.8%)	(2.8%)	(2.0%)
Employed	<b>88.6%</b>	<b>87.6%</b>	<b>88.2%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.1%)	(4.0%)	(2.0%)
Unemployed	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.1%)	(4.0%)	(2.0%)
<b>Not in Labor Force</b>	<b>24.0%</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>36.8%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.8%)	(2.8%)	(2.0%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Hourly Wages Earned by Employed Individuals</b>			
<i>Number of Surveyed Individuals Reporting Wage</i>	991	772	1,763
Mean Hourly Wages Earned at Current Job	<b>\$17.34</b>	<b>\$14.60</b>	<b>\$16.14</b>
(MOE)	(\$0.46)	(\$0.44)	(\$0.35)

**Note:** 52 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations on employment status. Respondents aged 16 to 64 who were either working for pay the week prior to the survey administration (“employed”) or were actively searching for work in the four weeks prior to the survey administration (“unemployed”) were considered to be in the labor force. 418 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations on hourly wages. Responses to “hourly mean wages” were adjusted; 2 percent of responses were re-coded to a value of 38 dollars, which represents the 98th percentile of responses. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 16 to 64 at the time of survey administration in refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

Table 10: Labor Force Status and Hourly Wages for Working-Age Refugees, by Sex and Arrival Cohort

	FY2016-FY2017			FY2018-FY2019			FY2020		
<b>Years in U.S. at time of survey administration</b>	4.5 to 6.5			2.5 to 4.5			1.5 to 2.5		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
<i>Number of Surveyed Individuals Aged 16 to 64</i>	444	428	872	420	440	860	452	430	882
<b>In Labor Force</b>	<b>72.0%</b>	<b>49.7%</b>	<b>61.1%</b>	<b>85.1%</b>	<b>50.7%</b>	<b>67.3%</b>	<b>83.1%</b>	<b>48.8%</b>	<b>67.6%</b>
(MOE %)	(4.1%)	(4.0%)	(2.9%)	(3.9%)	(4.8%)	(3.4%)	(4.5%)	(6.2%)	(4.2%)
Employed	<b>87.2%</b>	<b>86.3%</b>	<b>86.8%</b>	<b>91.0%</b>	<b>91.4%</b>	<b>91.2%</b>	<b>92.2%</b>	<b>83.8%</b>	<b>89.5%</b>
(MOE%)	(2.9%)	(5.4%)	(2.9%)	(3.2%)	(4.2%)	(2.4%)	(3.5%)	(6.1%)	(3.5%)



Unemployed	12.8%	13.7%	13.2%	9.0%	8.6%	8.8%	7.8%	16.2%	10.5%
(MOE%)	(2.9%)	(5.4%)	(2.9%)	(3.2%)	(4.2%)	(2.4%)	(3.5%)	(6.1%)	(3.5%)
<b>Not in Labor Force</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>50.3%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>32.7%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>51.2%</b>	<b>32.5%</b>
(MOE%)	(4.1%)	(4.0%)	(2.9%)	(3.9%)	(4.8%)	(3.4%)	(4.5%)	(6.2%)	(4.2%)
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Hourly Wages Earned by Employed Individuals</b>									
Number of Surveyed Individuals Reporting Wage	264	222	486	285	238	523	310	227	537
Mean Hourly Wages Earned at Current Job	\$17.52	\$15.00	\$16.40	\$16.99	\$13.66	\$15.53	\$17.10	\$14.74	\$16.27
(MOE)	(\$0.69)	(\$0.57)	(\$0.50)	(\$1.02)	(\$0.66)	(\$0.71)	(\$0.63)	(\$0.43)	(\$0.43)

**Note:** 16 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations. Respondents aged 16 to 64 who were either working for pay the week prior to the survey administration (“employed”) or were actively searching for work in the four weeks prior to the survey administration (“unemployed”) were considered to be in the labor force. 345 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations on hourly wages. Responses to “hourly mean wages” were adjusted; 2 percent of responses were re-coded to a value of 38 dollars, which represents the 98th percentile of responses. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 16 to 64 at the time of survey administration in refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

## Employment Rate

The employment rate is the percentage of individuals in the labor force who are working. Approximately 88.2 (+/-2.0) percent of refugees ages 16–64 in the labor force are employed (Table 9), compared to 63.3 percent of all U.S. individuals comparably aged.<sup>28</sup> There are no significant differences in employment rate with length of stay in the United States (Table 10). By arrival cohort, between 86.8 (+/-2.9) percent and 91.2 (+/- 2.4) percent of adult refugees in the labor force worked for pay.

Among refugees in the labor force, there are no statistically significant differences in employment and unemployment rate by sex (Table 9).

Table 11 presents the work experience of working-age refugees (ages 16-64) by their year of arrival. Most working adults (75.6 (+/-3.6) percent) were employed full-time, for an average of 37.9 weeks of the year. Working men were more likely to work full-time than women (84.2 percent vs. 62.2 percent), there are no statistically significant differences in average number of weeks worked in previous year by gender.

<sup>28</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Work Experience of the Population 2022, at [work.pdf \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/work.pdf) (visited April 2, 2024).



Table 11: Work Experience Among Working-Age Refugees, by Arrival Cohort and Sex

	FY2016-FY2017		FY2018-FY2019		FY2020		All		
Years in U.S. at time of survey administration	4.5 to 6.5		2.5 to 4.5		1.5 to 2.5				
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	All
Number of Surveyed Individuals Aged 16-64 Employed	264	185	299	201	326	185	1,016	647	1,663
Worked Full-Time in Previous Year*	82.1%	55.5%	87.8%	77.9%	87.5%	59.8%	84.2%	62.2%	75.6%
(MOE %)	(4.5%)	(7.1%)	(3.9%)	(7.9%)	(4.9%)	(9.6%)	(2.9%)	(5.9%)	(3.6%)
Number of Surveyed Individuals Aged 16-64 Employed	250	178	296	201	310	188	984	641	1,625
Average Number of Weeks Worked in Previous Year	38.6	36.0	39.6	37.7	38.5	33.5	38.9	36.4	37.9
(MOE)	(2.4)	(2.5)	(2.6)	(3.3)	(3.4)	(3.6)	(1.7)	(1.8)	(1.3)

\*Usually worked 35 or more hours per week in the year prior to survey administration

**Note:** Full-time, year-round workers are all people aged 16 to 64 years who usually worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in the reference period. Tabulations included respondents aged 16-64 who were working the week prior to the survey administration ("employed"). 196 "Don't Know" and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations on "worked full time." 234 "Don't Know" and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations on "average number of weeks worked." Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 16-64 at the time of survey administration in refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

## Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate is the percent of the labor force that is not working but is seeking work.

There is no statistically significant variation in overall unemployment by length of time in the United States (Table 10). Among FY 2020 arrivals, who had been in the United States for an average of 1.5 years, 10.5 (+/-3.5) percent were not employed but were looking for work at the time of the survey.

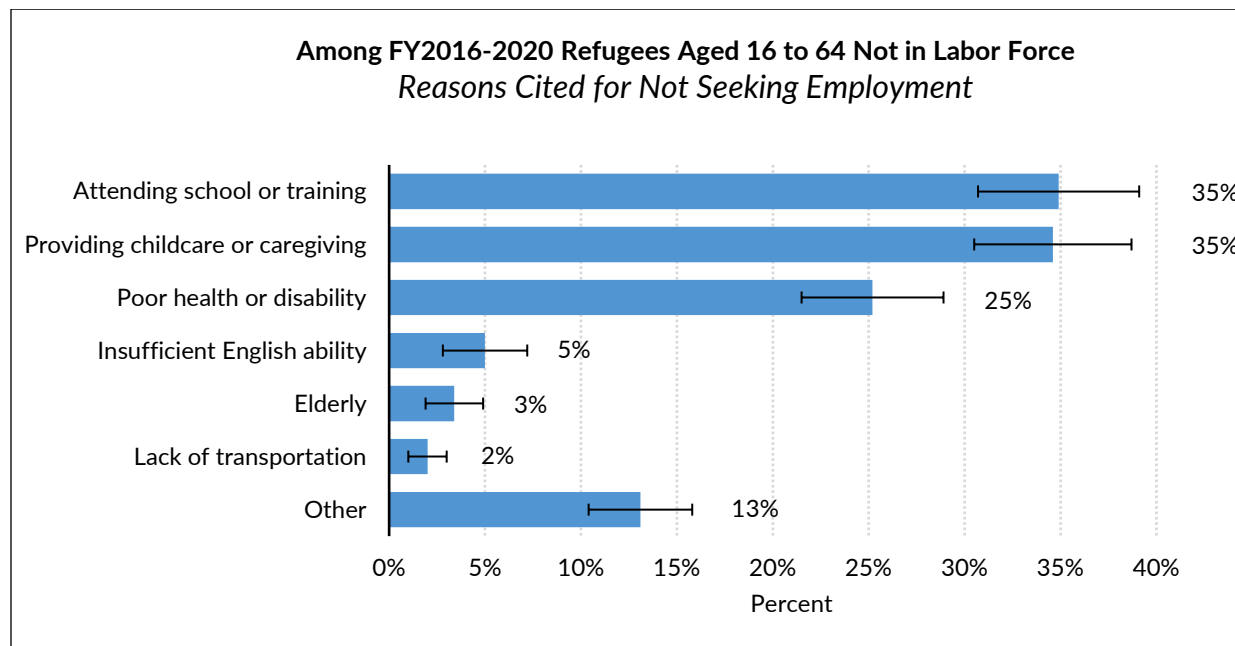
## Out of the Labor Force

Employment and unemployment rates are calculated from the pool of adults who are in the labor force. Other adults that are neither working nor actively seeking work are not in the labor force. Among FY 2020 arrivals, female refugees are considerably more likely to be out of the labor force than are refugee men: 16.7 (+/- 4.5) percent versus 51.2 (+/- 5.2) percent (Table 10).

There are a variety of reasons that adults may be out of the labor force. The pursuit of education, the existence of poor health or disability, the need for or provision of child care, and limited English are some of the reasons that an adult may not be working or seeking work (see Figure 1 below). Data collection for the 2021 ASR occurred during the first quarter of calendar

year 2022; therefore, circumstances and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic may have influenced survey respondents' ability to seek employment.

Figure 1: Working-Age Refugees' Reasons for Not Seeking Employment



**Note:** 14 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations. Respondents could choose more than one reason for why they were not seeking employment, so totals may add to more than 100%. The Other category contains individuals who reported they did not seek employment due to the COVID-19 crisis, among other reasons. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY 2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the table reported in prior years are detailed here: In the FY 2020 questionnaire, response options for this question were adjusted from prior years. In the FY 2021 questionnaire, “poor health” and “disability” were combined into a single response option.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 16 to 64 at the time of survey administration in the five-year population consisting of refugees who arrived during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

The ASR collects information from working-age (16–64) refugees who were out of the labor force about why they were not seeking employment. Respondents were allowed to select more than one reason for not working. The top three reasons working-age refugees gave for not seeking employment are attendance in school or training, child care or family responsibilities, and poor health. COVID-19 was not offered as a survey response option; however, it was mentioned by a small number of respondents as a reason for not seeking employment. As stated in the Figure 2 note, these responses are included in the “Other” category.

Examining these data by sex and average age offers further insight into the population of working-age refugees citing various reasons for not seeking work (Table 12).

- 34.9 (+/-4.2) percent of refugees ages 16–64 (mean age 19.7) stated that attending school or training was why they did not seek work. Male refugees out of the labor force were more likely than their female counterparts to be attending school or training.
- 34.6 (+/-4.1) percent of those not working and not seeking work cited child care and other family responsibilities as a reason; these refugees had a mean age of 34.9. Approximately 45.6 percent of working-age women out of the labor force cited family responsibilities as a reason.
- 25.2 (+/-3.7) percent of working-age refugees out of the labor force cited poor health as a reason; these refugees had a mean age of 45.8.

Table 12: Reasons for Not Seeking Employment Among Working-Age Refugees Not in Labor Force, by Sex, 2020 ASR

	Male	Female	All	Mean Age of Respondents Reporting Specific Reason
<i>Number of Surveyed Individuals 16 to 64 Not in Labor Force</i>	249	619	868	
<b>Reasons Cited for Not Seeking Employment</b>				
Attending school or training	<b>50.8%</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>19.7</b>
(MOE%)	(8.2%)	(4.1%)	(4.2%)	(0.8)
Providing childcare or caregiving	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>45.6%</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>34.9</b>
(MOE%)	(4.6%)	(5.2%)	(4.1%)	(1.3)
Poor health or disability	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>	<b>25.2%</b>	<b>45.8</b>
(MOE%)	(6.4%)	(4.3%)	(3.7%)	(2.7)
Insufficient English ability	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>41.2</b>
(MOE%)	(3.4%)	(2.3%)	(2.2%)	(4.2)
Elderly	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>59.7</b>
(MOE%)	(2.2%)	(1.8%)	(1.5%)	(1.4)
Lack of transportation	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>32.1</b>
(MOE%)	(2.0%)	(1.1%)	(1.0%)	(5.6)
Other	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>28.2</b>
(MOE%)	(5.2%)	(3.1%)	(2.7%)	(1.8)

**Note:** 14 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations. Respondents could choose more than one reason for why they were not seeking work, so totals may sum to more than 100%. The Other category contains individuals who reported they did not seek employment due to the COVID-19 crisis, among other reasons. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY 2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the table reported in prior years are detailed here: In the FY 2020 and FY 2021 questionnaires, response options for this question were adjusted from prior years. In the FY2021 questionnaire, “poor health” and “disability” were combined into a single response option.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 16 to 64 at the time of survey administration in refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

## Educational Background and Pursuit



### *Results from the Annual Survey of Refugees*

#### ***Educational Background and Pursuit***

Refugees enter the United States with a wide range of prior educational experiences (Table 13). Of those ages 25 or older, 11.6 percent earned a college or university and advanced degree (including medical degrees) before arriving in the United States. Approximately 32.3 percent had completed high school or a technical degree. Approximately 14.9 percent completed primary school. Approximately 18.2 percent arrived in the United States with no formal education, and about 17.1 percent report having a lower secondary or middle school education prior to arriving to the United States.

