

# ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

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Office of Refugee Resettlement

Fiscal Year 2019



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

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## Executive Summary

The Annual Report to Congress for fiscal year (FY) 2019 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 funding level for the Refugee Resettlement Program, which is part of a lump sum appropriation, was \$575,201,000.
- In FY 2019, ORR served 30,000 refugee arrivals from 76 countries. The most common country of birth<sup>1</sup> for refugees was the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Refugees arrived in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Texas and Washington resettled the largest number of refugees.
- The Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program served 1,965 youth, including 346 new enrollees.

### Unaccompanied Children Program

- ORR's funding level for the Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program, which is part of a lump sum appropriation, was \$1,303,245,000.<sup>2</sup>
- ORR served 69,488 UC referred to its care by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- The majority of UC placed in ORR custody were from three Central American countries: Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.
- ORR released UC to sponsors residing in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

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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> The amount is the enacted appropriations level. Funding levels do not include any prior year funding or transfers to ORR available during FY 2019.

## Policy, Research, and Evaluation

- ORR conducted onsite and desk monitoring of refugee programs in 36 states.
- ORR completed the Annual Survey of Refugees, which tracks the progress that refugees make toward achieving self-sufficiency and integration during their first 5 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.
- 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 programs in order to better support evidence-based decision-making, performance management, and evaluation.

## 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>3</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 5 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 5 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>3</sup> See Pub. L. 96-212, 8 U.S.C. § 1523.

Additionally, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008<sup>4</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>4</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(6)(D).

# Appropriations

The total enacted appropriation for ORR in FY 2019 was \$1,878,446,000. This includes \$575,201,000 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 2019 ORR Funding by Program<sup>5</sup>

Program	Amount
Transitional and Medical Services	\$354,000,000
Cash and Medical Assistance	
Wilson/Fish Program	
Matching Grant	
Refugee Support Services	\$207,201,000
Ethnic Community Self-Help Program	
Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Program	
Individual Development Account Program	
Microenterprise Development Program	
Preferred Communities Program	
Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program	
Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Program	
Refugee Mental Health Technical Assistance Project	
Refugee School Impact Program	
Services to Older Refugees Program	
Technical Assistance Grants	
Refugee Health Promotion Program	
Survivors of Torture Program	\$14,000,000
Unaccompanied Children Program	\$1,303,245,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,878,446,000</b>

<sup>5</sup> The amount is the enacted appropriation level. Funding levels do not include any prior year funding or transfers to ORR available during FY 2019.



# 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, certain Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, Amerasians, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, youth with Special Immigrant Juvenile status, and Unaccompanied Children (UC). ORR promotes their economic and social well-being by providing these arrived populations 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 populations served by the program achieve economic self-sufficiency through ORR-funded employment services. Employment services equip ORR-served populations with skills, knowledge, and opportunities to succeed in the U.S. labor market. Social service programs build on the strengths of ORR-served populations as they continue on the path to becoming fully integrated members of their communities.

ORR also cares for UC who are without lawful immigration status and without a parent or legal guardian. The 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 2019

In fiscal year (FY) 2019, a cross-divisional ORR team developed ORR's first learning agenda. A learning agenda helps an agency strategically identify and prioritize areas of learning and research relevant to the agency's mission. The research and evaluation conducted from learning agendas inform program development and implementation strategies, policy-making, and further research and evaluation.

In FY 2019, ORR provided guidance to grantees on the requirements of a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP). ORR regulations at 400.156(g) require an FSSP for refugees receiving employment-related services funded by the Refugee Support Services (RSS) program. A Family Self-Sufficiency Plan is defined in 45 C.F.R. § 400.71 as "a plan that addresses the employment-related service needs of the employable members in a family for the purpose of enabling the family to become self-supporting through the employment of one or more family members."

Finally, in FY 2019, ORR transitioned its refugee technical assistance (TA) program from a multi-provider program to a single TA provider to serve as a one-stop source, or "hub," for refugee-related TA, training, information, resources, and research. The International Rescue

Committee’s Switchboard program was selected to provide this support to all ORR-funded refugee service providers and grantees for the FY 2019–FY 2022 project period. Additional information on Switchboard is provided in the Refugee Resettlement Program section below.

On the UC side, referrals in FY 2019 set a new record for the program with 69,488 children referred to ORR. Of those children, 10,875 (or 15.7 percent) were age 12 or younger.

## **The Annual Survey of Refugees**

Since 1980, ORR has conducted the Annual Survey of Refugees (ASR) in order to provide data for its annual report to Congress and also 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 2019 ASR highlights refugees’ progress toward self-sufficiency during their initial 5 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 2019 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.

Respondents to the ASR were drawn from the population of refugees arriving in the United States during the 5 preceding federal FYs, 2014–2018 (October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2018). At the time of the survey field period, eligible refugees had lived in the United States between 1.5 years and 6.5 years.

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 2014 entrants in first quarter of 2020 are not a clear prediction of what FY 2018 entrants will achieve after five years in the United States. Each entry cohort’s family composition, education, language skills, work experience, and community placement may all shape its trajectory in the United States.

The 2019 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>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> See Appendix B for more information on the ASR, including important information about data quality.

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 ASR is indicated with a “Results from the FY 2019 ASR” flag to differentiate the information from the program updates.

### **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 2014 through FY 2018. 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 and nonprofit agencies administer grants that provide refugees and other ORR-served populations time-limited health coverage, cash assistance, employment services, and English language training to facilitate both their initial resettlement and successful transition to life in the United States. ORR provides funding to ethnic and other community-based organizations, nonprofit agencies, and resettlement agencies for additional specialized programs that further promote employment, economic development, and integration.

## Profile of Populations

ORR's Refugee Resettlement Program serves refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, certain Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, Amerasians, and victims of trafficking. All of these populations are eligible for ORR refugee benefits and services.<sup>7</sup> In FY 2019, 119,398 new arrivals were eligible for ORR refugee benefits and services. Refugees and asylees accounted for 25 percent and 41 percent of these arrivals, respectively.

Table 1: Number of Arrivals Eligible for ORR Refugee Benefits and Services in FY 2019

Population	Number	Percentage of Total Arrivals
Refugees	30,000	25%
Asylees	49,226	41%
Cuban and Haitian Entrants	28,414	24%
Special Immigrant Visa Holders	10,541	9%
Victims of Trafficking	1,217	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>119,398</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

**Source.** ORR's Refugee Arrivals Data System. Data as of October 22, 2020.

## Populations Served by ORR

### 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

<sup>7</sup> Unless otherwise noted in this report, ORR uses the terms "refugee" and "ORR population" to describe all populations eligible to receive ORR refugee services and benefits.

persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.<sup>8</sup>

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. Resettlement agencies and ORR then support their longer-term resettlement and integration into the United States. 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 naturalized citizens after 5 years.

### **Asylees**

Asylees do not enter the United States as refugees, but may enter on their own as students, tourists, business professionals, or as unauthorized individuals. Each asylee must meet the legal definition of a refugee to qualify for a grant of asylum.<sup>9</sup> Once in the United States, or at a land border or port of entry, they apply for asylum. Asylees are eligible for ORR refugee benefits and services beginning on the date of the final grant of asylum.

### **Cuban and Haitian Entrants**

Cuban and Haitian entrants<sup>10</sup> are Cuban or Haitian nationals who are granted parole status as a Cuban/Haitian entrant,<sup>11</sup> or are in removal proceedings,<sup>12</sup> or have an application for asylum pending and with respect to whom no final, nonappealable, 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 first month in which an 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.

### **Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holders**

Iraqi and Afghan SIV holders 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 them SIVs overseas, then DHS admits them to the United States in the status of Iraqi or Afghan Special

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

<sup>9</sup> Asylum procedures are outlined in the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1158).

<sup>10</sup> See Pub. L. 96-422 for ORR authorities related to Cuban and Haitian entrants.

<sup>11</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>12</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.

Immigrant.<sup>13</sup> As with refugees, the Department of State, in conjunction with the resettlement agencies and ORR, assists with the resettlement and integration of SIV holders into the United States. Iraqi and Afghan SIV holders are eligible for ORR refugee benefits and services from the first day they arrive 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>14</sup> Amerasians are eligible for ORR refugee benefits and services beginning on the date of their entry into 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 and their families are eligible for federal and state benefits and services to the same extent as a refugee.<sup>15</sup> Eligibility for ORR-funded benefits for victims of trafficking begins on the effective date in the certification or letter of eligibility.

## **Refugee Arrivals**

ORR served 30,000 refugee arrivals from 76 countries in FY 2019. The top 15 countries accounted for 95 percent of refugee admissions. The most common country of origin for refugees in FY 2019 was the Democratic Republic of Congo, which accounted for 43 percent of admissions. Figure 1 provides refugee admissions for FY 2019 by country for the top 15 countries. (Figure 1 and Table 3 do not contain other categories of ORR-served populations.)

