

## The Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP)

The Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) began in 1978 as the Indo-Chinese Refugee Program, and took its present form through participation in the United States Refugee Resettlement Program as established by the Refugee Act of 1980. Since 1978, over 70,000 refugees and other eligible beneficiaries have made Arizona home.

In The Refugee Act of 1980, Congress codified and strengthened the United States' historic policy of aiding individuals fleeing persecution in their homelands. A "refugee" is primarily defined in the Immigration and Nationality Act as:

*“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 who is unable or unwilling to return, and 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.”*

In addition to refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, certain Amerasians, Afghani and Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa holders, and victims of severe forms of human trafficking are among the other beneficiaries eligible for Office of Refugee Resettlement assistance and services.

Three federal agencies play key roles in the United States (U.S.) Refugee Resettlement Program, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the U.S. Department State (DOS), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

- DHS has statutory authority to determine which applicants meet the requirements for refugee status and are admissible under U.S. law. Refugees undergo a thorough interview, extensive background and security checks, and a medical examination prior to admission. Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of admission under a process that includes involvement of DHS, the National Counterterrorism Center, the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, the Department of Defense, and other agencies.
- DOS, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration coordinates resettlement policy, overseas processing, cultural orientation, transportation to the U.S., and the Reception and Placement Program for newly arrived refugees.



- DHHS, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is responsible for the domestic program of refugee resettlement services - including cash and medical assistance and a broad range of social services.

The Governor, in compliance with 45 CFR Part 400 § 400.5, designated the Department of Economic Security as the single state agency responsible for the administration of the state's refugee resettlement program, managed under the State Refugee Coordinator. In accordance with the Refugee Act of 1980, the State Refugee Coordinator has the statutory responsibility and authority to ensure coordination of public and private resources in refugee resettlement in the state.

RRP is 100 percent funded by ORR and the Corporation for National and Community Services.

Pursuant to the Refugee Act of 1980, the U.S. Refugee Program's purpose is to effectively resettle refugees and assist them with achieving economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the U.S. Towards this end, RRP coordinates public and private resources to support refugees' journey on the path to becoming successful and contributing members of their new home and country.

The Refugee Act also requires that all federally funded state administered refugee resettlement assistance focus on employment-related services, English language training (in non-work hours where possible), and case management services. Towards this end, RRP funds specialized linguistically compatible and culturally responsive services and coordinates public and private resources to support refugees' journey on the path to becoming successful and contributing Americans.

With the exception of Refugee Medical Assistance, RRP contracts with public and private agencies to provide direct refugee-specific services to refugees and other eligible beneficiaries. All refugees and other eligible beneficiaries must provide appropriate immigration or authorizing documentation to be determined eligible for services.

## **RRP FUNDED SERVICE AREAS**

### **Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)**

A federally-funded, eight month maximum need-based cash benefit for refugees and other eligible beneficiaries otherwise not eligible for such public assistance as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

### **Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)**

A federally-funded, eight month maximum health benefit for refugees and other eligible beneficiaries otherwise not eligible for AHCCCS (Arizona Medicaid).

RMA also covers the U.S. Domestic Medical Examination for Newly Arriving Refugees that initiates surveillance activities to monitor medical conditions identified post-arrival and ensuring adequate follow up of refugees with medical conditions identified overseas.

### **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program**

Linguistically and culturally appropriate foster care designed to meet the needs of refugee children identified overseas by the U.S. Department of State without a parent or guardian and who are eligible for resettlement in the U.S., as well as other eligible children whose circumstances require foster care when family care is unavailable. The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act extends Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program eligibility to certain special immigrant juveniles (Special Juvenile Immigrant Status) and to unaccompanied minors with U (Victims of Crime) visas.

### **Refugee Program**

Linguistically appropriate and culturally responsive refugee employment and case management services intended to best serve refugees with effective resettlement and achieving economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after their arrival in the United States. Services are prioritized by need categories and available for up to five years of an eligible beneficiary's arrival or grant of legal status in the United States.

### **English Language Training**

English language training consistent with the National Teaching English as Second Language (TESOL) Standards that focuses on helping refugees acquire English skills necessary for obtaining and retaining employment. Services are available for up to five years of an eligible beneficiary's arrival or grant of legal status in the United States

## **Refugee Health Promotion**

Establishes Adjustment Support Groups for newly arrived refugees that take into consideration the challenges of resettlement, introduce integrated health concepts, provide inviting spaces for social support and expression, integrate with existing Ethnic Community-Based Organizations and other refugee groups, and provide an opportunity for recognition and referral to behavioral health services when appropriate. These services are available for up to five years of an eligible beneficiary's arrival or grant of legal status in the United States.

## **Cuban and Haitian Refugees and Entrants**

Specialized case management, employment assistance and adjustment support for Cuban and Haitian refugees and entrants, particularly with a focus on entrants. These services are available for up to five years of an eligible beneficiary's arrival or grant of legal status in the United States.

## **Services to Older Refugees**

Educational and case management services and socio-cultural opportunities for elder refugees, including assistance with acquiring U.S. Citizenship. ("Elder" is defined as age 60 years of age and older). These services are available until U.S. naturalization.