More FY 2020 refugee arrivals report technical and vocational training than FY 2016-FY 2017 arrivals: 12.1 (+/- 2.2) percent vs. 6.6 (+/- 1.7) percent.

Table 13: Educational Attainment Prior to U.S. Arrival  
Among Refugees 25 or Older, by Arrival Cohort, 2021 ASR

	<b>FY2016- FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018- FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Years in U.S. at time of survey administration</b>	4.5 to 6.5	2.5 to 4.5	1.5 to 2.5	
<i>Number of Surveyed Individuals Aged 25 or Older</i>	740	765	759	2,264
<b>Highest Degree or Level of School Attained Before Arrival in U.S.</b>				
No Schooling	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.1%)	(3.5%)	(4.0%)	(1.5%)
Primary or Elementary School	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.3%)	(4.2%)	(3.4%)	(1.5%)
Lower Secondary or Middle School	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>17.1%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.6%)	(3.0%)	(4.4%)	(1.9%)
Upper Secondary or High School	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>24.5%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.6%)	(3.9%)	(3.7%)	(1.8%)
Technical or Vocational Training	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>

(MOE %)	(1.7%)	(2.1%)	(2.2%)	(1.3%)
Some University (No Degree)	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.6%)	(1.2%)	(1.5%)	(1.1%)
University (Bachelor's Degree)	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.6%)	(2.3%)	(2.5%)	(1.3%)
Advanced (Master's, PhD, Professional Degree)	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.2%)	(1.0%)	(1.4%)	(0.9%)
Religious School	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
(MOE %)	(0.7%)	(0.7%)	(0.9%)	(0.5%)
Other	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
(MOE %)	(0.7%)	(1.3%)	(0.5%)	(0.5%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note:** 39 "Don't Know" and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations. Respondents were only able to choose one level of education. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY 2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the table reported in prior years are detailed here: In the FY 2020 and FY 2021 questionnaires, response options for this question were adjusted from prior years, and number of years of education before arrival in U.S. was removed.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 25 or older at the time of survey administration in refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

Many refugee adults pursue further education upon arrival in the United States (Table 14). In the year prior to the 2021 survey, 28.8 (+/-2.0) percent of refugees ages 18 and older have pursued a degree or certificate in the U.S. The largest portion of these respondents pursued a high school diploma (13.3 (+/- 1.4) percent). There are no statistically significant patterns in degree or certificate pursuit by arrival cohorts.

Table 14: Educational Pursuits in the U.S. Among Refugees 18 or Older, by Arrival Cohort, 2021 ASR

	<b>FY2016- FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018- FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Years in U.S. at time of survey administration</b>	4.5 to 6.5	2.5 to 4.5	1.5 to 2.5	
<i>Number of Surveyed Individuals Aged 18 or Older</i>	929	919	930	2,778
<b>Degree or Certificate Pursued</b>				
GED or High School Equivalency	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.1%)	(2.6%)	(2.1%)	(1.4%)
Professional Certificate	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.1%)	(1.2%)	(0.8%)	(0.8%)
Associate's Degree	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
(MOE %)	(0.9%)	(0.5%)	(0.9%)	(0.6%)
Bachelor's Degree	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.3%)	(0.7%)	(0.8%)	(0.9%)

Advanced Degree	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
(MOE %)	(0.6%)	(0.6%)	(0.1%)	(0.4%)
Other Degree	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.9%)	(1.4%)	(1.9%)	(1.4%)
TOTAL WHO HAVE PURSUED A DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE IN THE US	<b>33.5%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>28.8%</b>
	(2.9%)	(2.9%)	(3.4%)	(2.0%)

**Note:** 40 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulation for degree pursuit. Tabulations were constructed amongst all respondents aged 18 or older, including those who were ineligible to respond to these survey items. A professional certificate represents specialized training for a specific occupation or skill, while a degree provides broader preparation within a specific field. Advanced Degree included master’s, PhD, or professional degrees. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY 2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the table reported in prior years are detailed here: In the FY 2020 and FY 2021 questionnaires, response options for this question were adjusted from prior years. Respondents were asked about degree pursuit since arrival in U.S., while in prior years they were asked about the previous year before survey administration.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 18 or older at the time of survey administration in refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

## Health and Mental Health

### Health Coverage

Health, including access to health care, plays a critical role in the ability of ORR eligible individuals to successfully resettle in the United States and achieve self-sufficiency. ORR promotes the health and well-being of ORR eligible individuals through access to healthcare and health initiatives. Through RMA, ORR provides health coverage to ORR eligible individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid.<sup>29</sup> The services provided through RMA are equivalent to those provided through a state’s Medicaid Program.<sup>30</sup> As part of the RMA program, States or RDs (including the MRD) may provide a domestic medical screening to identify and treat medical conditions and diseases of public health concern.



### *Results from the Annual Survey of Refugees*

#### **Health Coverage**

Table 15 displays medical coverage by year of arrival. Approximately 85 (+/-2.1) percent of refugees ages 18 and up had medical coverage for the entire year preceding the survey and 6.5

<sup>29</sup> See 45 C.F.R. § 400.100.

<sup>30</sup> See 45 C.F.R. § 400.105.

(+/- 1.1) percent of refugees report no medical coverage in the year prior to the survey. There are no statistically significant differences in medical coverage length by arrival cohorts.

Table 15: Health Insurance Coverage Among Refugees 18 or Older, by Arrival Cohort, 2021 ASR

	FY2016- FY2017	FY2018- FY2019	FY2020	All
<b>Years in U.S. at time of survey administration</b>	4.5 to 6.5	2.5 to 4.5	1.5 to 2.5	
Number of Surveyed Individuals Aged 18 or Older	838	797	835	2,470
<b>Duration of Health Insurance Coverage during Previous Year</b>				
No Coverage in Previous Year	6.0%	8.3%	5.2%	6.5%
(MOE %)	(1.4%)	(1.9%)	(3.0%)	(1.1%)
Had Coverage for 1-6 Months	4.2%	8.8%	10.5%	5.8%
(MOE %)	(1.2%)	(3.1%)	(2.9%)	(1.2%)
Had Coverage for 7-11 Months	3.0%	1.9%	3.1%	2.7%
(MOE %)	(1.9%)	(0.8%)	(2.1%)	(1.2%)
Had Coverage in All 12 Months	86.9%	81.0%	81.3%	85.0%
(MOE %)	(3.1%)	(3.9%)	(4.2%)	(2.1%)
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of Individuals Aged 18 or Older	800	760	810	2,370
<b>Source of Health Insurance Coverage for People Who Had Health Coverage at Time of Survey Administration</b>				
Coverage through respondent's job	14.8%	18.5%	12.6%	15.6%
(MOE %)	(2.2%)	(3.6%)	(3.8%)	(1.8%)
Coverage through family member's job	2.0%	1.6%	1.2%	1.8%
(MOE %)	(0.8%)	(0.8%)	(0.8%)	(0.6%)
Coverage through Medicaid, CHIP, or Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)	69.3%	74.3%	78.2%	71.1%
(MOE %)	(4.0%)	(4.1%)	(5.0%)	(3.1%)
Coverage through other sources	14.0%	5.7%	8.1%	11.5%
(MOE %)	(3.1%)	(2.1%)	(3.5%)	(2.3%)
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Note:** 264 "Don't know" and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations on length of coverage. 144 "Don't know" and refusals to respond and 220 respondents reporting no coverage were excluded from tabulations on source of coverage. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY 2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the table reported in prior years are detailed here: In the FY 2020 and FY 2021 questionnaires, response options for source of coverage were adjusted from prior years; among other changes, CHIP was added to the "Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance" response option. In the FY 2020 questionnaire, these questions were asked only of Principal Applicants, while in the FY 2021 questionnaire they were asked of Principal Applicants and their eligible household members. Source of coverage was collected for all, not just those who reported having any medical coverage in the previous year. Respondents were allowed to choose only one health insurance coverage source.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 18 or older at the time of survey administration in refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

Among refugees with medical coverage, the source of that coverage varied by length of stay in the United States. Refugee adults who arrived in the United States in FY 2020 were more likely to report coverage through Medicaid, CHIP, or RMA than refugee adults who arrived in the United States prior to FY 2020 (78.2 percent of FY 2020 refugees vs. 69.3 and 74.3 percent of prior-FY 2020 arrivals: a difference that is statistically significant). Data also indicate that about 17.4 percent of refugee adults with health insurance receive employer-sponsored health insurance.

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## Refugee Health Promotion Program

The goal of the RSS set-aside Refugee Health Promotion (RHP) Program is to promote the health and well-being of ORR eligible individuals by providing opportunities to increase health literacy, coordinating health care, and organizing wellness groups.<sup>31</sup> Activities supported by the RHP Program in FY 2021 included health education classes and targeted health outreach to individuals, medical and mental health navigation and support, and nonclinical interventions for emotional well-being, such as adjustment groups, skill-building networks, and peer support meetings.

In FY 2021, ORR issued 46 RHP awards totaling \$4,656,250. For a list of RHP award recipients, refer to Table II-12 in Appendix A.

## Services for Survivors of Torture Program

The Services for Survivors of Torture (SOT) Program supports persons who have experienced torture abroad and are now residing in the United States. The program aims to restore survivors' well-being and dignity as they rebuild their lives in their communities.<sup>32</sup>

The SOT Program is composed of two types of awards: direct services for survivors and technical assistance (TA) to the SOT network. Direct services awards are designed to provide holistic, strengths-based, and trauma-informed services to survivors of torture and their families. Direct services award recipients provide medical, mental health, legal, and social services to survivors and their families as well as education and professional training to the community. The TA award ensures that the direct service organizations have the training and resources needed to provide quality, integrated, and sustainable services to survivors and their families.

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<sup>31</sup> Prior to FY 2015, RHP was known as the Refugee Preventive Health Program.

<sup>32</sup> The Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-320) authorized the Survivors of Torture Program.



ORR issued \$16,203,998 in Federal award funding to 35 award recipients providing direct services and one award recipient providing TA. Direct service award recipients helped over 8,100 survivors of torture and their families in FY 2021, the majority of whom were asylum seekers, refugees, and lawful permanent residents. SOT beneficiaries are eligible to receive direct services regardless of immigration status, if their experience meets the statutory definition of torture as defined in the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998.

Award recipients served clients from a variety of countries, but the most common countries of origin were the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Cameroon, and Uganda. In FY 2021, the TA recipient provided web-based trainings and resources, including a five-day virtual clinical institute and an eight-module virtual training course for service providers on self-care during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as remote consultations to direct service recipients. In addition, the TA recipient continued to coordinate a Community of Practice initiative for SOT programs which included hosting five virtual town meetings and a symposium and coordinating six peer consultation groups. This Community of Practice served as an essential source of support and peer-learning for SOT programs throughout the pandemic. For a list of SOT award recipients, refer to Table II-13 in Appendix A.

## Continued Integration

ORR eligible individuals come to the United States to begin new lives free from persecution and conflict. The U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program prioritizes the integration of ORR eligible individuals within their communities through a multifaceted approach, which includes providing English language education, supporting participation in civic life, help building social connections, and facilitating the achievement of financial stability. ORR refugee programs provide eligible populations with the critical resources and opportunities to realize their full potential and contribute to their communities.

## Ethnic Community Self-Help Program

Traditionally, refugee communities have formed self-help groups, such as Ethnic Community-Based Organizations (ECBOs), to foster long-term community growth and provide community members with critical integration services and support. ECBOs assist ORR eligible individuals in finding jobs, learning English, preparing for citizenship, and accessing health and social services. Through the Ethnic Community Self-Help (ECSH) Program, ORR supports the development of integrated, diversified, and self-sustaining ECBOs that serve ORR eligible individuals.

ORR supported 20 projects through awards totaling \$3,807,024 in FY 2021. Award recipients reported enrolling 5,232 unduplicated individuals and serving 7,228 duplicated individuals,

through an array of services, including employment assistance, academic enrichment and college preparation, and emotional wellness activities. Recipients reported development of 227 new partnerships with mainstream organizations, such as local law enforcement agencies and public schools, and implementation of strategic planning, resource development, and leadership training activities for adults and youth.

For a list of ECSH program award recipients, refer to Table II-14 in Appendix A.

## Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program

The Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program (RAPP) funds urban community gardens and rural farming projects that help ORR eligible individuals earn income. RAPP also increases the availability of fresh, nutritious produce through farmer's markets established in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which allow families to use their SNAP benefits to purchase produce.

The community gardens funded by RAPP projects can serve as venues for English language acquisition and often facilitate interactions with the broader community. RAPP projects also improve the physical and mental well-being of participants by improving the supply of healthy food and promoting good nutrition and exercise.

RAPP award recipients provided the following output and outcome data for FY 2021:

- 420 ORR eligible individuals enrolled in RAPP
- 5,356 hours of training
- 190,389 pounds of vegetables cultivated
- \$231,508 in gross sales
- 2,475 people accessed healthy food through RAPP

In FY 2021, RAPP supported 15 projects through awards totaling \$1,699,820. For a list of RAPP award recipients, refer to Table II-15 in Appendix A. Note: One recipient relinquished their Federal award in 2021.