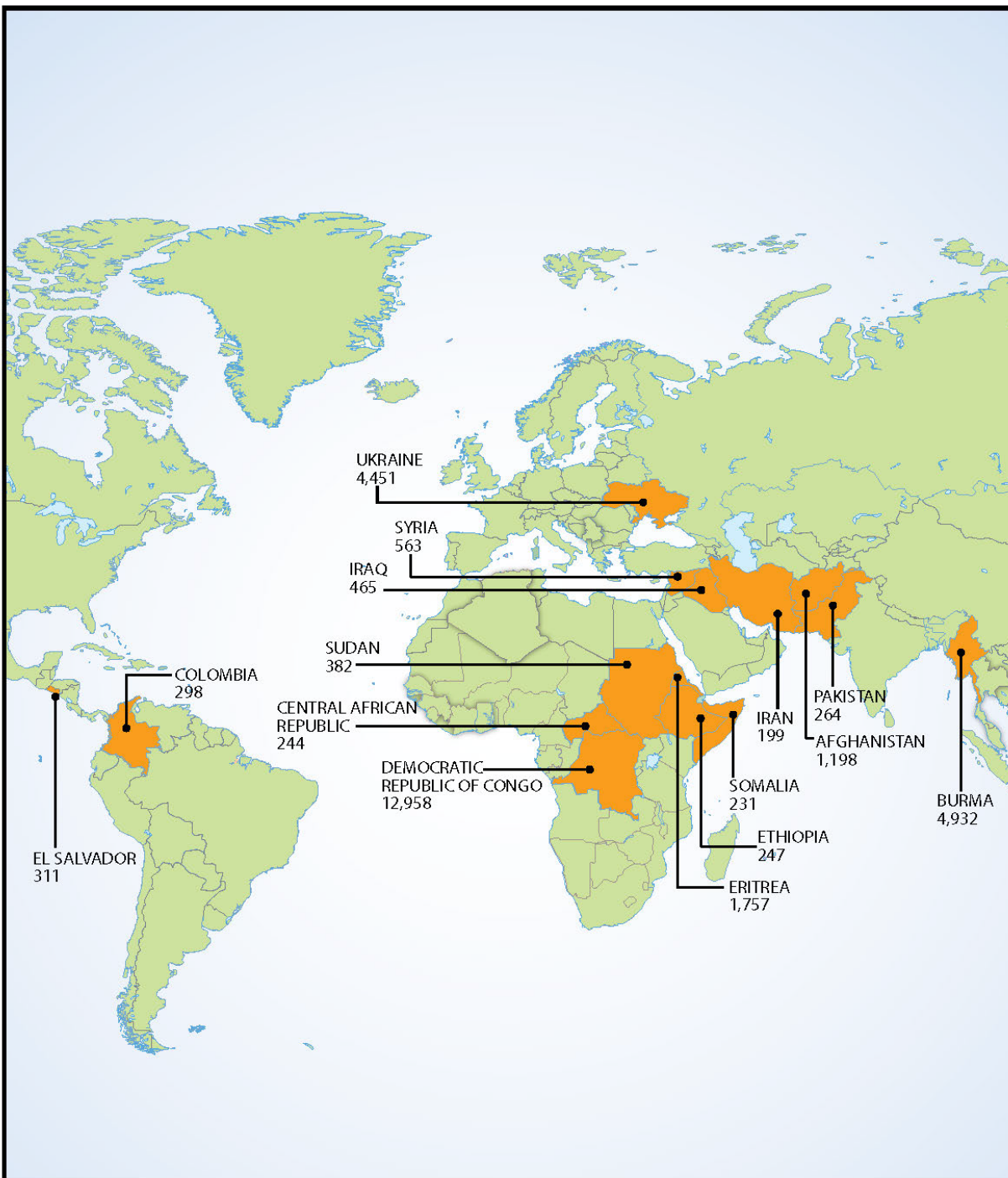
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<sup>13</sup> Iraqi and Afghan SIVs became eligible for refugee benefits and services for up to 6 months pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-161). Iraqi and Afghan refugee SIVs became eligible for ORR benefits and services for the same time period as refugees (up to 8 months) with the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. 111-118).

<sup>14</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>15</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).

Figure 1: FY 2019 Refugee Admissions by Country, Top 15 Countries



Source: U.S. Department of State's Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System

In FY 2019, refugees arrived in the District of Columbia and every state, with the exception of Hawaii and Wyoming.<sup>16</sup> Texas and Washington resettled the largest number of refugees, representing more than 8 percent and more than 6 percent of total admissions, respectively. Table 3 provides the FY 2019 refugee arrivals by state.

**Table 2: Refugees by State of Arrival in FY 2019**

<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Refugees</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Number of Refugees</b>
Alabama	22	0.07%
Alaska	48	0.16%
Arizona	1,229	4.10%
Arkansas	46	0.15%
California	1,852	6.17%
Colorado	632	2.11%
Connecticut	148	0.49%
Delaware	4	0.01%
District of Columbia	4	0.01%
Florida	671	2.24%
Georgia	1,188	3.96%
Idaho	520	1.73%
Illinois	1,000	3.33%
Indiana	869	2.90%
Iowa	737	2.46%
Kansas	402	1.34%
Kentucky	1,420	4.73%
Louisiana	14	0.05%
Maine	140	0.47%
Maryland	765	2.55%
Massachusetts	523	1.74%
Michigan	1,140	3.80%
Minnesota	847	2.82%
Mississippi	10	0.03%
Missouri	677	2.26%
Montana	103	0.34%
Nebraska	439	1.46%
Nevada	224	0.75%
New Hampshire	253	0.84%
New Jersey	250	0.83%
New Mexico	134	0.45%

<sup>16</sup> Wyoming does not have a Refugee Resettlement Program, and no refugees arrived to the state of Hawaii in FY 2019.



State	Number of Refugees	Percentage of Total Number of Refugees
New York	1,834	6.11%
North Carolina	1,258	4.19%
North Dakota	127	0.42%
Ohio	1,410	4.70%
Oklahoma	223	0.74%
Oregon	555	1.85%
Pennsylvania	1,090	3.63%
Rhode Island	89	0.30%
South Carolina	195	0.65%
South Dakota	129	0.43%
Tennessee	654	2.18%
Texas	2,453	8.18%
Utah	466	1.55%
Vermont	114	0.38%
Virginia	555	1.85%
Washington	1,939	6.46%
West Virginia	2	0.01%
Wisconsin	596	1.99%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note.** Wyoming does not have a refugee resettlement program, and no refugees arrived to the state of Hawaii in FY 2019.

**Source.** U.S. Department of State's Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System.

Table 4 lists the 10 states that received the most refugee arrivals.

**Table 3: Top 10 States for FY 2019 Refugee Arrivals**

State	Number of Refugees	Total State Population
Texas	2,453	28,995,881
Washington	1,939	7,614,893
California	1,852	39,512,223
New York	1,834	19,453,561
Kentucky	1,420	4,467,673
Ohio	1,410	11,689,100
North Carolina	1,258	10,488,084
Arizona	1,229	7,278,717
Georgia	1,188	10,617,423
Michigan	1,140	9,986,857

**Source.** U.S. Department of State's Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System; U.S. Census Bureau: 2019 National and State Population Estimates.

## Program Administration

ORR allocates funds to states and private, nonprofit organizations to provide cash and medical assistance and support services to eligible populations. Each state, regardless of the administration structure, has a state refugee coordinator and, in most cases, a state refugee health coordinator, who oversees the administration and coordination of these services.

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

1. **Publicly Administered Programs** — Federal resettlement assistance and programming for refugees is primarily publicly administered by state governments. States administer the provision of transitional cash and medical assistance and support services to help refugees obtain employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency and social integration as quickly as possible.
2. **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** — The PPP option enables states to enter into formal partnerships with local affiliates of national resettlement agencies for the provision of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA).<sup>17</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 a PPP model are to create a more effective and better 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>18</sup> During FY 2019 three states operated a PPP Program: Maryland, Minnesota, and Oklahoma.
3. **Privately Administered Programs (Replacement Designees)** — ORR regulations authorize the ORR director to designate a replacement agency to maintain services in the event a state requests to withdraw from administering some or all of the refugee resettlement program. The replacement designee provides the same benefits and services and is subject to the same requirements as a state; its RCA administration is similar to that of a PPP.

In FY 2019, there were replacement designees (RDs) administering the Refugee Resettlement Program in the states of Kansas, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, and Texas (which has four regional RDs).

A medical replacement designee, the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, administered all or part of the health-related elements of the Refugee

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<sup>17</sup> See 45 C.F.R. § 400.56.

<sup>18</sup> See 45 C.F.R. § 400.57.

Resettlement Program in Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas during FY 2019.

In FY 2019, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops served as the replacement designee for the URM and Refugee School Impact (RSI) Programs in Texas.

4. **Wilson/Fish (WF) Alternative Program** — Under this discretionary program, a state government or a private, nonprofit organization applied and was selected by ORR to administer a nontraditional form of cash assistance as well as the service components of the Refugee Resettlement Program within a specific state. In 1984, Senator Pete Wilson of California and Congressman Hamilton Fish of New York sponsored an amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow state and federal agencies to coordinate pilot programs tailored to the requirements of the local communities that were resettling refugees. The amendment was designed to encourage refugee self-sufficiency and employment and avoid dependence on public benefits.<sup>19</sup>

In most WF Programs, private nonprofit organizations, as opposed to states, apply for grants to run the Refugee Resettlement Program. In some cases, a state may elect to use the WF model if it determines the traditional Refugee Resettlement Program is not the best mechanism to meet the needs of ORR-served populations in the state.<sup>20</sup> Colorado and Massachusetts have elected to implement a WF Program in their states instead of the traditional Refugee Resettlement Program.