## **Refugee School Impact Services**

Supports a broad array of educational needs of refugee children in Arizona Public schools (K-12) towards their meeting and exceeding Arizona's state academic standards, through such linguistically and culturally appropriate efforts as supplemental English language development, after-school tutorials, focused high school completion and parental involvement programs. Eligibility is for refugee school age children 5 to 18 years of age, who have been in the U.S. for three years or less.

## **Ethnic Community-Based Organizations Project**

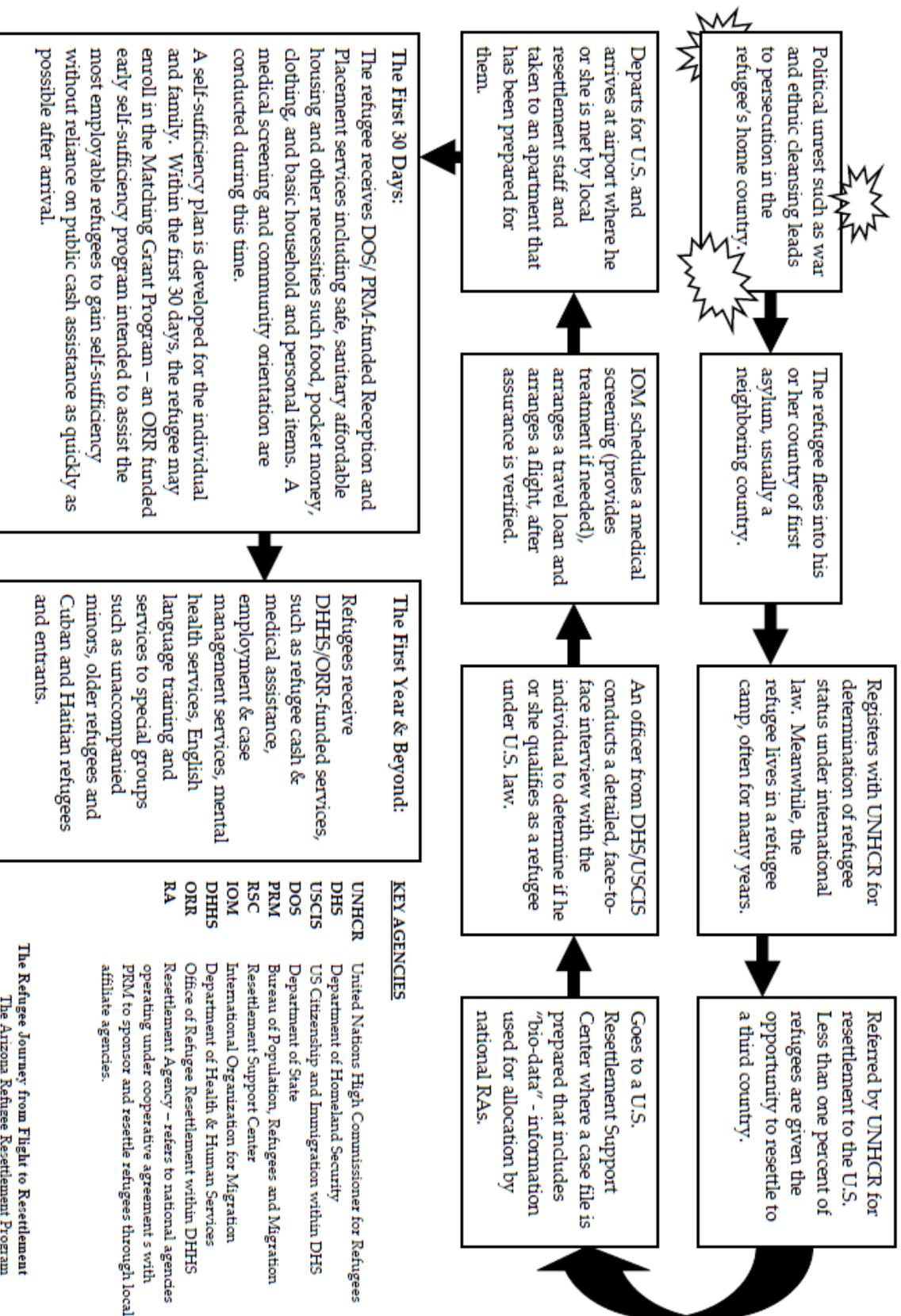
The Project offers technical assistance to participating ethnic community-based organizations for capacity-building project plans; design and implementation of the program, project and activities to support refugees' successful resettlement; and the creation and efforts of the New American Initiatives Consortium.

## **AmeriCorps VISTA Project**

A partnership with AmeriCorps VISTA to support non-profit agencies in Central and Southern Arizona with designing and developing sustainable projects that promote and enhance effective refugee resettlement and integration. The projects range in scope from employment readiness and prevention programs to naturalization preparation.

**For more information visit: [www.azdes.gov/refugee\\_resettlement](http://www.azdes.gov/refugee_resettlement)**

## The Refugee Journey from Flight to Resettlement



### KEY AGENCIES

- UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- DHS Department of Homeland Security
- USCIS US Citizenship and Immigration within DHS
- DOS Department of State
- PRM Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
- RSC Resettlement Support Center
- IOM International Organization for Migration
- DHHS Department of Health & Human Services
- ORR Office of Refugee Resettlement within DHHS
- RA Resettlement Agency - refers to national agencies operating under cooperative agreements with PRM to sponsor and resettle refugees through local affiliate agencies.

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