## Preferred Communities Program

Through funding for intensive case management, the Preferred Communities (PC) Program supports the resettlement of particularly vulnerable members of populations served by ORR. Through PC, ORR extends services to such vulnerable individuals as:

- Young adults who have been displaced for a long period without parents or a permanent guardian;
- Older adults without a family support system;
- Persons experiencing psychological conditions, including emotional trauma resulting from war, sexual violence, or gender-based violence;

- Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, two spirit+ (LGBTQIA2S+) community; and
- Persons with physical disabilities or complex medical conditions.

PC funding also enhances the capacity of resettlement agencies to serve these individuals.

In FY 2021, PC provided critical interventions and services to over 5,000 individuals through a variety of programs, including support groups, health education, case management, after-school programming, extended cultural orientation, specialized medical case management, and emergency financial assistance. Award recipients reported that most individuals achieved all goals in their self-sufficiency plans. In addition, recipients conducted outreach, forged over 1,567 new collaborations and relationships, and engaged over 2,773 volunteers to increase their capacity to meet the needs of vulnerable ORR eligible individuals.

ORR issued PC awards to the nine national resettlement agencies, totaling \$17,555,551 in FY 2021. For a list of PC award recipients, refer to Table II-16 in Appendix A.

## Youth Mentoring Program

The goal of the RSS set-aside Youth Mentoring (YM) Program is to promote positive civic and social engagement and to support the individual educational and vocational advancement of ORR eligible youth between the ages of 15 and 24. Through its network of award recipients, the YM Program provides positive adult mentors who assist youth through personalized interaction. Recipients also provide case management to support educational and career development.

In FY 2021, ORR issued 48 YM awards totaling \$8,396,250. For a list of YM award recipients see Table II-17 in Appendix A. Table 16 shows those served with YM funds state-by-state.

Table 16: Enrollment in Youth Mentoring by State

<b>FY 2021 Youth Mentoring (YM)</b>	<b>Total YM</b>
Alaska	0
Arizona	179
Arkansas Canopy NWA	0
California	603
Colorado	126
Connecticut	122
Delaware	0
District of Columbia	0
Florida	295

<b>FY 2021 Youth Mentoring (YM)</b>	<b>Total YM</b>
Georgia	119
Hawaii	0
Idaho Jannus	131
Illinois	81
Indiana	113
Iowa	0
Kansas (IRC)	20
Kentucky	262
Louisiana (CC)	0
Maine (CC)	26
Maryland	188
Massachusetts	88
Michigan	121
Minnesota	287
Mississippi	0
Missouri (IISTL)	78
Montana	0
Nebraska	140
Nevada	38
New Hampshire	54
New Jersey IRC	36
New Mexico	0
New York	88
North Carolina	158
North Dakota	141
Ohio	460
Oklahoma	0
Oregon	109
Pennsylvania	113
Rhode Island	0
South Carolina	0
South Dakota LSSSD	0
Tennessee (CC)	36
Texas CC R2	77
Texas IRC R1	37
Texas RST R3	113
Texas YMCA R4	62
Utah	30
Vermont	0
Virginia	127
Washington	59

<b>FY 2021 Youth Mentoring (YM)</b>	<b>Total YM</b>
West Virginia	0
Wisconsin	188
<b>Total YM</b>	<b>4,905</b>

## Refugee School Impact Program

The RSS set-aside Refugee School Impact (RSI) Program's goals are to promote the academic performance and successful integration of ORR eligible youth from ages 5 through 17. Various activities are allowable to provide specialized services for youth, support for families learning to navigate the education system, and capacity development for school systems. The following activities support these efforts:

- English language training
- After-school tutoring and activities
- Programs that encourage high school completion and full participation in school activities
- Summer clubs and activities
- Parental involvement programs
- Navigators or cultural brokers
- Bilingual counselors
- Interpreter services

In FY 2021, ORR issued 41 awards totaling \$14,835,500 for school impact programs which resulted in a total of 50,412 students and parents participating in the program. For a list of RSI Program award recipients, refer to Table II-18 in Appendix A. Table 17 shows State enrollment in RSI.

Table 17: Enrollment in Refugee School Impact by State

<b>FY 2021 Refugee School Impact (RSI)</b>	<b>Total Refugee Students</b>	<b>Total Refugee Parents</b>	<b>Total RSI</b>
Alaska	0	0	<b>0</b>
Arizona	830	109	<b>939</b>
Arkansas Canopy NWA	0	0	<b>0</b>
California	4,464	1,634	<b>6,098</b>
Colorado	204	115	<b>319</b>
Connecticut	1,228	838	<b>2,066</b>
Delaware	0	0	<b>0</b>
District of Columbia	0	0	<b>0</b>
Florida	183	0	<b>183</b>
Georgia	132	365	<b>497</b>

<b>FY 2021 Refugee School Impact (RSI)</b>	<b>Total Refugee Students</b>	<b>Total Refugee Parents</b>	<b>Total RSI</b>
Hawaii	0	0	<b>0</b>
Idaho Jannus	1,900	2,462	<b>4,362</b>
Illinois	395	439	<b>834</b>
Indiana	353	244	<b>597</b>
Iowa	0	0	<b>0</b>
Kansas (IRC)	34	140	<b>174</b>
Kentucky	1,459	679	<b>2,138</b>
Louisiana (CC)	98	57	<b>155</b>
Maine (CC)	67	16	<b>83</b>
Maryland	522	191	<b>713</b>
Massachusetts	494	182	<b>676</b>
Michigan	755	448	<b>1,203</b>
Minnesota	235	71	<b>306</b>
Mississippi	0	0	<b>0</b>
Missouri (IISTL)	1,267	1,683	<b>2,950</b>
Montana	0	0	<b>0</b>
Nebraska	322	147	<b>469</b>
Nevada	184	30	<b>214</b>
New Hampshire	89	33	<b>122</b>
New Jersey IRC	227	129	<b>356</b>
New Mexico	52	41	<b>93</b>
New York	419	213	<b>632</b>
North Carolina	405	316	<b>721</b>
North Dakota	798	84	<b>882</b>
Ohio	4,486	2,338	<b>6,824</b>
Oklahoma	27	0	<b>27</b>
Oregon	34	18	<b>52</b>
Pennsylvania	392	153	<b>545</b>
Rhode Island	112	120	<b>232</b>
South Carolina	209	145	<b>354</b>
South Dakota LSSSD	281	144	<b>425</b>
Tennessee (CC)	232	71	<b>303</b>
Texas USCCB	1,595	1,044	<b>2,639</b>
Utah	117	56	<b>173</b>
Vermont	542	280	<b>822</b>
Virginia	4,646	4,646	<b>9,292</b>
Washington	528	12	<b>540</b>
West Virginia	0	0	<b>0</b>
Wisconsin	329	73	<b>402</b>
<b>Total RSI</b>	<b>30,646</b>	<b>19,766</b>	<b>50,412</b>

## Services to Older Refugees Program

The RSS set-aside Services to Older Refugees (SOR) Program aims to increase integration and independent healthy living for ORR eligible individuals, ages 60 and older. Through its network of award recipients, the SOR Program provides older ORR eligible individuals with appropriate services not otherwise provided in the community, connections to mainstream aging services, access to naturalization services, and help to live independently as long as possible.

In FY 2021, ORR issued 41 SOR awards totaling \$4,981,250 which resulted in 5,112 participants in the program. For a list of SOR award recipients, refer to Table II-19 in Appendix A. Table 18 shows number of state-by-state.

Table 18: State Enrollments in Services for Older Refugees

<b>FY 2021 Services to Older Refugees (SOR)</b>	<b>Total SOR</b>
Alaska	0
Arizona	576
Arkansas Canopy NWA	0
California	605
Colorado	62
Connecticut	140
Delaware	0
District of Columbia	0
Florida	677
Georgia	6
Hawaii	0
Idaho Jannus	42
Illinois	112
Indiana	118
Iowa	50
Kansas (IRC)	21
Kentucky	65
Louisiana (CC)	23
Maine (CC)	41
Maryland	34
Massachusetts	134
Michigan	167
Minnesota	136
Mississippi	0
Missouri (IISTL)	98
Montana	0
Nebraska	301
Nevada	135
New Hampshire	0

<b>FY 2021 Services to Older Refugees (SOR)</b>	<b>Total SOR</b>
New Jersey IRC	49
New Mexico	0
New York	136
North Carolina	66
North Dakota	99
Ohio	197
Oklahoma	0
Oregon	63
Pennsylvania	47
Rhode Island	0
South Carolina	80
South Dakota LSSSD	21
Tennessee (CC)	37
Texas CC R2	91
Texas RST R3	68
Texas YMCA R4	28
Utah	35
Vermont	156
Virginia	207
Washington	117
West Virginia	0
Wisconsin	72
<b>Total SOR</b>	<b>5,112</b>

## **Results from the Annual Survey of Refugees**

### ***Housing Status***

Table 19 presents information on refugee housing from the ASR. Although the vast majority of refugees live in rental housing (78.5 (+/-1.8) percent), home ownership is higher among those who had resided in the United States longer than among new arrivals: 25.3 (+/-2.8) percent of refugee households arriving in FY 2016–FY 2017 and 10.6 (+/- 2.9) percent arriving in FY 2018–FY 2019 reported owning their own home at the time of the survey.

Table 19: Refugee Household Housing Status,  
by Arrival Cohort, 2021 ASR

	<b>FY2016- FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018- FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Years in U.S. at time of survey administration</b>	4.5 to 6.5	2.5 to 4.5	1.5 to 2.5	



Number of Surveyed Families	499	500	500	1,499
<b>Rent Home</b>	<b>73.1%</b>	<b>88.0%</b>	<b>91.5%</b>	<b>78.5%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.9%)	(3.0%)	(2.7%)	(1.8%)
<b>Own or are Buying Home</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.8%)	(2.9%)	(2.6%)	(1.7%)
<b>Other</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
(MOE %)	(0.9%)	(1.1%)	(0.5%)	(0.6%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note:** 3 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY 2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the table reported in prior years are detailed here: In the FY 2020 and FY 2021 questionnaires, “Occupied without payment of cash rent” was no longer listed as a response option; instead, respondents could choose “Other.”

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.



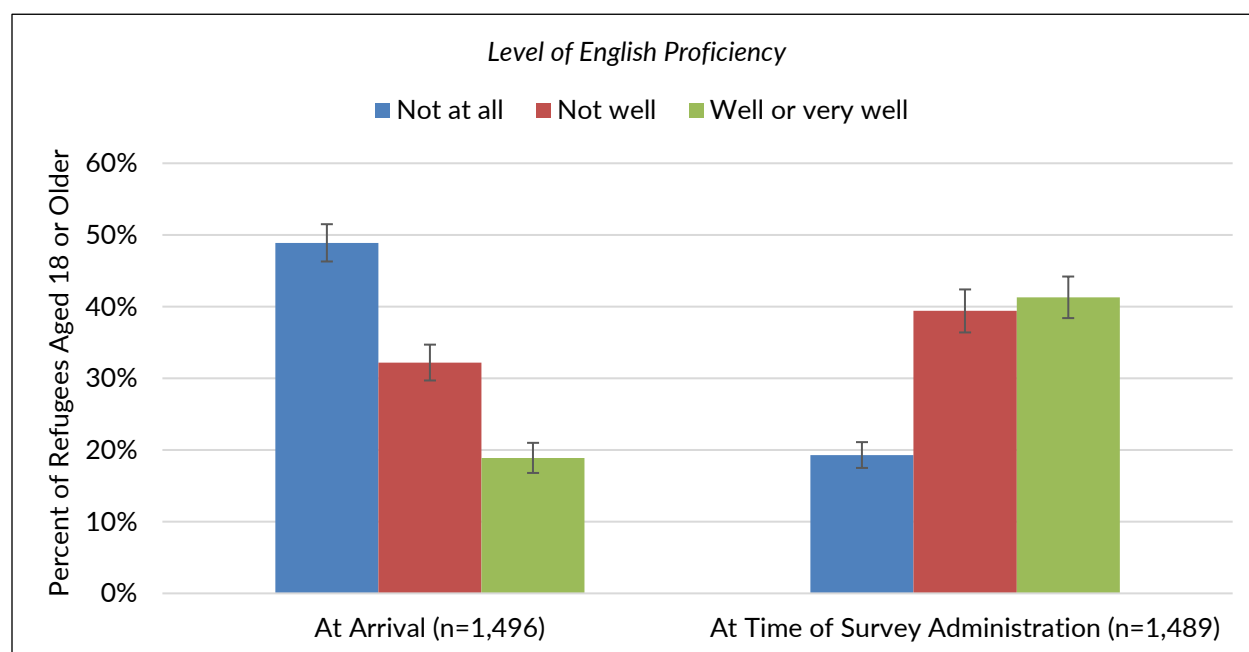
## Results from the Annual Survey of Refugees

### English Language Proficiency

ORR funded programs help ORR eligible individuals integrate into American society by supporting their acquisition of English language skills. Understanding and communicating in English improves a refugee’s ability to find a job, advance in a career, and become engaged in the civic life of the community.

Table 20 presents information about the English language proficiency of the principal applicants ages 18 and older in households included within the 2021 ASR at the time of their arrival in the United States and during the data collection period (first quarter of 2022). Presented visually in Figure 2, data suggest strong progress in English language acquisition from the time of arrival in the United States.

Figure 2: English Language Proficiency at Arrival and Time of Survey Administration Among Refugees 18 or Older, 2021 ASR



**Note:** 1 “Don’t Know” or refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations for English proficiency at time of arrival, and 8 “Don’t Know” or refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations for English proficiency at the time of survey administration. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY 2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the tables reported in prior years are detailed here: In the FY 2020 and FY 2021 questionnaires, these questions were asked only of Principal Applicants and not their eligible household members.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 18 or older at the time of survey administration in refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

Almost 48.9 (+/-2.6) percent of refugee adults spoke no English at the time they arrived in the United States. For these respondents, English acquisition begins immediately. Even among FY 2020 arrivals, who have been in the country for a year and a half at the time of the survey, there is a substantial decline in the percent speaking no English between the time of arrival and the survey (48.6 percent vs. 21.3 percent; Table 20).