The WF Program promotes coordination among resettlement agencies and emphasizes early employment and self-sufficiency through the following strategies:

- Creating a “front-loaded” service system, which provides intensive services to ORR-served populations in the early months after arrival;
- Integrating case management, cash assistance, and employment services under a single agency that is culturally and linguistically equipped to work with refugees and other ORR-served populations; and
- Using innovative strategies for the provision of cash assistance, including incentives, bonuses, and disregarding employment earnings from eligibility determinations for a limited time, which are tied directly to the achievement of employment goals outlined in client self-sufficiency plans.

In FY 2019, ORR awarded \$18,035,513 to 12 statewide WF Programs in Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Vermont and to one county program in San Diego,

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<sup>19</sup> See 130 Cong. Rec. 28,363 (October 2, 1984).

<sup>20</sup> The Wilson/Fish Amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the use of alternative programs in the provision of refugee resettlement assistance and services (Pub. L. 98-473; 8 U.S.C. § 1522(e)(7)).

California. Table II-1 in Appendix A shows the FY 2019 WF grantees; Table II-2 shows state oversight for FY 2019.

## Core Benefits and Services

ORR's core benefits and services assist refugees and other ORR-served populations to successfully resettle and achieve self-sufficiency. Grantees 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 eligible ORR-served populations through Cash and Medical Assistance (CMA) grants to states and RDs. CMA grants provide cash assistance, health coverage, and domestic medical screenings to identify and treat medical conditions and diseases of public health concern.<sup>21</sup> CMA also provides funding for the URM Program.

ORR-served populations are eligible to qualify for the same federal benefits as U.S. citizens, with some limits.<sup>22 23</sup> These federal benefits include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Table II-3 in Appendix A shows CMA grantees.



## *Results from the Annual Survey of Refugees*

### *Core Benefits and Services*

Table 5 presents information about refugee households' receipt of public benefits in the year prior to the survey. Table 5 displays estimates for the whole population entering between FY 2014 and FY 2018 and estimates of benefits use for arrival cohorts.

Estimates presented in Table 5 show that 21.6 (+/-2.6) percent of refugee households reported receiving cash assistance in the year prior to the survey from at least one source: TANF, RCA,

<sup>21</sup> In 12 states and 1 county, some or all of these benefits and services are provided through the Wilson-Fish Alternative Program: Alabama, Alaska, California (San Diego County only) Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Vermont.

<sup>22</sup> The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (Pub. L. 104-193; 8 U.S.C. § 1612) establishes eligibility restrictions for federal benefits.

<sup>23</sup> Refugees, asylees, aliens whose deportation is being withheld, Amerasians, and Cuban/Haitian entrants are eligible for SSI, SNAP, and Medicaid for 7 years and TANF for 5 years after the date of entry or grant of status unless naturalized. See 8 U.S.C. § 1612.

SSI, or General Cash Assistance. Refugee families residing in the United States longer are less likely to receive cash benefits than new arrivals in general.

Receipt of non-cash assistance was generally higher than cash assistance. This is likely because Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) have wider income eligibility and can include households without children. SNAP receipt is also significantly lower between refugees entering during FY 2014–FY 2015 and the most recent arrivals.

Table 5: Refugee Public Benefits Utilization by Arrival Cohort

	FY2014-FY2015	FY2016-FY2018	FY2018	All
<b>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</b>	4.5 to 6.5	2.5 to 4.5	1.5 to 2.5	
<i>Number of Households</i>	501	502	503	1,506
<b>Receiving Cash Assistance</b>				
Any Type of Cash Assistance*	20.9%**	22.3%	21.5%	21.6%
(MOE %)	(3.2%)	(4.5%)	(3.9%)	(2.6%)
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	2.5%	5.2%	5.1%	3.8%
	(1.0%)	(2.3%)	(1.6%)	(1.1%)
Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)	1.9%	2.6%	5.1%	2.4%
	(1.3%)	(1.4%)	(2.1%)	(0.8%)
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	18.4%	15.6%	11.8%	16.7%
	(3.1%)	(3.9%)	(3.6%)	(2.3%)
General Assistance	0.4%	1.5%	3.5%	1.1%
	(0.7%)	(1.2%)	(1.8%)	(0.6%)
<b>Receiving Non-Cash Assistance</b>				
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	43.6%	49.3%	51.7%	46.7%
	(4.2%)	(4.9%)	(4.7%)	(2.4%)
Housing Assistance	28.3%	26.9%	26.2%	27.5%
	(6.3%)	(4.3%)	(4.7%)	(4.1%)
<b>Number of Individuals Age 18 or Older</b>	898	911	915	2,724
Medicaid/Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)	40.4%	44.1%	48.0%	42.6%
	(4.7%)	(4.8%)	(6.0%)	(3.5%)

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

\*\* Cell entries represent the percentage of households receiving each type of public assistance.

**Notes.** Comparisons are available for select sources of cash and non-cash assistance. In order to contextualize these results, we provide reference information here: Nationally, 18% of households with income below the poverty level receive SSI and/or public assistance income (American Community Survey 2018, Table C17015, 1-year estimate, using <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=S2201&tid=ACSST1Y2018.S2201>). Nationally, 42% of households with income below the poverty level receive SNAP benefits (American Community Survey 2018, Table S2201, 1-year estimate, using <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=S2201&tid=ACSST1Y2018.S2201>). Respondents who reported that anyone in their household had received either TANF, RCA, SSI, or General Assistance in the previous 12 months 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: 68 responses; RCA: 85 responses; SSI: 90 responses; General Assistance: 105 responses; SNAP: 13 responses; Housing Assistance: 240 responses; Medicaid/RMA receipt: 165 responses. Note that reported numbers of households 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. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to refugee households in the 5-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the United States during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018. Data on Medicaid/RMA receipt refer to individuals age 18 or older at the time of survey administration, while the other responses were collected at the household level.

Table 6 reports information about household and personal sources of income by fiscal year of refugees' arrival. Overall, 18.5 [+/- 2.6] percent of refugee households rely on earned income while 1.9 [+/- 1.1] percent of households report public assistance as the only household source of income. There are no significant patterns in sources of income by arrival cohort.

**Table 6: Refugee Household and Personal Sources of Income, by Arrival Cohort**

	<b>FY2014- FY2015</b>	<b>FY2016- FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>All</b>
<b><i>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</i></b>	<b><i>4.5 to 6.5</i></b>	<b><i>2.5 to 4.5</i></b>	<b><i>1.5 to 2.5</i></b>	
<b><i>Number of Households</i></b>	<b><i>501</i></b>	<b><i>499</i></b>	<b><i>498</i></b>	<b><i>1,498</i></b>
<b>Household Sources of Income</b>				
Public Assistance Only (MOE %)	<b>2.7%</b> (1.6%)	<b>1.0%</b> (1.3%)	<b>1.3%</b> (1.1%)	<b>1.9%</b> (1.1%)
Earnings Only	<b>20.7%</b> (3.8%)	<b>16.5%</b> (3.4%)	<b>15.9%</b> (4.1%)	<b>18.5%</b> (2.6%)
Public Assistance and Earnings	<b>24.0%</b> (4.6%)	<b>28.9%</b> (4.4%)	<b>24.9%</b> (4.2%)	<b>26.2%</b> (3.1%)
Neither Earnings nor Public Assistance	<b>2.0%</b> (1.5%)	<b>0.9%</b> (0.8%)	<b>0.0%</b> (0.0%)	<b>1.3%</b> (0.8%)
Public Assistance and Missing Information on Earnings	<b>32.0%</b> (4.4%)	<b>32.4%</b> (4.5%)	<b>36.9%</b> (4.3%)	<b>32.5%</b> (3.0%)
Earnings and Missing Information on Public Assistance	<b>0.2%</b> (0.4%)	<b>0.0%</b> (0.0%)	<b>0.5%</b> (1.1%)	<b>0.1%</b> (0.2%)
No Public Assistance and Missing Information on Earnings	<b>18.5%</b> (3.1%)	<b>20.4%</b> (4.1%)	<b>20.6%</b> (3.8%)	<b>19.5%</b> (2.1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Hourly Wages Earned by Employed Individuals</b>				
<b><i>Number of Individuals Reporting Wage</i></b>	<b><i>425</i></b>	<b><i>397</i></b>	<b><i>449</i></b>	<b><i>1,271</i></b>
Mean Hourly Wages Earned at Current Job (MOE)	<b>\$13.39</b> (\$0.27)	<b>\$13.43</b> (\$0.25)	<b>\$13.58</b> (\$0.41)	<b>\$13.42</b> (\$0.15)

**Note.** Public benefits receipt was reported at the household level. If at least one member of the household received one or more benefit in the previous 12 months—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Refugee Cash Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, General Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or Housing Assistance—the household was considered to receive public assistance (N=949). Households reporting no public assistance and two or fewer missing responses were considered to not receive public assistance (N=547). Otherwise, if no benefits receipt was reported and more than two responses to the public assistance questions were missing, household public assistance receipt was considered missing (N=2). No imputation was conducted. Respondents reported annual income for each adult refugee in the household. Households where any adult earned \$800 or more were coded as earning income (N=665). Households reporting no individual incomes exceeding \$800 and no missing responses were considered to not receive income from earnings (N=32). If no members earned more than \$800 and any adult was missing earnings information, household earnings was coded missing (N=801). No households reported not receiving earnings and were missing information on public assistance. Eight households were missing information for both public assistance receipt and earnings. Excluded from tabulations on hourly wages were 307 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond. Responses to “hourly mean wages” were adjusted; 3 percent of responses were recoded to a value of \$25, which represents the 97th percentile of responses. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

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**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to household members in the 5-year population consisting of refugees who arrived during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018. Data on hourly wages refer to individuals age 18 or older at the time of survey administration who are employed.

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## Employment and Economic Development

Full employment is among the most important steps for refugees and other ORR-served populations on the path to self-sufficiency and full integration into American society. Employment-related programs help ORR-served populations maintain employment, navigate the labor market, and obtain new certifications and credentials as needed. ORR supports employment services, economic development programs, and case management through funding to states, resettlement agencies, and ethnic community-based organizations (ECBOs).

## Refugee Support Services

ORR provides RSS funding to states and RDs to support employment 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.

Funding for RSI, Services to Older Refugees, and Youth Mentoring are set-asides within RSS. ORR designates subsets of RSS formula funds as “set-asides,” targeted for services to specific populations. A state’s or RD’s set-aside amount is based on the number of refugees in that population who arrived or were served in the state during a designated lookback period.

After the annual appropriation is determined, ORR develops a spending plan for RSS base funding and funding to support the RSS set-aside programs (described later in the “Continued Integration” section). ORR bases this formula allocation on each state’s total arrivals during the previous fiscal years.<sup>24</sup> Support services allocated via formula funds are provided to ORR-served populations who have been in the United States less than 5 years. Table II-4 in Appendix A lists the FY 2019 RSS grantees.

## 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:

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<sup>24</sup> ORR based the FY 2019 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)).



- **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 eligibility standard for the case based on family size, rendering the case over-income for cash assistance.
- **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 6 months of employment, regardless of whether the refugee 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 90th 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.

The number employed as indicated in the FY 2019 Annual Outcome Goal Plan represents a 7-percent decrease from the previous period. In FY 2019, 50 percent of the caseload entered employment.

Table 7: FY 2019 Employment-Based Outcomes by State

State	Caseload	Employed	Cash Assistance Terminations	Cash Assistance Reductions	Health Benefits Offered	Average Hourly Wage	Job Retentions
Alabama	45	38	4	1	33	\$10.90	47
Alaska	127	61	15	9	31	\$11.88	59
Arizona	586	331	38	39	215	\$11.53	429
Arkansas	56	13	7	0	9	\$12.83	12
California	3,916	2,228	303	273	352	\$13.74	1,876
Colorado	350	298	185	2	217	\$14.05	268
Connecticut	306	237	4	0	120	\$12.48	213

State	Caseload	Employed	Cash Assistance Terminations	Cash Assistance Reductions	Health Benefits Offered	Average Hourly Wage	Job Retentions
Delaware	80	33	5	0	10	\$14.91	12
District of Columbia	95	33	8	0	9	\$14.47	32
Florida	16,676	6,894	634	0	3,987	\$10.56	6,327
Georgia	958	636	21	0	512	\$11.65	380
Hawaii	27	16	1	0	9	\$15.03	4
Idaho	273	186	90	28	131	\$11.04	110
Illinois	1,327	720	109	66	615	\$16.08	601
Indiana	935	597	103	83	578	\$12.84	489
Iowa	1,010	270	56	14	232	\$11.96	233
Kansas	360	194	37	24	164	\$12.17	167
Kentucky	1,650	1,077	281	13	862	\$13.23	810
Louisiana	111	102	50	34	19	\$11.94	86
Maine	135	70	51	0	23	\$12.88	68
Maryland	827	518	112	162	293	\$13.44	293
Massachusetts	734	500	147	47	389	\$13.75	426
Michigan	1,008	618	113	28	425	\$12.50	531
Minnesota	1,163	772	183	57	277	\$13.03	717
Mississippi	10	3	0	0	1	\$12.00	4
Missouri	714	307	51	10	251	\$11.14	240
Montana	80	56	23	8	24	\$11.68	36
Nebraska	543	279	53	3	207	\$12.71	244
Nevada	594	315	81	15	260	\$11.20	397
New Hampshire	131	113	61	1	63	\$12.32	89
New Jersey	520	249	50	77	56	\$12.00	148
New Mexico	169	84	25	4	67	\$10.37	72
New York	1,238	800	205	144	336	\$12.86	288
North Carolina	1,078	711	109	6	553	\$11.47	600
North Dakota	96	72	31	2	48	\$11.85	59

State	Caseload	Employed	Cash Assistance Terminations	Cash Assistance Reductions	Health Benefits Offered	Average Hourly Wage	Job Retentions
Ohio	1,483	825	150	25	535	\$12.14	481
Oklahoma	114	64	58	0	53	\$11.66	45
Oregon	496	257	75	0	118	\$13.57	147
Pennsylvania	647	460	146	21	328	\$11.45	374
Rhode Island	49	22	10	0	11	\$11.90	19
San Diego WF	255	169	101	13	102	\$12.64	101
South Carolina	217	131	69	0	112	\$11.56	97
South Dakota	231	125	72	3	118	\$12.86	117
Tennessee	846	302	53	62	245	\$12.50	303
Texas	8,100	2,863	181	141	2,338	\$11.91	2,231
Utah	425	303	27	10	73	\$12.32	170
Vermont	117	108	17	0	80	\$11.68	101
Virginia	4,926	3,064	58	0	1,703	\$12.87	971
Washington	2,182	820	108	19	155	\$16.13	791
West Virginia	15	6	4	0	3	\$10.41	5
Wisconsin	448	296	119	9	256	\$12.69	225
Wyoming	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,479</b>	<b>29,246</b>	<b>4,494</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>17,608</b>	<b>\$12.49</b>	<b>22,545</b>

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

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

**Source.** FY 2019 Annual Outcome Goal Plans.

## Matching Grant

The Voluntary Agencies Matching Grant (MG) Program helps ORR-served populations achieve economic self-sufficiency<sup>25</sup> within 6 months of enrollment after their arrival in the United States by providing intensive case management and employment services. MG services may also

<sup>25</sup> For reporting purposes, the MG guidelines provided to grantees 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 grant. In practice, this means having earnings that exceed the income eligibility level for receipt of a TANF Cash Assistance grant in the state and the ability to cover the family living expenses.

include housing and utilities, food, transportation, cash allowance, health and medical assistance, English language training, social adjustment and integration, and other support services.

MG is provided through the 9 national resettlement agencies and their network of 206 local service providers in 41 states (the number of local service providers and states participating in the MG Program reflect the FY 2019 MG network). In FY 2019, ORR awarded up to \$2,600 on a per capita basis to each national resettlement agency, which then allocated funds to its local service providers based on actual enrollments. 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 2019, federal MG spending totaled \$47,497,900 with an additional \$23,748,950 in private matching funds and in-kind contributions.

In FY 2019, the MG Program served 19,443 new enrollees. Sixty-three percent of enrollees reaching day 120 of the service period achieved economic self-sufficiency in FY 2019, the same as in FY 2018. When the program services period ended at the 180-day mark, 81 percent of enrollees were reported as self-sufficient in FY 2019, compared to 82 percent in FY 2018.

For more information on MG grantees and MG highlights, refer to Table II-5 through Table II-8 in Appendix A.

## Microenterprise Development Program

The Microenterprise Development Program (MED) helps ORR-served populations develop, expand, or maintain their own businesses and become financially independent. MED also builds organizational capacity to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate microenterprise services to ORR-served populations.

MED services include business TA or short-term training, credit in the form of microloans up to a maximum of \$15,000, and a revolving loan fund.

In FY 2019, ORR awarded \$4,478,778 for 21 continuing grants.

MEDs provided the following services in FY 2019: one-on-one counseling, business training, pre-loan and post-loan TA, including business plan preparation and financing to start, expand, or strengthen a business. In FY 2019, MED Programs provided 551 loans to ORR-served populations to start or expand businesses. Businesses that were created or retained through the MED Program contributed 1,055 jobs to the U.S. economy.

For a list of MED grantees, refer to Table II-9 in Appendix A.

## Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Program

The Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Program helps refugees and other ORR-served populations establish small home-based childcare businesses. ORR-served populations earn a reliable income while caring for their own children as well as other children, including those from other refugee families. Grantees and their partners design and implement comprehensive, culturally appropriate childcare and microenterprise training programs to prepare participants to operate a childcare business. Following training, grantees provide follow-up assistance, including mentoring, assistance with the childcare licensing process, and small stipends for business-related expenses.