During the data collection period in the first quarter of 2022, about 41.3 (+/-2.9) percent of refugees entering the United States in FY 2016–FY 2020 spoke English well or very well. All entry cohorts made steady gains in English proficiency between arrival and the survey.

Table 20: English Language Proficiency at Arrival and Time of Survey Administration Among Refugees 18 or Older, by Arrival Cohort, 2021 ASR

	FY2016-FY2017		FY2018-FY2019		FY2020		All	
Years in U.S. at time of survey administration	4.5 to 6.5		2.5 to 4.5		1.5 to 2.5			
	At Arrival	At Survey	At Arrival	At Survey	At Arrival	At Survey	At Arrival	At Survey
Number of Surveyed Individuals Aged 18 or Older	499	499	497	494	500	496	1,496	1,489
<b>Level of English Proficiency</b>								
<b>Not at All</b>	<b>50.8%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>48.6%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>48.9%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>
(MOE %)	(3.4%)	(2.4%)	(5.1%)	(3.3%)	(6.6%)	(4.8%)	(2.6%)	(1.8%)
<b>Not Well</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>47.5%</b>	<b>33.0%</b>	<b>48.2%</b>	<b>32.2%</b>	<b>39.4%</b>
(MOE %)	(3.7%)	(3.7%)	(4.8%)	(4.6%)	(5.7%)	(6.6%)	(2.5%)	(3.0%)
<b>Well or Very Well</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>45.4%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>33.4%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>41.3%</b>
(MOE %)	(3.3%)	(3.8%)	(4.1%)	(4.8%)	(5.2%)	(6.5%)	(2.1%)	(2.9%)
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Note:** 1 “Don’t Know” or refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations for English proficiency at time of arrival, and 8 “Don’t Know” or refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations for English proficiency at the time of survey administration. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY 2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the tables reported in prior years are detailed here: In the FY 2020 and FY 2021 questionnaires, these questions were asked only of Principal Applicants and not their eligible household members.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 18 or older at the time of survey administration in refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.



## Results from the Annual Survey of Refugees

### Application for Lawful Permanent Residency

Obtaining lawful permanent residency and citizenship grants refugees many of the same rights as native-born Americans and fosters a sense of belonging and inclusion. Nearly all refugees seek lawful permanent resident status in the United States.

Table 21 reports, by arrival cohort, after their first year in the United States, the percentage of refugee adults ages 18 and older who had applied for lawful permanent residence status (in other words, “applied for a green card”) and the percentage of those who had not.

Table 21: Applications for Lawful Permanent Resident/“Green Card” Status After First Year in U.S. Among Refugees 18 or Older, by Arrival Cohort, 2021 ASR

	FY2016-FY2017	FY2018-FY2019	FY2020	All
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<b>Years in U.S. at time of survey administration</b>	<b>4.5 to 6.5</b>	<b>2.5 to 4.5</b>	<b>1.5 to 2.5</b>	
Number of Surveyed Individuals Aged 18 or Older	914	898	913	2,725
<b>Application for Green Card</b>				
Applied for a Green Card After First Year in the US	<b>95.5%</b>	<b>93.3%</b>	<b>91.0%</b>	<b>94.7%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.6%)	(2.8%)	(2.8%)	(1.4%)
Did Not Apply for a Green Card After First Year in the US	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.6%)	(2.8%)	(2.8%)	(1.4%)
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of Individuals Aged 18 or Older	499	495	492	1,486
<b>Challenges Applying for Green Card</b>				
No challenges	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	<b>73.3%</b>	<b>85.8%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.7%)	(4.5%)	(4.9%)	(2.2%)
Limited English ability	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.7%)	(4.0%)	(3.9%)	(1.6%)
Lack of transportation	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
(MOE %)	(2.0%)	(2.4%)	(2.3%)	(1.4%)
Lack of information	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.3%)	(3.0%)	(3.0%)	(1.2%)
Cost of applying	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.4%)	(1.9%)	(2.7%)	(1.1%)
Medical requirements	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
(MOE %)	(0.6%)	(1.3%)	(2.5%)	(0.6%)
Other	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
(MOE %)	(1.6%)	(2.6%)	(3.4%)	(1.2%)

**Note:** 9 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from “Application for Green Card” tabulations. 11 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from “Challenges Applying for a Green Card” tabulations. Respondents could choose more than one challenge, so totals may sum to more than 100%. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. MOE% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval, i.e., the amount you add and subtract from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval.

A revised version of the Annual Survey of Refugees questionnaire was used beginning in FY 2020. Comparisons to estimates from prior years should be approached with caution. Major changes to the table reported in prior years are detailed here: In the FY 2020 questionnaire, respondents were asked whether they applied for a green card after their first year in the U.S, while in prior years respondents were asked whether they had ever adjusted or planned to adjust their status to that of a legal permanent resident. The question on challenges applying for a green card was a new question. In the FY 2020 questionnaire, both questions were asked only of Principal Applicants and not their eligible household members, while in the FY 2021 questionnaire, the former was asked of both Principal Applicants and their eligible household members. Further, the FY 2021 question was reformulated as a two-part question, meaning that if the Principal Applicant said yes to experiencing any challenges applying for a green card, they were then asked what those challenges were.

**Source:** 2021 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals aged 18 or older at the time of survey administration in refugee families in the five-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in U.S. during the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2020.

There are no statistically significant differences in lawful permanent resident status adjustment by year of refugee arrival. Overall, 94.7 (+/-1.4) percent of adults ages 18 or older had applied for lawful permanent residency at the time of the survey. While 85.8 (+/- 2.2) percent of refugee adults cite no challenges when applying for lawful permanent resident status, 6.6 (+/-

1.6) percent cite limited English ability is a challenge. Other challenges include lack of information, costs, lack of transportation, and medical requirements.

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## Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program

The URM Program provides specialized foster care for ORR eligible children and youth (referred to as youth throughout the rest of this section) who do not have a parent or legal guardian in the United States able or willing to care for them. In FY 2021 unaccompanied youth in the following categories were eligible for the URM Program: refugee, asylee, Cuban/Haitian entrant, victim of human trafficking, Special Immigrant Juvenile, and U status.

Originally, the program provided services for refugee minors arriving from overseas unaccompanied by a parent or adult relative.<sup>33</sup> Over the years, legislation was enacted that made additional individuals eligible for the URM Program. As a result of these statutory changes, the number of youth served by the URM Program has significantly increased. Similarly, the demographic makeup of youth in the program has also changed; a significant proportion of URM participants are now referred from the Unaccompanied Children's (UC) Program.

The URM Program is administered by participating states and funded by the CMA award. The program provides the same range of child welfare benefits and services available to other foster children in the states where the URM Program operates, as well as linguistically and culturally appropriate services required by ORR regulations.<sup>34</sup> URM placements include foster homes, therapeutic foster homes, group care, supervised independent living, and other settings appropriate to meet a youth's needs, such as residential treatment facilities.

URM programs will include services such as:

- Case management,
- Family tracing and reunification,
- Health care,
- Mental health services,
- Social adjustment and integration,
- English language training,
- Education and vocational training,
- Career planning and employment,

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<sup>33</sup> The Refugee Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-212; 8 U.S.C. 1522(d)) authorizes ORR to provide child welfare benefits and services to refugees and asylees.

<sup>34</sup> For more information, see state child and family service plans under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, as well as 45 C.F.R. §§ 400.110–120.

- Preparation for independent living and social integration,
- Preservation of cultural and religious heritage, and
- Assistance in adjusting immigration status.

Because a State, county, or URM provider must petition a court for legal responsibility of the minor, youth must enter the URM Program before the age of 18.

Depending on the state, the youth may continue to receive benefits and services through the URM Program after emancipation from foster care. Such services may include transition to adulthood support until age 23, and education and training vouchers until age 26.

In total, the URM Program served 1,873 youth in FY 2021, which included 248 new enrollees. The URM Program served participants from 46 countries in FY 2021.

**Table 22: FY 2021 Participants in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program by Category of Eligibility**

Category of Eligibility	Number
Refugee	877
Special Immigrant Juvenile	539
Victim of Trafficking	403
Asylee	40
Cuban/Haitian Entrant	13
Other*	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,873</b>

**Source.** ORR's Refugee Arrivals Data System. \*The one URM categorized as "Other" was the unmarried minor child of an Afghan Special Immigrant, which is a population eligible for ORR benefits and services.

In FY 2021, the URM Program operated in 25 locations across 14 states and the District of Columbia. Table 23 provides the number of URM's served in each state and the District of Columbia in FY 2021.

**Table 23: FY 2021 Participants in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program by State**

State	Number
Arizona	63
California	310
Colorado	64
District of Columbia	24
Florida	33
Massachusetts	170
Michigan	434
Mississippi	33

State	Number
New York	87
North Dakota	69
Pennsylvania	110
Texas	109
Utah	94
Virginia	69
Washington	204

**Source.** ORR's Refugee Arrivals Data System.

## Technical Assistance

ORR offers support to its award recipients and other service providers through a Federal award that funds a centralized source for technical assistance (TA) related to ORR eligible individuals. The goals of the program are to improve service providers' capacity to (1) provide evidence- and strengths-based programming that addresses the barriers that ORR eligible individuals face in accessing mainstream and specialized services, education, and employment; (2) measure the quality and effectiveness of those programs; and (3) communicate program results.

For FY 2021, ORR issued an award of \$1,194,063 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to continue the technical assistance project called Switchboard. Switchboard offers tools and materials, learning opportunities, research, and TA on resettlement-related topics, including employment, education, health, data analysis, evidence-based practices, and monitoring and evaluation.

With ORR's guidance and the support of subject matter experts, Switchboard delivered 11 webinars to 5,389 separate refugee service providers on subjects such as mitigating staff burnout, trauma-informed mental health support and building digital skills to promote refugee integration and engaging stakeholders to prepare for welcoming more refugees. In FY 2021, 95 percent of participants agreed that Switchboard trainings helped improve their capacity to provide strengths-based services. Switchboard also produced 25 blog posts, 19 downloadable resources, and five evidence summaries which went out to their 5,688 newsletter subscribers and were posted on Switchboard's expanded online searchable resource library which included over 1,204 new and existing resources and received over 30,000 page views. They also delivered customized trainings on topics such as organizational development; employment; mental health and wellness; monitoring and evaluation; and child, youth, and family services. In FY 2021, 768 individuals received customized TA services as a result of these direct requests. Switchboard continued to respond to training and TA needs in the field related to COVID-19 on topics such as providing remote services, understanding vaccines, and supporting students engaged in remote learning. Beginning in August 2021, Switchboard mounted a

significant response to the emergency evacuation of Afghans to the United States through OAW, responding to eight Afghan-related TA requests and producing three blog posts on serving Afghan evacuees.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Analysis**

As part of its oversight functions, ORR systematically monitors and evaluates the programmatic and administrative operations of its refugee program award recipients. ORR's Monitoring and Evaluation Team along with ORR program division staff conduct monitoring to ensure recipients provide high-quality services and adhere to federal laws, regulations, and policies. The team also performs high-level monitoring analysis, supporting ORR's ability to make data-informed decisions.

Monitoring reviews include an exhaustive assessment of programmatic reports and documents; an evaluation of client case files, as appropriate; interviews with clients, staff, and stakeholders; and a written report of findings. If monitors identify corrective actions, ORR requires recipients to submit a remediation plan. When recipients demonstrate significant operational or programmatic deficiencies, ORR schedules a follow-up review to ensure the recipients have sufficiently addressed all areas of non-compliance or underperformance. Monitors also identify recommendations for practices technically compliant with federal law, ORR policy, or programmatic guidelines but which can be improved, as well as promising practices to help strengthen services across states and programs.

In FY 2021, ORR monitored 84 publicly and privately administered State and RD programs, resettlement agencies, and other discretionary award recipients and subrecipients in the following states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Washington, and in the District of Columbia. Most of the corrective actions were related to gaps in self-sufficiency plans and case management practices.

In FY 2021, the team produced three main evaluation and analysis products: a summary of FY 2020 refugee programs monitoring findings, an outcomes analysis for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM), and a report on the impact of COVID-19 on ORR recipients. The FY 2020 Monitoring Summary includes a synopsis of FY 2020 monitoring reviews and identified correlations between recipient and sub-recipient activities to client outcomes, particularly related to the impact of employment services and case management on client employment outcomes. The FY 2019 URM Outcomes Analysis report explored URM client outcomes based on eligibility type and the agency that served them and helped the URM team identify URM clients who may be at risk. The COVID-19 Qualitative Analysis Report analyzed the impact of



COVID-19 on recipient and sub-recipient operations; it also provided ORR information on which federal policies worked best and the gaps and challenges that remained.

The team also developed Tableau dashboards that visualize Monitoring Review Results for the MG, PC, RCA, and RSS programs as well as the Program Outcomes for the URM Program. Additional dashboards visualized Promising and Notable Practices and Comparisons across the MG, PC, and RSS programs.

# Unaccompanied Children Program

The UC Program provides a safe and appropriate environment to children and youth who enter the United States without lawful immigration status, who have not reached 18 years of age, and who are without a parent or legal guardian in the United States available to provide care and physical custody.<sup>35</sup> In most cases, unaccompanied children are apprehended by immigration officials from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and then referred to the care and custody of ORR.<sup>36</sup>

## Profile of Unaccompanied Children

Unaccompanied children have many interrelated reasons for undertaking the difficult journey of traveling to the United States, which may include rejoining family already in the United States, fleeing from violent communities or abusive family relationships in their home country, or seeking to escape from extreme poverty.

The age of these individuals, their separation from parents and relatives, and the hazardous journey they take make unaccompanied children especially vulnerable to human trafficking, exploitation, and abuse.