In September 2019, ORR awarded eight new grants totaling \$1,470,983 for services in FY 2019. Grantees were nonprofit agencies located in eight states. In FY 2019, grantees provided services to approximately 250 new participants and assisted approximately 100 in obtaining childcare licenses and establishing childcare businesses. For a list of Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise grantees, refer to Table II-10 in Appendix A.

## Individual Development Account Program

The Individual Development Account (IDA) Program uses an antipoverty strategy built on asset accumulation for low-income refugees and other populations served by ORR. 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 refugee'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

Grantees match up to \$1 for every \$1 the participating refugee deposits into a savings account. The total match may not exceed \$2,000 for individuals or \$4,000 for households. Grantees 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 are able to purchase and maintain the asset.

In FY 2019, the IDA Program supported 18 projects through awards totaling \$4,280,806. Ten of these projects, representing \$2,462,742 of funding, ended their 3-year project period on September 29, 2019. Another eight IDA projects continued, representing \$1,882,476 of funding, and will end their 3-year project period on September 29, 2021.

During FY 2019, the Refugee IDA Program provided the following updates:

- 1,720 individuals and households enrolled in the program
- 9,680 hours of financial literacy training provided
- 7,012 hours of asset-specific training provided
- \$6,526,160 of savings and IDA match funds used to purchase assets
- \$30,146,189 worth of assets purchased

For a list of IDA grantees, refer to Table II-11 in Appendix A.

## Refugee Career Pathways

The Refugee Career Pathways (RCP) Program supports integration and self-sufficiency through employment by helping refugees and other ORR-served populations 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 2019, ORR awarded 17 grants totaling \$4,121,896 for services in FY 2019 in this program. The current project period is 3 years, and will end in FY 2021. In FY 2019 RCP grantees served over 1,100 new participants. Over 400 participants enrolled in a degree or certification program; over 200 earned a new credential or obtained recognition of an existing credential. Table II-12 in Appendix A lists the grantees for RCP.



### ***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 5 years in the United States, ORR compares data from ASR 2019 respondents to values for all working-age U.S. individuals (ages 16–64) from the American Community Survey, using indicators that are standard measures of employment status used by labor economists. For these measures, data is reported for all working-age refugees. Each refugee is assigned one of three statuses in the week prior to the survey:<sup>26</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.”

Table 8 presents the work experience of adults 18 and older by their year of arrival. The majority of working adults (77.0 [+/-2.8] percent) were employed full-time, for an average of 44.0 weeks of the year. Working men were more likely to work full-time than women

<sup>26</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.

(83.1 percent vs. 66.5 percent) and worked a larger portion of the year (45.1 weeks vs. 41.9 weeks).

**Table 8: Refugee Work Experience by Gender and Arrival Cohort, Refugees 18 or Older**

	FY2014-FY2015		FY2016-FY2017		FY2018		All		
<i>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</i>	4.5 to 6.5		2.5 to 4.5		1.5 to 2.5				
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
<i>Number of Individuals Age 18 or Older Employed</i>	312	189	291	173	280	225	1,470	883	587
<b>Worked Full-Time*</b> (MOE %)	<b>80.1%</b> (3.6%)	<b>68.1%</b> (5.9%)	<b>86.8%</b> (3.1%)	<b>63.6%</b> (10.2%)	<b>83.0%</b> (6.9%)	<b>70.4%</b> (12.5%)	<b>77.0%</b> (2.8%)	<b>83.1%</b> (2.2%)	<b>66.5%</b> (5.9%)
<i>Number of Respondents Aged 18 or Older Employed</i>	279	154	247	143	218	187	1,228	744	484
<b>Average Number of Weeks Worked in Previous Year</b> (MOE)	<b>45.0</b> (1.8)	<b>43.4</b> (1.8)	<b>45.5</b> (1.3)	<b>40.6</b> (3.1)	<b>43.5</b> (2.0)	<b>39.0</b> (3.9)	<b>44.0</b> (0.8)	<b>45.1</b> (1.0)	<b>41.9</b> (1.8)

\*Worked 35 or more hours per week in the year prior to survey administration.

**Note.** Respondents age 18 or older who were working the week prior to the survey administration ("employed"). Excluded from tabulations on "working full time" were 168 "Don't Know" and refusals to respond. Excluded from tabulations on "average number of weeks worked" were 355 "Don't Know" and refusals to respond. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 18 or older at the time of survey administration in the 5-year population consisting of refugees who arrived during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

## Labor Force Participation Rate

The overall labor force participation rate (LFP) for refugees was 65.6 (+/-2.1) percent, which is lower than for all U.S. adults ages 16–64 (74.6 percent). Male refugees work or seek work at higher rates than do female refugees from the point of arrival onwards (Table 9).

Table 10 presents the LFP, employment rate, and unemployment rate for working-age refugees compared to working-age U.S. individuals ages 16–64.

There are no patterns of statistical significance difference in LFP by year of arrival (Table 10).

Table 9: Labor Force Status for Working-Age Refugees and U.S. Individuals

	All U.S. Individuals Age 16 to 64	All Refugees	Male Refugees	Female Refugees
<i>Number of Individuals Age 16 to 64</i>		2,803	1,337	1,426
<b>In Labor Force</b>	74.6%*	<b>65.6%</b>	<b>76.8%</b>	<b>53.4%</b>
(MOE %)		(2.1%)	(3.5%)	(3.1%)
Employed	95.0%	<b>88.2%</b>	<b>90.6%</b>	<b>84.3%</b>
		(2.4%)	(2.9%)	(3.8%)
Unemployed	5.0%	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
		(2.4%)	(2.9%)	(3.8%)
<b>Not in Labor Force</b>	25.4%	<b>34.4%</b>	<b>23.2%</b>	<b>46.6%</b>
		(2.1%)	(3.5%)	(3.1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Cell entries represent the percentage of individuals with each employment status.

**Note.** National comparison is derived from the American Community Survey 2018 (Table S2301), 1-year estimate for individuals at ages 16-64, using <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=S2301&tid=ACST1Y2018.S2301>. Excluded from tabulations were 15 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond. Respondents age 16 to 64 who were either working the week prior to the survey administration (“employed”) or were actively searching for work in the month prior to the survey administration (“unemployed”) were considered to be in the labor force. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 16 to 64 at the time of survey administration in refugee households in the 5-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the United States during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

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

	FY2014-FY2015			FY2016-FY2017			FY2018		
<i>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</i>	4.5 to 6.5			2.5 to 4.5			1.5 to 2.5		
	All Refugees	Male	Female	All Refugees	Male	Female	All Refugees	Male	Female
<i>Number of Individuals Age 16 to 64</i>	905	478	427	930	465	465	968	434	534
<b>In Labor Force</b>	<b>66.0%*</b>	<b>75.2%</b>	<b>54.6%</b>	<b>65.0%</b>	<b>78.5%</b>	<b>51.3%</b>	<b>66.9%</b>	<b>78.8%</b>	<b>57.0%</b>
(MOE %)	(3.7%)	(5.7%)	(5.4%)	(3.0%)	(3.9%)	(4.7%)	(8.5%)	(8.4%)	(9.8%)
Employed	<b>89.6%</b>	<b>91.1%</b>	<b>86.9%</b>	<b>86.4%</b>	<b>89.6%</b>	<b>81.5%</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>93.4%</b>	<b>83.6%</b>
	(2.4%)	(3.7%)	(4.8%)	(3.7%)	(4.0%)	(5.2%)	(5.4%)	(5.3%)	(11.9%)
Unemployed	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>16.4%</b>
	(2.4%)	(3.7%)	(4.8%)	(3.7%)	(4.0%)	(5.2%)	(5.4%)	(5.3%)	(11.9%)
<b>Not in Labor Force*</b>	<b>34.0%</b>	<b>24.8%</b>	<b>45.4%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>48.7%</b>	<b>33.1%</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>43.1%</b>
	(3.7%)	(5.7%)	(5.4%)	(3.0%)	(3.9%)	(4.7%)	(8.5%)	(8.4%)	(9.8%)



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\* Cell entries represent the percentage of individuals with each employment status.

**Note.** Excluded from tabulations were 15 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond. Respondents age 16 to 64 who were either working the week prior to the survey administration (“employed”) or were actively searching for work in the month prior to the survey administration (“unemployed”) were considered to be in the labor force. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 16 to 64 at the time of survey administration in the 5-year population consisting of refugees who arrived during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

## **Employment Rate**

The employment rate is the percentage of individuals in the labor force who are working. Approximately 88.2 (+/-2.4) percent of refugees ages 16–64 in the labor force are employed, compared to 95.0 percent of all U.S. individuals comparably aged (Table 9). There are no significant differences in employment rate with length of stay in the United States (Table 10). By arrival cohort, between 86.4 (+/-3.7) percent and 89.6 (+/- 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 gender.

## **Unemployment Rate**

The unemployment rate is the percent of the labor force that is not working but is seeking work. ASR 2019 data indicate that the unemployment rate among refugees ages 16–64 is slightly higher than that of all U.S. adults, with the refugee unemployment rate at 11.8 (+/-2.4) percent in contrast to the unemployment rate of all U.S. adults at 5.0 percent (Table 9).

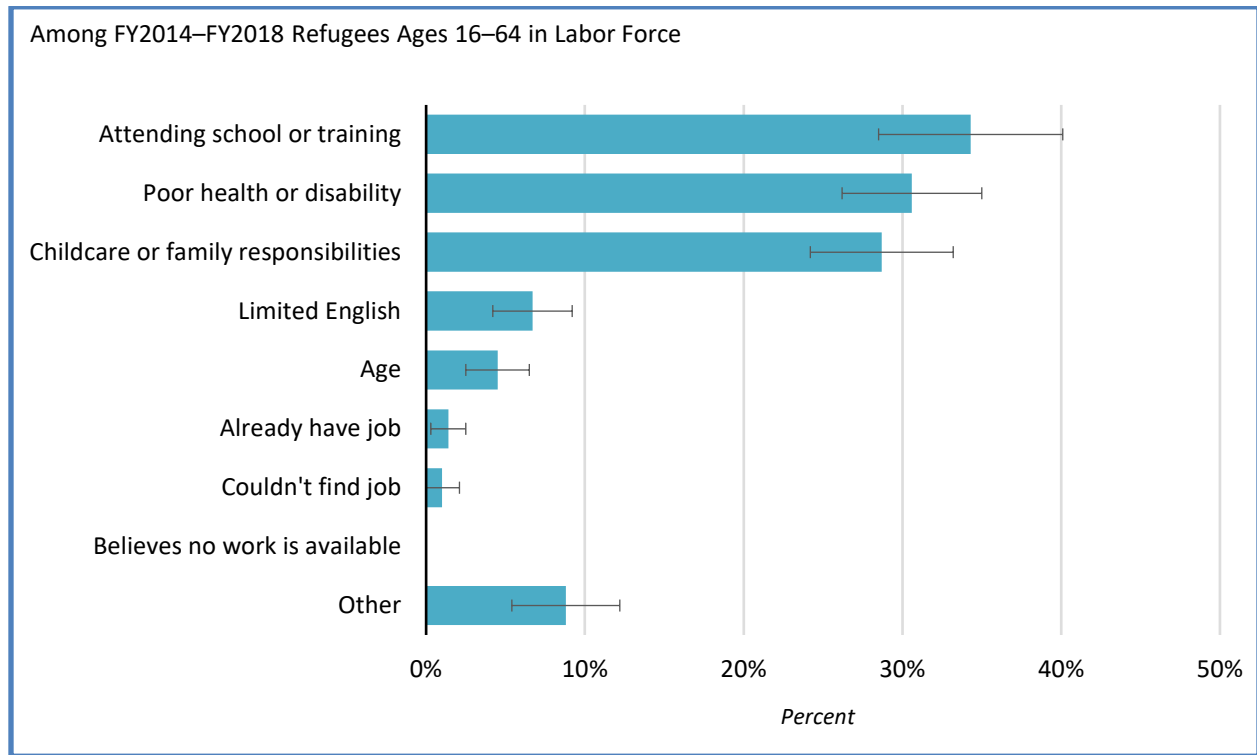
There is no statistically significant variation in overall unemployment by length of time in the United States (Table 10). Among FY 2018 arrivals, who had been in the United States for an average of 1.5 years, 11.1 (+/-5.4) percent were not employed but were looking for work at the time of the survey.

## **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. Refugees are more likely to be out of the labor force than all adults ages 16–64: 34.4 (+/-2.1) percent vs. 25.4 percent (Table 9). Regardless of when they arrived in the United States, female refugees are more likely to be out of the labor force than are refugee men (Table 10).

There are a variety of reasons that adults may be out of the labor force. The pursuit of education, poor health or disability, child care, and limited English are all reasons that an adult may not be working or seeking work (see Figure 2 below).

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



**Note.** Respondents could choose more than one reason for why they were not seeking employment, so totals may add to more than 100%. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 16 to 64 at the time of survey administration in the 5-year population consisting of refugees who arrived during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

The ASR collects information on working-age (16–64) refugees who were out of the labor force regarding 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 were not seeking employment are their attendance in school or training, poor health or disability, and child care or family responsibilities. As shown in Figure 2 and Table 11, only a small proportion indicated they were discouraged workers who could not find a job (1.0 percent).

Examining these data by gender and average age offers further insight into the population of working-age refugees citing various reasons for not working or seeking work (Table 11).

- 34.3 (+/-5.8) percent of refugees ages 16–64 (mean age 20.3) 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.
- 30.6 (+/-4.4) percent of working-age refugees out of the labor force cited poor health or a disability as a reason; these refugees had a mean age of 45.6.

- 28.7 (+/-4.5) 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 34.6. Approximately 42.4 percent of working-age women out of the labor force cited family responsibilities as a reason.

**Table 11: Reasons for Not Seeking Employment Among Working-Age Refugees, by Sex**

	All	Mean Age of Respondents	Male	Female
<i>Number of Individuals Age 16 to 64 Not in Labor Force</i>	942		290	652
<b>Reasons Cited for Not Seeking Employment</b>				
Attending school or training (MOE %)	<b>34.3%</b> (5.8%)	<b>20.3</b> (1.0)	<b>46.6%</b> (8.7%)	<b>27.6%</b> (5.7%)
Poor health or disability	<b>30.6%</b> (4.4%)	<b>45.6</b> (1.6)	<b>30.3%</b> (8.0%)	<b>30.8%</b> (4.3%)
Childcare or family responsibilities	<b>28.7%</b> (4.5%)	<b>34.6</b> (1.2)	<b>3.5%</b> (1.9%)	<b>42.4%</b> (6.0%)
Age	<b>4.5%</b> (2.0%)	<b>45.3</b> (7.8)	<b>3.2%</b> (1.9%)	<b>5.3%</b> (2.6%)
Limited English	<b>6.7%</b> (2.5%)	<b>44.6</b> (5.5)	<b>4.3%</b> (3.5%)	<b>8.0%</b> (3.3%)
Already have job	<b>1.4%</b> (1.1%)	<b>32.3</b> (6.5)	<b>3.2%</b> (2.9%)	<b>0.4%</b> (0.5%)
Couldn't find job	<b>1.0%</b> (1.1%)	<b>44.7</b> (20.3)	<b>0.7%</b> (1.0%)	<b>1.1%</b> (1.3%)
Believes no work is available	<b>0.0%</b> (0.0%)	<b>NA</b> (NA)	<b>0.0%</b> (0.0%)	<b>0.0%</b> (0.0%)
Other	<b>8.8%</b> (3.4%)	<b>34.4</b> (3.8)	<b>14.0%</b> (6.4%)	<b>5.9%</b> (3.2%)

**Note.** Respondents could choose more than one reason for why they were not seeking employment, so totals may add to more than 100%. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 16 to 64 at the time of survey administration in the 5-year population consisting of refugees who arrived during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

## 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 12). Of those ages 25 or older, 14.7 percent earned a college or university degree (including medical degrees) before arriving in the United States. Approximately 32.2 percent had completed high school or a technical degree. Approximately 15.7 percent completed primary school. Approximately 31.6 percent of respondents age 25 or older arrived in the United States with no formal education. About 26 percent of refugees report having a secondary education prior to arriving to the United States.

While some paired comparisons are statistically significant, there is no systematic pattern of variation in educational background by arrival cohort.

**Table 12: Refugee Educational Attainment Prior to U.S. Arrival, Refugees 25 or Older**

	<b>FY2014- FY2015</b>	<b>FY2016- FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>All</b>
<b><i>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</i></b>	<i>4.5 to 6.5</i>	<i>2.5 to 4.5</i>	<i>1.5 to 2.5</i>	
<i>Number of Individuals Age 25 or Older</i>	787	750	716	2,253
<b>Highest Degree Attained before Arrival to United States</b>				
None	<b>31.9%*</b>	<b>30.2%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>31.6%</b>
(MOE %)	(4.0%)	(5.8%)	(11.0%)	(2.7%)
Primary School	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
	(3.1%)	(4.0%)	(7.2%)	(2.6%)
Training in Refugee Camp	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
	(0.9%)	(0.4%)	(4.0%)	(0.6%)
Technical School	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
	(2.5%)	(1.9%)	(2.0%)	(1.5%)
Secondary School	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>26.2%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>
	(4.0%)	(4.2%)	(4.9%)	(2.4%)
University Degree (other than Medical Degree)	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
	(4.5%)	(2.9%)	(2.9%)	(2.0%)
Medical Degree	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
	(0.6%)	(0.4%)	(0.9%)	(0.3%)
Other	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
	(2.1%)	(2.3%)	(1.6%)	(1.4%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Number of Individuals Age 25 or Older</i>	739	710	636	2,085
<b>Average Years of Education Before Arrival to United States</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.7</b>
(MOE)	(5.9)	(5.5)	(7.5)	(2.9)

\* Cell entries represent the percentage of individuals with each pre-arrival educational attainment level.