To support its humanitarian mission and prevent these abuses, ORR provides a continuum of care and safety to unaccompanied children through an extensive care provider network.

In FY 2021, there were numerous migration emergencies that either directly or indirectly impacted the UC Program and its network of service providers' ability to care for unaccompanied children. These included a surge of Haitian migrants and others at the border, historic levels of unaccompanied children that required ORR to create emergency influx shelters for processing due to limited standard bed capacity, and an increased demand among unaccompanied children for referrals to the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program. The end of FY 2021 also coincided with the beginning of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) with added responsibilities among federal partners to meet the demands of new arrivals both at the border and elsewhere. Most significantly, the number of unaccompanied children in ORR care increased eightfold over a one-year period reaching its highest level in FY 2021.

Because of the large fluctuations in arrival numbers throughout the calendar year, ORR maintains a mix of "standard" beds that are available year-round, and temporary beds that can

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<sup>35</sup> See 6 U.S.C. § 279(g)(2).

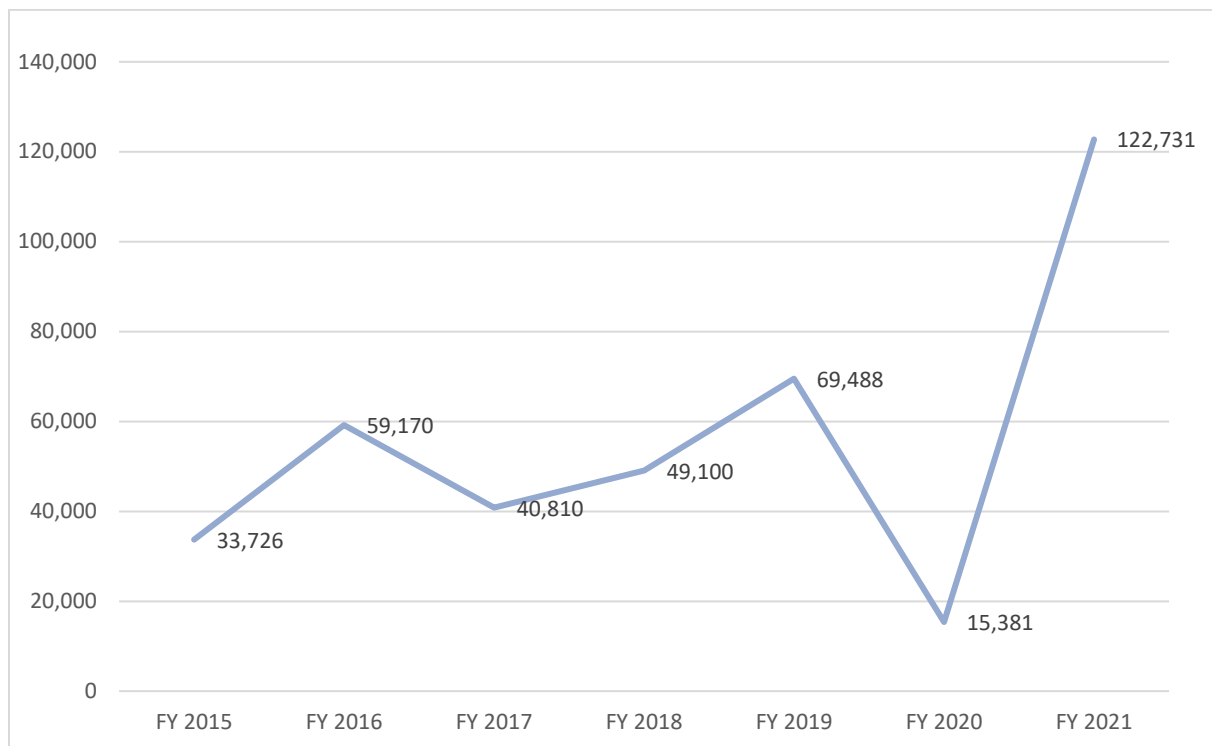
<sup>36</sup> Section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-296, 6 U.S.C. § 279(a)) transferred responsibilities for the care and placement of UC from the commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the director of ORR.

be added or reduced as needed. This bed management strategy provides the ability to accommodate changing flows in unaccompanied children referrals. The COVID-19 pandemic and high number of referrals from DHS beginning in the early part of calendar year 2021 placed significant demands on the standard bed capacity of ORR's UC Program. While ORR faced strains on its bed capacity during previous periods of increases in referrals of unaccompanied children, notably in FYs 2014 and 2019, the impact of COVID-19 including mitigation measures involving isolation and quarantine restrictions, created new and greater challenges for ORR's care provider network. At the height of the 2021 influx in April, ORR's network of spaces available for placements of unaccompanied children was reduced by up to 40 percent due to staffing and COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Despite the many challenges that the UC Program faced in FY 2021, ORR worked diligently to safely increase the capacity that was impacted by COVID-19 through several initiatives such as supplementing award recipient funding, engaging with non-governmental organizations, and publishing notices of funding opportunities for licensed programs or those pending licenses.

In total, ORR served 122,731 unaccompanied children in FY 2021, compared to 15,381 unaccompanied children in FY 2020. Figure 3 indicates the number of unaccompanied children referrals by year.

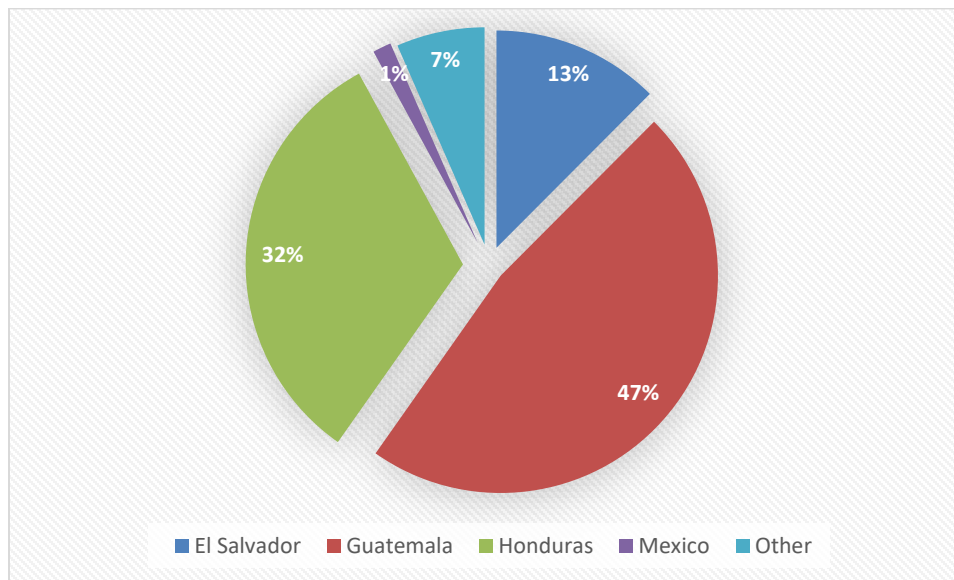
Figure 3: Number of Unaccompanied Children Referrals by Year



Source: Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Children Portal.

The majority of unaccompanied children placed in ORR custody in FY 2021 were from Central American countries (Figure 4). The Central American countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras accounted for 92 percent of the 122,731 unaccompanied children in ORR custody.

Figure 4: Unaccompanied Children by Country of Birth in FY 2021

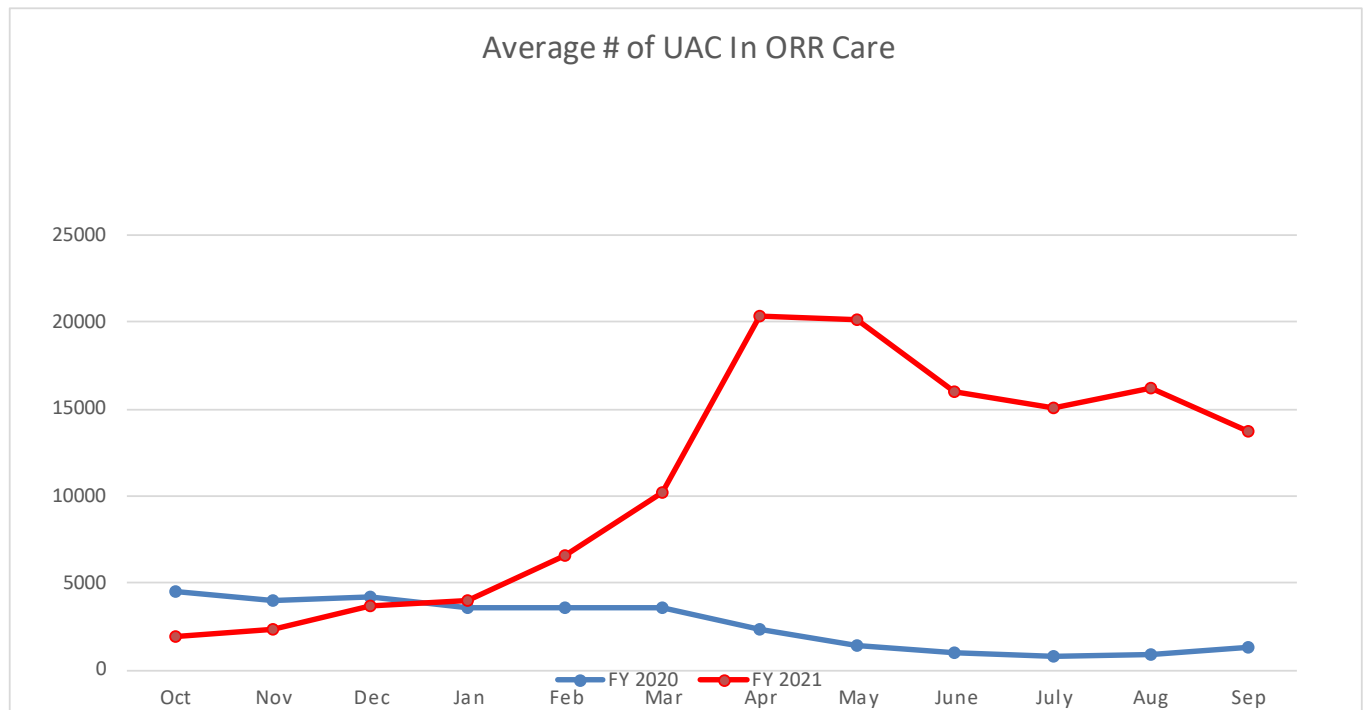


**Source:** Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Children Portal.

Of the children placed into ORR custody in FY 2021, 66 percent were boys and 34 percent were girls. Similarly, the gender ratio for FY 2020 was 68 percent boys and 32 percent girls, and the ratio for FY 2019 was 66 percent boys and 34 percent girls.

As noted above, ORR experienced an increase in the number of DHS referrals from FY 2020 (15,381) to FY 2021 (122,731). The average number of unaccompanied children in ORR care at any point in time increased in FY 2021 (10,858) compared to FY 2020 (2,609). Figure 5 shows the average number of unaccompanied children in care.

Figure 5: Average Number of Unaccompanied Children in ORR Care by Month in FY 2020 and FY 2021



**Source:** Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Children Portal.

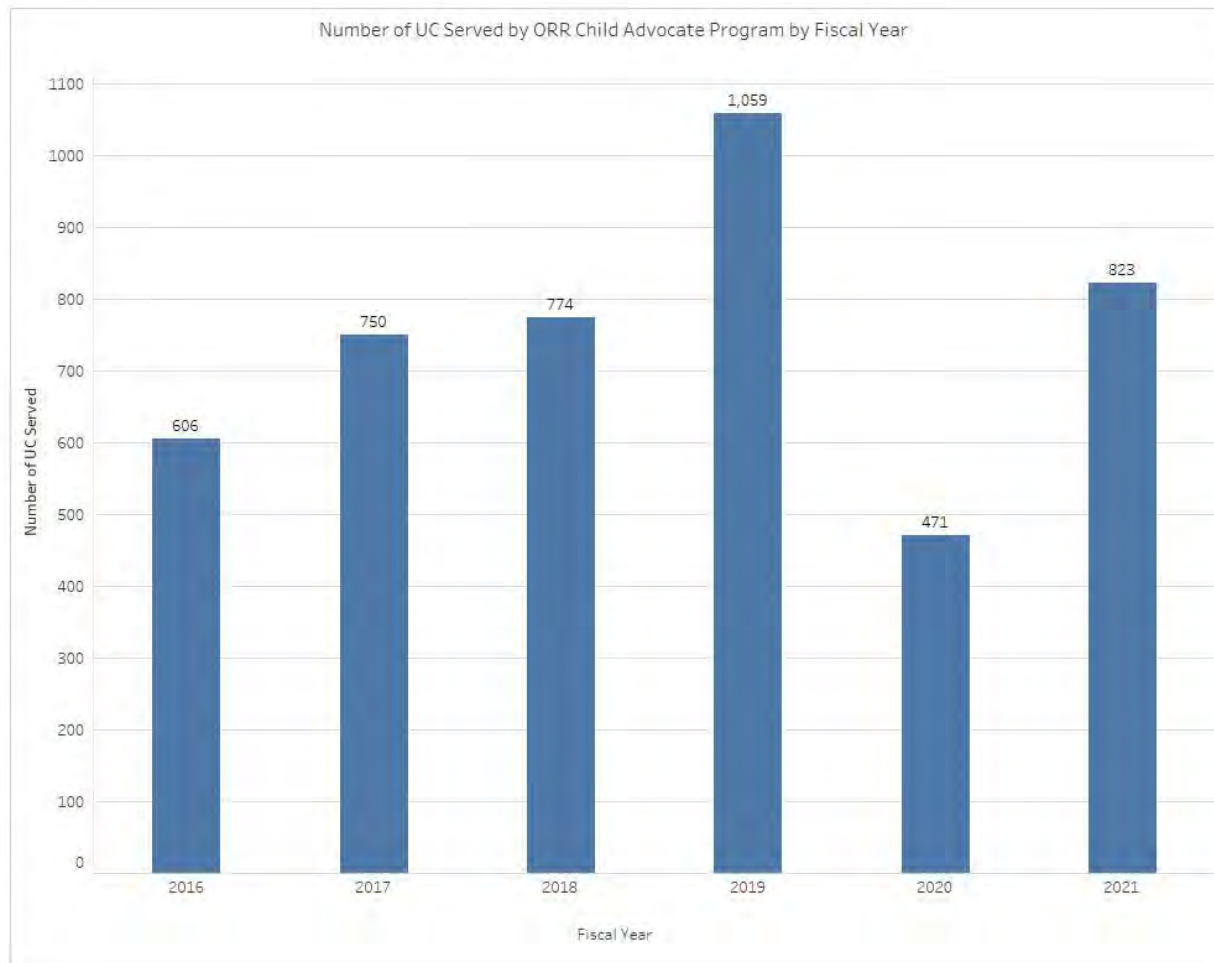
ORR may appoint child advocates for victims of trafficking and other vulnerable children. Child advocates are third parties who make independent recommendations regarding the best interests of a child. Their recommendations are based on information that is obtained from the child and other sources (e.g., the child's parents, potential sponsors, government agencies, and other stakeholders). Child advocates formally submit their recommendations to ORR and/or the immigration court in the form of best interest determinations (BIDs). ORR considers BIDs when making decisions regarding the care, placement, and release of unaccompanied children, but it is not bound to follow BID recommendations.