**Note.** Excluded from tabulations were 65 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond. Respondents were only able to choose one level of education. Responses to “average years of education before arrival to U.S.” were adjusted; 1 percent of responses were recoded to a value of 20 years, which represents the 99th percentile of responses. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 25 or older at the time of survey administration in refugee households in the 5-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the United States during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

Many refugee adults pursue further education upon arrival in the United States (Table 13). In the year prior to the 2019 survey, 17.6 (+/-2.0) percent of refugees ages 18 and older attended school or university; the largest portion of these respondents pursued a high school diploma. Among refugees ages 18 or older, 3.0 (+/-1.0) percent earned a degree in the year prior to the survey and slightly more than 25 percent of refugees report having at least a secondary education prior to arriving to the United States.

**Table 13: Refugee Educational Pursuits in the United States, Refugees 18 or Older**

	FY2014-FY2015	FY2016-FY2017	FY2018	All
<b>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</b>	4.5 to 6.5	2.5 to 4.5	1.5 to 2.5	
<i>Number of Individuals Age 18 or Older</i>	1,050	1,089	1,136	3,275
<b>Degree Pursuit</b>				
Pursuing High School Certificate or Equivalency (MOE %)	5.3%* (2.2%)	8.7% (2.2%)	6.8% (2.5%)	6.9% (1.3%)
Pursuing Associate’s Degree	1.5% (1.0%)	2.2% (1.7%)	1.9% (2.1%)	1.9% (0.9%)
Pursuing Bachelor’s Degree	4.0% (1.7%)	2.9% (1.7%)	1.9% (2.7%)	3.4% (1.4%)
Pursuing Master’s or Doctorate Degree	1.1% (0.6%)	0.4% (0.3%)	0.2% (0.2%)	0.7% (0.3%)
Pursuing Professional School Degree	1.8% (1.1%)	1.7% (1.2%)	0.8% (0.9%)	1.7% (0.7%)
Pursuing Certificate/License	0.4% (0.4%)	2.4% (1.6%)	2.4% (2.0%)	1.4% (0.8%)
Pursuing Other Credential	0.9% (0.6%)	2.6% (0.9%)	2.0% (1.0%)	1.7% (0.5%)
<b>TOTAL PURSUING DEGREE</b>	15.0% (3.2%)	20.9% (3.7%)	15.8% (5.1%)	17.6% (2.0%)
<i>Number of Individuals Age 18 or Older</i>	1,069	1,101	1,153	3,323
<b>Degree Receipt</b>	3.3% (1.5%)	2.7% (1.1%)	2.1% (1.1%)	3.0% (1.0%)

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\*Cell entries represent the percentage of individuals pursuing each type of degree or certificate in previous year.

**Note.** Excluded from tabulation for degree pursuit were 51 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond; 3 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from the tabulation for degree receipt. Tabulations were constructed amongst all respondents age 18 or older, including those who were ineligible to respond to these survey items. Only respondents who reported attending school or university in order to obtain a degree or certificate were asked to report whether they had received that degree. “Professional School Degree” included MD, LLB, DDS degrees. Pursuing certificate/license was not a provided survey response option but was created during data cleaning and preparation. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 18 or older at the time of survey administration in refugee households in the 5-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the United States during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

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## Health Coverage

Health, including access to health care, plays a critical role in the ability of ORR-served populations to successfully resettle in the United States and achieve self-sufficiency. ORR builds the well-being of ORR-served populations through access to healthcare and health initiatives. Through Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA), ORR provides health coverage to ORR-served populations not eligible for Medicaid.<sup>27</sup> The services provided through RMA are equivalent to those provided through a state’s Medicaid Program.<sup>28</sup>



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

#### **Health Coverage**

Table 14 displays medical coverage by year of arrival. Approximately 54.1 (+/-2.8) percent of refugees ages 18 and up had medical coverage for the entire year preceding the survey. Refugee adults who arrived in the United States prior to FY 2018 have lower overall rates of medical coverage; 42.3 (+/-3.9) percent of FY 2014–FY 2015 arrivals reported no medical coverage in the year prior to the survey, compared to 29.1 (+/-6.7) percent of the most recent arrival cohort.

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<sup>27</sup> See 45 C.F.R. § 400.100.

<sup>28</sup> See 45 C.F.R. § 400.105.

Table 14: Refugee Adult Medical Coverage by Arrival Cohort, Refugees 18 or Older

	FY2014- FY2015	FY2016- FY2017	FY2018	All
<b>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</b>	4.5 to 6.5	2.5 to 4.5	1.5 to 2.5	
<b>Number of Individuals Age 18 or Older</b>	905	892	914	2,711
<b>Coverage</b>				
Had Coverage Throughout All Previous 12 Months (MOE %)	50.9%* (3.9%)	57.2% (4.0%)	57.7% (7.4%)	54.1% (2.8%)
No Coverage in Any of the Previous 12 Months	42.3% (3.9%)	33.6% (3.4%)	29.1% (6.7%)	37.6% (2.6%)
<b>Source of Coverage</b>				
Coverage only through respondent's or family member's employer	12.6% (4.7%)	12.4% (3.9%)	15.9% (3.8%)	12.8% (2.8%)
Coverage only through Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)	64.5% (5.6%)	61.1% (5.6%)	66.4% (5.6%)	63.1% (4.4%)
Coverage through Other Sources	17.3% (5.0%)	21.9% (6.4%)	16.3% (4.8%)	19.3% (3.9%)
Coverage through Medicaid or RMA in addition to Other Sources	5.7% (3.2%)	4.6% (3.1%)	1.4% (1.0%)	4.8% (2.4%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Cell entries represent the percentage of individuals with each medical coverage status.

**Note.** Excluded from tabulations were 178 "Don't Know" and refusals to respond. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 18 or older at the time of survey administration in refugee households in the 5-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the United States during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

Among refugees with medical coverage, the source of that coverage varied by length of stay in the United States. Refugee adults who had resided in the United States longer were more likely to report no medical coverage in the previous 12 months (42.3 percent of FY 2014 – FY 2015 refugees vs. 29.1 percent of FY 2018 arrivals). Data also indicate that 15.9 (+/- 3.8) percent of FY 2018 receive employer-sponsored health insurance.

## Health Promotion and Mental Health

In addition to the health coverage provided through RMA, ORR provides funding to promote the physical and mental health of ORR-served populations.

### Refugee Health Promotion

The Refugee Health Promotion (RHP) Program aims to increase refugee health literacy and reduce gaps to medical and mental health care.<sup>29</sup> In FY 2019, ORR awarded \$4,406,679 in non-competing continuation funding to 41 grantees (states or RDs). Activities supported by the RHP Program in FY 2019 included health education classes, medical and mental health case management, interpretation services, referrals to healthcare providers, health insurance enrollment assistance, training for healthcare providers, coordination of community health resources, and nonclinical interventions for emotional well-being. For a list of RHP grantees, refer to Table II-13 in Appendix A.

FY 2019 is the last year the RHP Program was funded as a discretionary grant; the RHP Program will transition to an RSS set-aside after the current project period ends in FY 2020.

### 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 new communities.<sup>30</sup>

The SOT Program is composed of two types of grants: Direct services for survivors and TA to the SOT network. Direct services grants are designed to provide holistic, strengths-based, and trauma-informed services to survivors of torture and their families. Direct services grantees 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 grant ensures that the direct service organizations have the training and resources needed to provide quality, integrated, and sustainable services to survivors and their families.

ORR awarded \$13,511,133 in grant funding to 35 direct services grantees and 1 TA grantee. Direct service grantees helped over 6,200 survivors of torture and their families in FY 2019, the majority of whom were asylum seekers, refugees, and lawful permanent residents. Grantees served clients from a variety of countries, but the most common countries of origin were the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Uganda, and Cameroon. In FY 2019, the TA grantee provided a number of web-based training and resources as well as consultations to

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<sup>29</sup> Prior to FY 2015, RHP was known as the Refugee Preventive Health Program.

<sup>30</sup> The Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-320) authorized the Survivors of Torture Program.



direct service grantees, and an in-person clinical training “Healing Survivors of Torture: Empathy, Meditation, Reflective Writing and Clinical Case Discussion.” The TA grantee also expanded access to online learners to include non-members who work with SOT. For a list of SOT grantees, refer to Table II-14 in Appendix A.

## Continued Integration

Refugees and other ORR-served populations come to the United States to begin new lives free from war, persecution, and conflict. The U.S. program for refugee resettlement provides refugees a path to full citizenship. The program prioritizes the integration of ORR-served populations with their communities through a multifaceted approach, which includes English education, participation in civic life, building social connections, and achieving financial stability. ORR-funded programs provide these populations with the critical resources and opportunities to realize their full potential and contribute to their communities.

## Ethnic Community Self-Help

Traditionally, refugees have formed self-help groups, such as ECBOs, to foster long-term community growth and provide community members with critical services to assist them in becoming integrated members of American society. ECBOs assist refugees and other ORR-served populations in finding jobs, learning English, preparing for citizenship, and accessing health and social services. ORR supports the development of more integrated, diversified, and self-sustaining ECBOs through the Ethnic Community Self-Help Program.