As required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, ORR provides child advocates with access to information necessary to effectively advocate for the best interests of children with whom they are working. After providing proof of appointment, child advocates have access both to their clients and to their clients' records. Child advocates may access their clients' entire original case files at care provider facilities or request copies from care providers. Further, they may participate in case staffing meetings.

Child advocates and ORR maintain regular communication, informing each other of considerations or updates that impact service provision and release planning. Figure 6 shows

the increase in number of child advocates since FY 2016, with the exception of 2020, when the total number of referrals dropped substantially.

Figure 6: Participation in Child Advocate Program

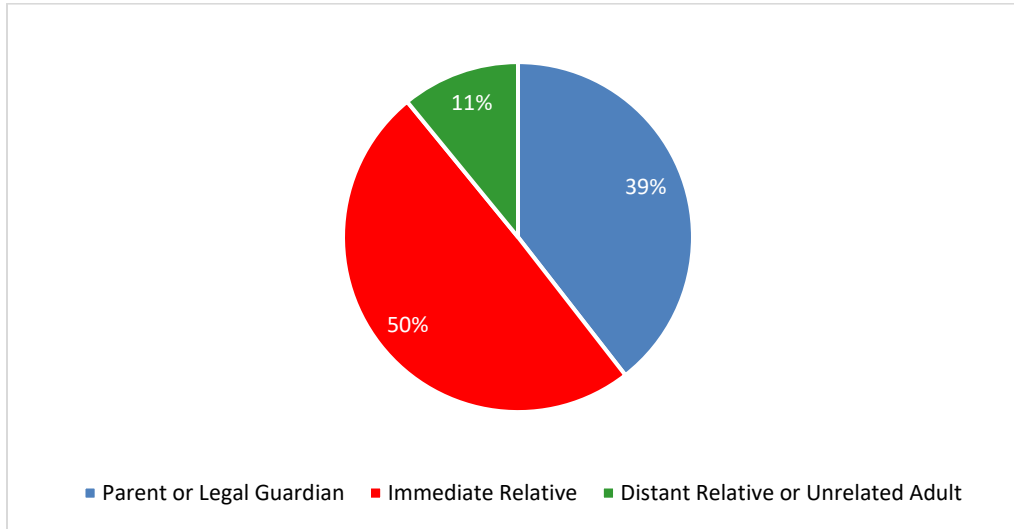


**Note.** UC = Unaccompanied children. **Source:** Office of Refugee Resettlement’s Unaccompanied Children Portal.

ORR and its care providers work to ensure that children are released in a timely and safe manner from ORR custody to parents, other family members, or other thoroughly vetted adults (referred to as “sponsors”) who are able to care for the child’s physical and mental well-being.

Approximately 89 percent of unaccompanied children released to sponsors in FY 2021 were released to an immediate relative. Figure 7 indicates the sponsor relationship to unaccompanied children released in FY 2021.

Figure 7: Sponsor Relationship to Unaccompanied Children Released in FY 2021



**Source:** Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Children Portal.

Unaccompanied children were released to sponsors residing in 50 states and the District of Columbia in FY 2021. Table 24 provides the state-by-state data.

Table 24: Number of Unaccompanied Children Released to a Sponsor by State in FY 2021

State	Number of UC (Oct. 2020– Sep. 2021)
Alabama	1,946
Alaska	4
Arizona	631
Arkansas	790
California	10,773
Colorado	1,088
Connecticut	1,447
Delaware	519
DC	307
Florida	11,145
Georgia	4,358
Hawaii	23
Idaho	84
Illinois	1,712
Indiana	1,593
Iowa	677

State	Number of UC (Oct. 2020– Sep. 2021)
Kansas	718
Kentucky	1,042
Louisiana	2,851
Maine	64
Maryland	5,471
Massachusetts	2,549
Michigan	451
Minnesota	1,002
Mississippi	707
Missouri	794
Montana	28
Nebraska	889
Nevada	465
New Hampshire	67
New Jersey	5,911
New Mexico	116
New York	8,534
North Carolina	4,249
North Dakota	14
Ohio	1,675
Oklahoma	906
Oregon	438
Pennsylvania	2,103
Rhode Island	520
South Carolina	1,743
South Dakota	233
Tennessee	4,267
Texas	15,341
Utah	307
Vermont	8
Virginia	5,400
Washington	1,113
West Virginia	60
Wisconsin	531
Wyoming	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107,686</b>

**Source.** Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Children Portal.



## Overview of the UC Program

A network of ORR-funded care providers supplies temporary housing and other services to unaccompanied children in ORR custody. ORR considers the unique nature of each child's situation and incorporates child welfare principles when making placement, clinical, case management, and release decisions to ensure they are made in the best interest of the child.

Care providers maintain state licensed or licensed-exempt facilities and must meet ORR requirements to ensure a high quality of care. Care providers offer a continuum of care for children through a variety of placement options, which include ORR foster care; group homes; shelters; and staff secure; secure; and residential treatment centers.

Approximately 46 percent of unaccompanied children were initially placed in a shelter and 49 percent in emergency intake shelters in FY 2021. Foster care was the next most common initial placement in approximately four percent of cases. Virtual (direct unifications under Operation Allies Welcome (OAW)), secure, staff secure, and therapeutic placements (such as residential treatment centers) accounted for the remaining initial placements. Foster care in the UC Program is funded by ORR and is not part of the domestic child welfare system. ORR provides long-term, therapeutic, and transitional foster care through its network of care providers. ORR provides long-term foster care placements for certain unaccompanied children who do not have a viable sponsor, have been identified as potentially eligible for immigration relief, and are younger than 17 years and six months at time of placement.

**Table 25: Unaccompanied Children by Initial Placement Type in FY 2021**

Facility Type for Initial Placement	Number of UC
Shelter	56,436
Emergency Intake Shelters	60,425
Virtual (direct unifications under OAW)	734
Foster Care*	5,022
Secure/Staff Secure	90
Residential Treatment	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>122,731</b>

\* ORR funds long-term care placements for certain unaccompanied children who do not have a viable sponsor, have been identified as potentially eligible for immigration relief, and are younger than 17 years and 6 months at time of placement.

**Source.** Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Children Portal.

In most cases, care providers operate under cooperative agreements with ORR and provide children with classroom education, health care, socialization/recreation, vocational training, legal services, mental health services, and case management.

ORR conducts site visits at least monthly to ensure that care providers meet minimum standards for the care and timely release of unaccompanied children, and that they abide by all federal and state laws and regulations, licensing and accreditation standards, ORR policies and procedures, and child welfare standards. ORR increases the frequency of monitoring if it is warranted by issues identified at a facility. In addition, ORR conducts formal monitoring visits of funded care providers. If ORR monitoring finds a care provider to be out of compliance with requirements, ORR issues corrective action findings and requires the care provider to resolve the issue within a specified time frame. ORR also provides technical assistance, as needed, to ensure that deficiencies are addressed.

ORR provides “Know Your Rights” presentations and legal screenings to unaccompanied children to determine potential eligibility for immigration relief through ORR’s Pro-Bono and Legal Services contracts for unaccompanied children. Information about legal services, including notices and referrals to community-based pro bono legal service providers, are provided to unaccompanied children and their sponsors upon release. Additionally, ORR legal service contracts support pro bono representation and provide funding in some cases for direct legal representation in immigration court and other matters in which the child may be a party.

Once a child has been placed with a parent, relative, or other sponsor, the care and well-being of the child become the responsibility of that sponsor. Sponsors sign an agreement under which they agree to bring the unaccompanied children to all future immigration proceedings. ORR does not provide ongoing post-release services (PRS) for the majority of children who are released to sponsors, but it may refer certain children at the time of release to PRS providers, who in turn coordinate referrals to supportive services in the community where the child resides and provide other child welfare services as needed. PRS referrals are provided to children for whom there has been a home study, to children released to a non-relative sponsor, to children whose placement has been disrupted or is at risk of disruption within 180 days of release, to children or sponsors who have contacted the ORR National Call Center, and to other children who would benefit from ongoing assistance from a community-based service provider.

# Appendix A

Table II-1: FY 2021 Cash and Medical Assistance Award Recipients

Award Recipients Name	Total FY2021 Funds
Alabama-CSS	\$100,000
Alabama	\$63,870
Alaska	\$406,941
Arizona	\$5,500,000
Arkansas	\$46,930
California (Cash)	\$38,223,293
California (Medical)	\$5,818,753
Colorado	\$9,250,767
Connecticut	\$346,888
Delaware	\$82,000
District of Columbia	\$1,921,495
Florida	\$30,041,893
Georgia	\$2,580,718
Hawaii	\$23,440
Idaho - State	\$507,797
Idaho - Jannus	\$918,984
Illinois	\$3,577,966
Indiana	\$1,491,187
Iowa	\$1,061,430
Kansas (International Rescue Committee)	\$1,900,000
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$4,542,773
Louisiana	\$140,147
Louisiana (Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge)	\$1,200,000
Maine (Catholic Charities Maine)	\$1,410,811
Maryland	\$6,241,667
Massachusetts	\$13,623,989
Michigan	\$20,114,462
Minnesota	\$3,377,134
Mississippi	\$1,788,422
Missouri (International Institute of St. Louis)	\$929,382
Montana	\$399,711
Nebraska	\$1,763,461
Nevada (Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada)	\$2,124,059
New Hampshire	\$895,715
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee)	\$2,470,712
New Jersey State	\$1,371,239
New Mexico	\$535,516
New York	\$11,200,000
North Carolina	\$2,200,000

North Dakota	\$3,034,691
North Dakota (Lutheran Social Services)	\$183,306
Ohio	\$1,828,336
Oklahoma	\$398,228
Oregon	\$954,974
Pennsylvania	\$7,161,625
Rhode Island	\$288,201
South Carolina	\$325,000
South Dakota	\$158,423
South Dakota (Lutheran Social Services)	\$296,626
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$2,500,000
Texas (Catholic Charities Forth Worth)	\$6,059,718
Texas (International Rescue Committee)	\$1,840,708
Texas (Refugee Services of Texas)	\$6,836,385
Texas (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops)	\$5,000,000
Texas (YMCA of Greater Houston)	\$10,809,627
Texas (Lutheran and Immigration Services)	\$612,169
*U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	\$76,400,000
Utah	\$6,614,682
Vermont	\$657,655
Virginia	\$7,660,698
Washington	\$14,374,559
West Virginia	\$16,908
Wisconsin	\$2,200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$336,406,071</b>

\*Includes Department of State/Populations, Refugees, and Migration (DOS/PRM) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funding under an inter-agency agreements for health coverage and mental health services for OAW Afghan evacuees.

Table II-2: FY 2021 Refugee Support Services (RSS) Award Recipients

State	FY 2021 Total Base
Alabama (Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Mobile)	\$67,748
Alaska (Catholic Social Services, Inc.)	\$109,931
Arizona	\$3,080,611
Arkansas (Canopy)	\$112,487
California	\$17,431,659
Colorado	\$2,346,889
Connecticut	\$814,253
Delaware	\$50,000
District Of Columbia	\$153,391
Florida	\$27,901,903
Georgia	\$2,784,055

Hawaii	\$50,000
Idaho (Jannus)	\$984,262
Illinois	\$2,706,081
Indiana	\$1,862,428
Iowa	\$1,314,053
Kansas (International Refugee Committee, Inc.)	\$858,992
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$3,887,195
Louisiana (Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge)	\$315,731
Maine	\$354,079
Maryland	\$3,851,403
Massachusetts	\$1,871,376
Michigan	\$2,831,350
Minnesota	\$2,240,793
Mississippi	\$50,000
Missouri (International Institute of St. Louis)	\$1,516,019
Montana	\$189,183
Nebraska	\$1,228,410
Nevada (Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada)	\$1,692,419
New Hampshire	\$400,096
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$1,526,245
New Mexico	\$337,461
New York	\$5,662,701
North Carolina	\$2,656,228
North Dakota	\$316,426
Ohio	\$2,782,776
Oklahoma	\$553,487
Oregon	\$1,349,845
Pennsylvania	\$2,745,707
Rhode Island	\$198,131
South Carolina	\$359,192
South Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota)	\$260,765
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$1,746,106
Texas (International Refugee Committee)	\$1,100,584
Texas (Catholic Charities Forth Worth)	\$4,599,187
Texas (Refugee Services of Texas)	\$5,192,300
Texas (YMCA of Greater Houston)	\$7,727,094
Utah	\$1,137,653
Vermont	\$181,513
Virginia	\$4,758,969
Washington	\$6,537,032
West Virginia	\$50,000
Wisconsin	\$1,234,801
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$136,071,000</b>

Table II-3: FY 2021 Matching Grant Award Recipients

<b>Award Recipient</b>	<b>Federal Award Amount</b>
Church World Service, Inc. (CWS)	\$5,090,250
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS)	\$1,650,000
Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)	\$1,666,500
HIAS, Inc. (founded as Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)	\$1,812,250
International Rescue Committee, Inc. (IRC)	\$6,077,500
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Inc. (LIRS)	\$4,188,250
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.	\$8,060,250
United States Conference Of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)	\$8,549,750
World Relief (WR)	\$3,418,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,513,000</b>

Table II-4: FY 2021 Average Full-Time Hourly Wage by Recipient

<b>Award Recipient</b>	<b>Average Full-Time Hourly Wage at 180 Days</b>
Church World Service (CWS)	\$13.38
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS)	\$13.26
Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)	\$14.05
HIAS, Inc.	\$14.26
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	\$14.00
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)	\$13.89
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)	\$13.76
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)	\$13.32
World Relief (WR)	\$15.93

Table II-5: FY 2021 Matching Grant Outcomes by Recipient

<b>Award Recipient</b>	<b>Clients Newly Enrolled</b>	<b>Self-sufficient at 120 Days*</b>	<b>Self-sufficient at 180 Days*</b>	<b>Entered Employment at 180 Days</b>	<b>Employer Health Benefits Offered at 180 Days</b>
Church World Service	871	310	429	220	148
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society	402	168	180	64	34
Ethiopian Community Development Council	315	118	145	74	55
HIAS, Inc.	297	163	163	95	56

International Rescue Committee	1,566	577	671	287	191
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	805	313	416	181	107
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	1,466	737	809	348	179
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	1,595	634	721	344	162
World Relief	538	189	236	101	53

Table II-6: FY 2021 Highlights of Matching Grant Provider Sites with More than 95 Enrollments

Resettlement Agency	City and State	Clients Enrolled	Self-Sufficient at 120 Days	Self-Sufficient at 180 Days	Employable Employed	Average Wage (Full-Time)
International Rescue Committee	Glendale, AZ	135	55%	81%	65%	\$13.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Glendale, CA	123	24%	45%	55%	\$15.00
International Rescue Committee	Denver, CO	98	39%	68%	47%	\$14.00
International Rescue Committee	Atlanta, GA	168	52%	67%	56%	\$13.00
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	Decatur, GA	105	77%	84%	70%	\$14.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Bowling Green, KY	117	100%	100%	80%	\$13.00
Church World Service	Grand Rapids, MI	102	45%	86%	77%	\$13.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	St. Louis, MO	129	93%	98%	59%	\$12.00
Church World Service	Lancaster, PA	108	74%	92%	79%	\$14.00
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society	Austin, TX	111	74%	85%	41%	\$13.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishop	Fort Worth, TX	108	95%	100%	68%	\$12.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Houston, TX	153	57%	84%	82%	\$12.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Houston, TX	217	49%	64%	46%	\$12.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	San Antonio, TX	167	72%	89%	66%	\$11.00
International Rescue Committee	Salt Lake City, UT	95	42%	100%	82%	\$14.00
World Relief	Kent, WA	161	21%	48%	34%	\$18.00
International Rescue Committee	SeaTac, WA	161	92%	94%	61%	\$16.00



Table II-7: FY 2021 Wilson/Fish TCP Award Recipients

Recipient Name	State	Wilson-Fish Funding
Catholic Social Services, Inc.	Alaska	\$100,000
Arizona Department of Economic Security	Arizona	\$599,210
Arkansas - Canopy NWA	Arkansas	\$100,000
Colorado Department of Human Services	Colorado	\$600,000
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	New Mexico	\$101,834
Connecticut Department of Social Services	Connecticut	\$300,000
Jannus, Inc.	Idaho	\$300,000
IRC Kansas Office for Refugees	Kansas	\$300,000
Catholic Charities of Louisville	Kentucky	\$700,000
Catholic Charities Maine	Maine	\$200,000
Maryland Department of Human Services	Maryland	\$598,976
Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants	Massachusetts	\$500,000
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity	Michigan	\$550,785
Minnesota Department of Human Services	Minnesota	\$500,000
International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis	Missouri	\$499,652
New Hampshire Department of HHS	New Hampshire	\$200,000
Pennsylvania Department Of Human Services	Pennsylvania	\$600,000
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota	South Dakota	\$197,895
Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc	Tennessee	\$500,000
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.	Vermont	\$200,000
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families	Wisconsin	\$400,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$8,048,352</b>

Table II-8: FY 2021 Microenterprise Development Award Recipients

Recipient Name	State	Award Amount
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Arizona	\$250,000
Alliance for African Assistance	California	\$250,000
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment	California	\$250,000
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	Colorado	\$188,175
Inspiritus, Inc.	Georgia	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Georgia	\$175,000
Jannus, Inc.	Idaho	\$181,945
HIAS, Inc.	Maryland	\$250,000
HIAS, Inc.	Maryland	\$249,995
Hmong American Partnership	Minnesota	\$250,000
International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis	Missouri	\$250,000

Accompany Capital, Inc.	New York	\$250,000
North Carolina African Services Coalition, Inc.	North Carolina	\$247,800
Asian Services in Action, Inc.	Ohio	\$250,000
Women's Opportunities Resource Center	Pennsylvania	\$200,472
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Utah	\$250,000
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.	Virginia	\$250,000
ECDC Enterprise Development Group	Virginia	\$236,924
New Roots Fund	Washington	\$248,467
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,478,778</b>

Table II-9: FY 2021 Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Development Award Recipients

Recipient Name	State	Award Amount
Somali Bantu Association Of America	California	\$187,399
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	California	\$187,500
Yosemite Community College District	California	\$187,500
Jannus, Inc.	Idaho	\$187,500
Catherine McAuley Center Inc.	Iowa	\$186,463
Child Care Council, Inc.	New York	\$174,310
The Immigrant And Refugee Community Organization	Oregon	\$187,500
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Utah	\$187,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,485,672</b>

Table II-10: FY 2021 Individual Development Account Award Recipients\*

Recipient Name	State	Award Amount
Somali Bantu Association of America	California	\$248,996
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	California	\$250,000
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	Colorado	\$229,996
Coptic Orthodox Charities, Inc.	Florida	\$249,095
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Georgia	\$250,000
Lutheran Services in Iowa, Inc.	Iowa	\$250,000
Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc.	Kansas	\$150,000
HIAS, Inc.	Maryland	\$250,000
World Relief	Maryland	\$249,235
HIAS, Inc. (founded as Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)	Maryland	\$250,000
International Institute of New England, INC.	Massachusetts	\$250,000
Business Outreach Center Network, Inc.	New York	\$250,000

International Rescue Committee, Inc.	New York	\$250,000
Refugee & Immigrant Self-Empowerment Inc.	New York	\$250,000
Ohio Community Development Corporations (CDC) Association	Ohio	\$250,000
The Immigrant And Refugee Community Organization	Oregon	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Utah	\$250,000
New Roots Fund	Washington	\$250,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,377,322</b>

\* The table lists award recipients who were funded in FY 2021 for activities to be conducted in FY 2022.

Table II-11: FY 2021 Refugee Career Pathways Award Recipients

Recipient Name	State	Award Transaction Amount
Arizona State University	Arizona	\$245,901
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	California	\$250,000
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	Colorado	\$250,000
Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc.	Florida	\$250,000
Jannus, Inc.	Idaho	\$250,000
Lutheran Services in Iowa, Inc.	Iowa	\$250,000
Bluegrass Community & Technical College	Kentucky	\$249,116
World Relief Corporation of National Association of Evangelicals	Maryland	\$249,998
World Relief Corporation of National Association of Evangelicals	Maryland	\$250,000
HIAS, Inc.	Maryland	\$250,000
International Institute of Buffalo	New York	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	New York	\$250,000
Upwardly Global	New York	\$250,000
The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization	Oregon	\$245,000
Nationalities Service Center of Philadelphia, PA	Pennsylvania	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Texas	\$249,999
Snohomish County Workforce Development Council	Washington	\$250,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,240,014</b>

Table II-12: FY 2021 Refugee Health Promotion Award Recipients

Recipient Name	Award Amount
Alaska (Catholic Social Services, Inc.)	\$50,000
Arizona	\$150,000
Arkansas (Canopy)	\$50,000
California	\$167,375
Colorado	\$116,021

Connecticut	\$75,000
District of Columbia	\$50,000
Florida	\$167,375
Georgia	\$137,625
Idaho	\$90,000
Illinois	\$133,800
Indiana	\$90,000
Iowa	\$90,000
Kansas (International Refugee Committee, Inc.)	\$75,000
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$150,000
Louisiana (Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge)	\$75,000
Maine (Catholic Charities Maine)	\$75,000
Maryland	\$150,000
Massachusetts	\$90,000
Michigan	\$139,974
Minnesota	\$110,807
Missouri (U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants)	\$90,000
Montana	\$50,000
Nebraska	\$90,000
Nevada (Catholic Charities Diocese of Southern Nevada)	\$90,000
New Hampshire	\$75,000
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$90,000
New Mexico	\$75,000
New York	\$150,000
North Carolina	\$131,315
North Dakota	\$131,250*
Ohio	\$137,562
Oklahoma	\$75,000
Oregon	\$90,000
Pennsylvania	\$135,771
Rhode Island	\$75,000
South Carolina	\$75,000
South Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota)	\$75,000
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$90,000
Texas (U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants)	\$167,375
Utah	\$90,000
Vermont	\$50,000
Virginia	\$150,000
Washington	\$150,000
Wisconsin	\$90,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,656,250</b>

\* Includes \$75,000 issued to Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (LSS-ND) and \$56,250 issued to the State of North Dakota, who assumed oversight of the RHP program upon LSS-ND's withdrawal from the Refugee Resettlement Program.

Table II-13: FY 2021 Survivors of Torture Award Recipient

Recipient	State	Award Amount
Partnerships for Trauma Recovery	California	\$382,068
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	California	\$500,523
The Asian Americans for Community Involvement of Santa Clara, Inc	California	\$496,178
Survivors of Torture, International	California	\$496,178
Program for Torture Victims, Los Angeles County	California	\$563,902
The Regents of the University of California, San Francisco	California	\$465,653
Program for Torture Victims, Orange County	California	\$374,752
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	Colorado	\$259,135
Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants	Connecticut	\$259,135
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) International	District of Columbia	\$493,894
Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc.	Florida	\$563,902
Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Inc.	Idaho	\$337,074
Heartland Alliance International	Illinois	\$496,178
University of Louisville Research Foundation, Inc.	Kentucky	\$500,464
HIAS, Inc. (founded as Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)	Maryland	\$443,094
Boston Medical Center	Massachusetts	\$496,178
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services	Michigan	\$387,460
Bethany Christian Services	Michigan	\$351,178
The Center for Victims of Torture in Georgia	Minnesota	\$380,571
The Center for Victims of Torture in Minnesota	Minnesota	\$496,178
The Center for Victims of Torture	Minnesota	\$781,270
Bilingual International Assistant Services	Missouri	\$294,478
Jewish Family Services of Western New York	New York	\$394,682
New York City Health & Hospitals, Bellevue Hospital, Program for Survivors of Torture	New York	\$321,599
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	New York	\$466,447
New York City Health & Hospitals, Elmhurst Hospital, Libertas Center for Human Rights	New York	\$496,178
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	New York	\$496,178
New York City Health & Hospitals, Bellevue Hospital, Torture Treatment Coalition	New York	\$551,788
Catholic Charities Corporation	Ohio	\$495,744
Oregon Health and Science University	Oregon	\$496,178
Nationalities Service Center, Philadelphia Partnership for Resilience Collaborative	Pennsylvania	\$496,165
Center for Survivors of Torture	Texas	\$631,391

Utah Health and Human Rights Project	Utah	\$421,724
Vermont Psychological Services, New England Survivors of Torture and Trauma (NESTT)	Vermont	\$288,874
Northern Virginia Family Service	Virginia	\$332,861
Lutheran Community Services Northwest	Washington	\$494,746
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$16,203,998</b>

Table II-14: FY 2021 Ethnic Community Self-Help Program Award Recipients

Recipient Name	State	Award Amount
Somali-American United Council of Arizona	Arizona	\$200,000
Somali Family Service of San Diego	California	\$197,107
Karen Organization of San Diego	California	\$120,061
Center for Immigrants and Immigration Services	Colorado	\$200,000
Coptic Orthodox Charities, Inc.	Florida	\$200,000
Refugee Family Assistance Program	Georgia	\$150,000
Middle Eastern Immigrant and Refugee Alliance	Illinois	\$199,938
Burmese American Community Institute	Indiana	\$200,000
Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center	Iowa	\$200,000
Kansas Bhutanese Community Foundation	Kansas	\$199,624
Global Alliance Solutions Foundation	Michigan	\$200,000
Isuroon	Minnesota	\$188,670
International Council for Refugees and Immigrants (DBA: AAI)*	Nebraska	\$200,000
Refugee & Immigrant Self-Empowerment Inc.	New York	\$198,766
North Carolina African Services Coalition, Inc.	North Carolina	\$200,000
US Together, Inc.	Ohio	\$199,914
Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio	Ohio	\$154,150
Refugee Empowerment Program	Tennessee	\$200,000
Rupani Foundation	Texas	\$200,000
Association of Africans Living in Vermont	Vermont	\$198,794
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,807,024</b>

\*DBA (doing business as)

Table II-15: FY 2021 Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program Award Recipients

Recipient	State	Award Amount
Catholic Social Services, Inc.	Alaska	\$100,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Arizona	\$100,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	California	\$100,000
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	Colorado	\$99,955

International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Georgia	\$100,000
Heartland Communities, Inc.	Indiana	\$100,000
Lutheran Services in Iowa, Inc.	Iowa	\$100,000
Cultivating Community	Maine	\$100,000
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska	Nebraska	\$100,000
Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success	New Hampshire	\$100,000
Journeys End Refugee Services	New York	\$100,000
Our Harvest Cooperative	Ohio	\$100,000
Southside Community Land Trust	Rhode Island	\$99,865
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.	Virginia	\$300,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Washington	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,699,820</b>

Table II-16: FY 2021 Preferred Communities Award Recipients

Recipient	State	Award Amount
United States Conference Of Catholic Bishops	District of Columbia	\$2,250,000
World Relief Corporation of National Association of Evangelicals	Maryland	\$1,448,745
HIAS, Inc.	Maryland	\$1,910,000
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Inc.	Maryland	\$2,250,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	New York	\$2,250,000
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA	New York	\$1,277,587
Church World Service, Inc.	North Carolina	\$2,197,002
Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.	Virginia	\$1,747,476
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.	Virginia	\$2,224,741
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$17,555,551</b>

Table II-17: FY 2021 Youth Mentoring Award Recipients

State	Amount
Alaska (Catholic Social Services, Inc.)	\$35,000
Arizona	\$340,885
Arkansas (Canopy)	\$35,000
California	\$605,000
Colorado	\$194,918
Connecticut	\$75,000
District Of Columbia	\$45,000
Florida	\$755,000
Georgia	\$258,120
Idaho (Jannus)	\$100,000

Illinois	\$235,813
Indiana	\$100,115
Iowa	\$110,914
Kansas (International Refugee Committee, Inc)	\$100,000
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$283,525
Louisiana (Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge)	\$50,000
Maine (Catholic Charities Maine)	\$50,000
Maryland	\$301,405
Massachusetts	\$145,790
Michigan	\$273,788
Minnesota	\$161,723
Missouri (International Institute of St. Louis)	\$139,417
Montana	\$40,000
Nebraska	\$100,000
Nevada (Catholic Charities Diocese of Southern Nevada)	\$126,758
New Hampshire	\$65,000
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$106,222
New Mexico	\$50,000
New York	\$504,376
North Carolina	\$211,117
North Dakota	\$106,250
Ohio	\$238,734
Oklahoma	\$65,000
Oregon	\$101,177
Pennsylvania	\$244,311
Rhode Island	\$45,000
South Carolina	\$50,000
South Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota)	\$45,000
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$135,345
Texas (International Refugee Committee)	\$41,649
Texas (Catholic Charities Fort Worth)	\$174,130
Texas (Refugee Services of Texas)	\$196,605
Texas (YMCA of Greater Houston)	\$292,616
Utah	\$106,665
Vermont	\$45,000
Virginia	\$358,500
Washington	\$450,382
Wisconsin	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,396,250</b>



Table II-18: FY 2021 Refugee School Impact Award Recipients

State	Amount
Arizona	\$616,335
California	\$1,040,000
Colorado	\$317,410
Connecticut	\$106,684
Florida	\$1,020,000
Georgia	\$508,595
Idaho (Jannus)	\$214,951
Illinois	\$406,137
Indiana	\$253,505
Iowa	\$274,103
Kansas (International Refugee Committee, Inc.)	\$184,848
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$581,302
Louisiana (Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge)	\$85,000
Maine (Catholic Charities Maine)	\$100,000
Maryland	\$495,392
Massachusetts	\$222,345
Michigan	\$507,539
Minnesota	\$372,864
Missouri (International Institute of St. Louis)	\$272,518
Nebraska	\$183,263
Nevada (Catholic Charities Diocese of Southern Nevada)	\$166,363
New Hampshire	\$100,000
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$141,012
New Mexico	\$100,000
New York	\$971,771
North Carolina	\$444,163
North Dakota	\$85,500
Ohio	\$559,296
Oklahoma	\$100,000
Oregon	\$238,718
Pennsylvania	\$462,119
Rhode Island	\$75,000
South Carolina	\$100,000
South Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota)	\$100,000
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$305,791
Texas (USCCB)	\$1,040,000
Utah	\$235,549
Vermont	\$100,000
Virginia	\$679,183

Washington	\$858,750
Wisconsin	\$209,494
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,835,500</b>

Table II-19: FY 2021 Services to Older Refugees Award Recipients

<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Arizona	\$129,570
California	\$375,000
Colorado	\$92,899
Connecticut	\$75,000
Florida	\$300,000
Georgia	\$91,677
Idaho (Jannus)	\$85,000
Illinois	\$179,686
Indiana	\$85,000
Iowa	\$85,000
Kansas (International Refugee Committee, Inc.)	\$75,000
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$134,459
Louisiana (Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge)	\$75,000
Maine (Catholic Charities Maine)	\$75,000
Maryland	\$85,000
Massachusetts	\$85,000
Michigan	\$266,473
Minnesota	\$145,460
Missouri (International Institute of St. Louis)	\$85,000
Nebraska	\$75,000
Nevada	\$75,000
New Hampshire	\$75,000
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee, Inc)	\$85,000
New York	\$253,028
North Carolina	\$99,011
North Dakota-	\$56,250
Ohio	\$169,907
Oklahoma	\$75,000
Oregon	\$92,899
Pennsylvania	\$111,234
South Carolina	\$75,000
South Dakota-(Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota)	\$75,000
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$111,234
Texas (Catholic Charities Forth Worth)	\$137,772
Texas (Refugee Services of Texas)	\$40,625
Texas (YMCA of Greater Houston)	\$146,603
Utah	\$75,000

Vermont	\$75,000
Virginia	\$167,463
Washington	\$300,000
Wisconsin	\$85,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,981,250</b>

# Appendix B

# Technical Notes about the Annual Survey of Refugees

## History and Purpose of the ASR

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) completed the 2021 Annual Survey of Refugees (2021 ASR) in the first quarter of 2022. Respondents to this cross-sectional study were drawn from the population of refugees who arrived in the United States between October 1, 2015, and September 30, 2020 (federal fiscal years (FYs) 2016 and 2020). At the time of the survey, eligible refugees had lived in the United States between 1.5 and 6.5 years.

For each eligible adult member of the households responding to the survey, the ASR collects basic demographic information such as age, country of origin, level of education, English language proficiency and training, job training, labor force participation, work experience, and barriers to employment. Other data are collected by household/family unit, including information on housing, income, and utilization of public benefits.

Interviews for 2021 ASR were conducted over 14 weeks from January to April 2022. The 2021 ASR was administered by The Urban Institute and surveys were overseen by its subcontractor, Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS).

## Improvements in ASR

The ASR focuses on recently arrived refugee households, tracking their economic progress during their first five years in the United States. In 2016, ORR began a multiyear effort to improve the quality and efficiency of the ASR. Key changes included the following:

- **Fresh cross-sectional sample.**  
Prior to 2016, the ASR employed a longitudinal-panel design, following refugee households for their first five years in the United States. To improve the representativeness of data and quality of point-in-time estimates, 2016–2021 ASRs drew a fresh cross-sectional sample of refugee households arriving in the prior 5 federal fiscal years.
- **Alignment to federal fiscal year.**  
For administrative efficiency and ease of interpretation, 2016–2021 ASRs sampled refugees entering in the previous five fiscal years. Sampled refugees arrived between 1.5 and 6.5 years prior to the date of survey. In previous surveys, refugees had been in the United States between eight months and five years.

- **Improvements in administration and post-processing.**

All 2016–2021 ASR interviews were performed via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) to reduce data entry errors and facilitate survey administration. Survey respondents were matched to administrative data to verify that only eligible refugees were included and ensure that estimates are representative of the target population.

- **Enhancement in survey instrument.**

A revised questionnaire developed through a multi-year design process was launched during 2020 ASR. The new ASR survey instrument will more effectively capture refugee self-sufficiency and integration by collecting information on additional factors affecting resettlement experiences, such as experiences before arrival, social connection, wellbeing and reception, health, and other topics.

Due to these revisions in study design and survey administration, *estimates prior to the 2016 ASR are not directly comparable to the 2016 ASR and later ASR surveys. The 2016 ASR and later ASR surveys are directly comparable.*

## Sampling and Non-Response

The 2021 ASR sample was drawn as fresh cross-sections within three arrival cohorts (FY 2020, FY 2018–FY 2019, and FY 2016–FY 2017). The goal was to contact 500 households per cohort to prioritize the statistical precision of cohort estimates. The 2021 ASR field effort resulted in 1,502 completed household interviews, representing 3,085 eligible refugee adults.

The sample was drawn from ORR’s Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS) administrative records on principal applicants (PAs), the individuals whose refugee case is the basis for admission to the United States. Approximately 20 percent of PAs arrive in the United States alone. The remainder are accompanied by family members (Table III-2).

An important design challenge for the ASR is meeting the linguistic needs of refugee respondents. Administrative data from RADS show that refugees entering the United States during FY 2016–FY 2020 spoke 234 non-English languages. The 2021 ASR was offered in English and 19 other languages, covering 78 percent of refugees entering during the survey period. The remaining 22 percent of refugees (speaking an additional 215 languages) were intentionally excluded from the sample frame for reasons of feasibility.

The 2021 ASR employed a stratified probability sample. PA cases were first stratified by arrival cohort. Within cohort, cases were then stratified by the following factors: year of arrival (for cohorts one and two only), geographic sending region, native language, age group, gender, and household size (family size at arrival: 1, 2, and 3+ persons). Using these factors, the survey employed proportionate stratified sampling within cohorts to ensure the sample was representative of the refugee population.

Table III-1 provides information on the final sample size and cohort-specific response rates for the 2021 ASR. The overall response rate was 19 percent. While substantial resources are dedicated to obtaining valid contact information for all members of the target sample, as in past years, the majority of non-response to 2021 ASR is due to insufficient or outdated contact information. The response rate was largely driven by the inability to locate or speak to 81 percent of sampled individuals.

Table III-1: Arrival Time Frames, Cohort Years, and ASR 2021 Cohort N Response Rate

ASR Cohort	Time of Arrival	Years in U.S. at time of survey administration	Sample N	N Responded	Response Rate
(1) FY2020	Oct 1, 2018 – Sept. 30, 2019	1.5 to 2.5 years	1,575	500	32%
(2) FY2018-FY2019	Oct 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2018	2.5 to 4.5 years	2,399	501	21%
(3) FY2016-FY2017	Oct 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2016	4.5 years to 6.5 years	3,813	501	13%

Table III-2: Comparing 2021 ASR and Refugee Arrivals Data System (RADS) Administrative Estimates to Demonstrate Post Stratification Weighting, by Arrival Cohort

Individuals	FY2016-FY2017		FY2018-FY2019		FY2020		Total	
Years in U.S. at time of survey administration	4.5 to 6.5		2.5 to 4.5		1.5 to 2.5			
	RADS	ASR	RADS	ASR	RADS	ASR	RADS	ASR
Individuals Aged 16 or Older	104,741	1,038	36,852	1,030	8,112	1,017	149,705	3,085
<b>Region of Origin</b>								
Africa	36.5	32.5	49.6	48.1	34.3	34.1	39.6	36.7
East Asia	12.5	12.4	16.0	16.7	16.1	17.6	13.6	13.9
Europe	6.7	7.5	16.7	17.2	22.5	22.2	10.0	10.9
Latin America	2.5	2.6	3.7	3.6	8.7	9.6	3.1	3.3
Near East/South Asia	41.8	44.9	14.1	14.4	18.3	16.5	33.7	35.2
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	49.7	49.5	49.5	51.4	48.0	47.2	49.6	49.9
Female	50.3	50.5	50.5	48.6	52.0	52.8	50.4	50.1
<b>Age at Arrival</b>								
0-15	20.6	22.3	13.8	13.2	7.1	6.5	18.2	19.0
16-24	23.8	22.4	27.3	23.9	25.6	29.8	24.8	23.2
25-39	33.0	31.8	35.2	40.4	41.6	37.3	34.0	34.4
40-54	15.0	15.6	15.1	14.4	16.1	17.0	15.1	15.4
55+	7.6	7.9	8.7	8.1	9.5	9.4	8.0	8.0
<b>Family Size at Arrival</b>								
1	23.8	22.1	28.9	30.4	32.2	39.3	25.5	25.3
2	10.3	10.9	11.6	11.9	13.7	13.5	10.8	11.3

3	12.4	13.1	12.0	10.8	13.0	12.2	12.3	12.5
4	14.1	14.6	12.8	12.9	14.3	9.5	13.8	13.8
5+	39.5	39.2	34.7	34.0	26.8	25.5	37.6	37.0
<b>Primary Language</b>								
Arabic	23.3	25.3	3.0	1.8	9.0	11.6	17.6	18.3
Somali	6.3	7.1	13.6	8.6	5.9	2.2	8.1	7.2
Kiswahili	9.8	10.8	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.9	7.2	7.6
Nepali	7.3	7.3	4.8	6.8	0.1	0.0	6.3	6.8
Ukrainian	3.2	3.0	9.9	11.3	10.1	10.4	5.2	5.6
Other	50.2	46.5	67.5	70.6	73.4	74.0	55.7	54.4
<b>U.S. Region of Resettlement</b>								
Northeast	15.4	14.1	15.1	16.8	15.2	11.8	15.3	14.6
Midwest	28.1	30.6	28.1	24.4	24.0	25.2	27.9	28.6
South	29.8	28.6	30.5	33.0	28.6	24.5	29.9	29.5
West	26.8	26.8	26.3	25.8	32.3	38.5	27.0	27.2