ORR supported 20 projects through awards totaling \$3,807,529 in FY 2019. Grantees reported serving 9,173 refugees, providing an array of services, including employment assistance, academic enrichment and college preparation, preventative health trainings, and emotional wellness activities, among others. Grantees reported development of 227 new partnerships with several mainstream organizations, including local law enforcement agencies and public schools, and conducted strategic planning, resource development, and leadership-training activities for adults and youth.

For a list of Ethnic Community Self-Help Program grantees, refer to Table II-15 in Appendix A.

## Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program

The Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program (RAPP) funds urban community gardens and rural farming projects that help ORR-served populations earn a supplemental income. RAPP also increases the availability of fresh, nutritious produce through farmer’s markets established in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture that 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 grantees provided the following outcome data for FY 2019:

- 2,115 refugees enrolled in RAPP
- 2,479 hours of training
- 968,800 pounds of vegetables cultivated
- \$248,082 in gross sales
- 11,286 people accessed healthy food through RAPP

In FY 2019, RAPP supported 15 projects through awards totaling \$1,699,813. For a list of RAPP grantees, refer to Table II-16 in Appendix A.

## Preferred Communities

The Preferred Communities (PC) Program supports the resettlement of particularly vulnerable members of populations served by ORR with special or unique needs through funding for intensive case management. Through PC, ORR extends services to such vulnerable populations 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, and transgender community; and
- Persons with physical disabilities or complex medical conditions.

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

In FY 2019, PC provided critical interventions and services to over 6,579 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. Grantees reported that the majority of individuals achieved all goals in their self-sufficiency plans. In addition, grantees conducted outreach, forged over 1,623 new collaborations and relationships, and engaged over 3,816 volunteers to increase their capacity to meet the needs of vulnerable ORR-served populations.

ORR awarded PC grants to the nine national resettlement agencies,<sup>31</sup> totaling \$16,607,101 in FY 2019. For a list of PC grantees, refer to Table II-17 in Appendix A.

## Youth Mentoring

The Youth Mentoring Program is a newly created program with the goal of promoting 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 grantees, the Youth Mentoring Program provides positive adult mentors who provide youth with personalized interaction. Grantees also provide case management to support educational and career development.

In FY 2019, ORR awarded 37 Youth Mentoring grants totaling \$8,340,000. For a list of Youth Mentoring grantees see Table II-18 in Appendix A.

## Refugee School Impact Program

The RSI Program's goals are to promote the academic performance and successful integration of refugee and other ORR-eligible youth, ages 5–18. 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 2019, ORR awarded 41 grants totaling \$14,580,000 for school impact programs. For a list of RSI Program grantees, refer to Table II-19 in Appendix A.

## Services to Older Refugees

The Services to Older Refugees Program aims to increase integration and independent healthy living for ORR-served populations, ages 60 and older. Through its network of grantees, the Services to Older Refugees Program provides older ORR-served populations with appropriate

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<sup>31</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.

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 2019, ORR awarded 41 Services for Older Refugees grants totaling \$5,000,000. For a list of grantees, refer to Table II-20 in Appendix A.

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

### **Housing Status**

Table 15 presents information on refugee housing from the ASR. Although the vast majority of refugees live in rental housing (78.0 [+/-2.8] percent), home ownership is higher among those arriving in FY 2014–FY 2015 than among new arrivals; 27.5 (+/-4.6) percent of refugee households arriving in FY 2014–FY 2015 reported owning their own home at the time of the survey.

**Table 15: Refugee Household Housing Status, by Arrival Cohort**

	<b>FY2014- FY2015</b>	<b>FY2016- FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>All</b>
<b><i>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</i></b>	<i>4.5 to 6.5</i>	<i>2.5 to 4.5</i>	<i>1.5 to 2.5</i>	
<b><i>Number of Households</i></b>	<i>501</i>	<i>497</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>1,498</i>
<b>Rent Home</b>	<b>70.5%*</b>	<b>83.9%</b>	<b>92.4%</b>	<b>78.0%</b>
(MOE %)	(4.9%)	(3.7%)	(1.9%)	(2.8%)
<b>Own Home</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>20.2%</b>
	(4.6%)	(3.4%)	(2.1%)	(2.5%)
<b>Occupied without Payment of Cash Rent**</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
	(0.8%)	(1.4%)	(1.2%)	(0.8%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Cell entries represent the percentage of households with each household housing status.

\*\* Respondents were provided an option that the home or apartment that they are living in at the time of the survey administration was “occupied without payment of cash rent.”

**Note.** Eight “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to refugee households in the 5-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the United States during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

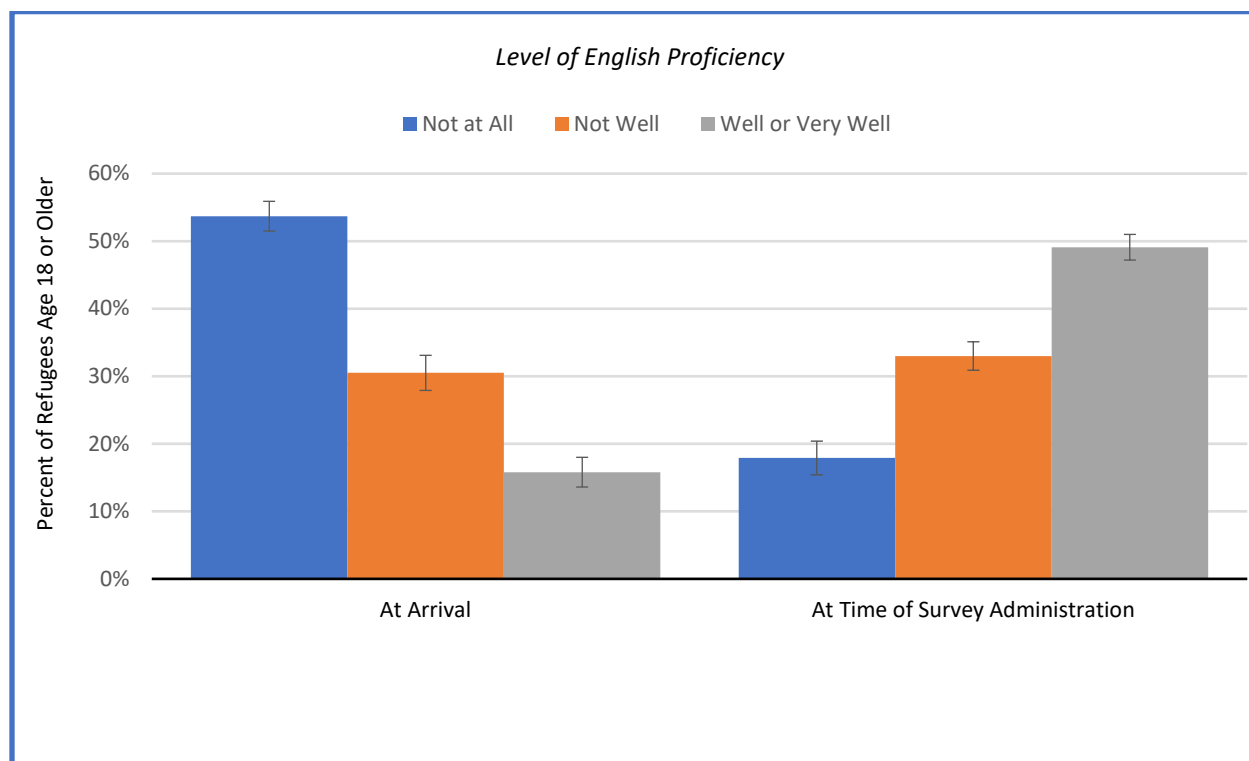
## **Results from the Annual Survey of Refugees**

## English Language Proficiency

ORR funded programs that help ORR-served populations 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 16 presents information about the English language proficiency of the adults ages 18 and older in ASR 2019 households at the time of their arrival in the United States and in the first quarter of 2020. Presented visually in Figure 3, data suggest strong progress in English language acquisition from the time of arrival in the United States.

Figure 2: FY 2014–FY 2018 Refugee English Language Proficiency at Arrival and Time of Survey Administration, Refugees 18 or Older



**Note.** Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 18 or older at the time of survey administration in the 5-year population consisting of refugees who arrived during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

Almost 53.7 (+/-2.2) 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 2018 entrants, 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 (58.4 percent vs. 20.9 percent; Table 16).

In the first quarter of 2020, about 49 (+/-2.2) percent of refugees entering the United States in FY 2014–FY 2018 spoke English well or very well. All entry cohorts made steady gains in English proficiency between arrival and the survey.

**Table 16: Refugee English Language Proficiency and Acquisition by Arrival Cohort, Refugees 18 or Older**

	FY2014-FY2015		FY2016-FY2017		FY2018		All	
<b>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</b>	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
<b>Number of Individuals Age 18 or Older</b>	941	942	951	950	979	981	2,871	2,873
<b>Level of English Proficiency</b>								
Not at all (MOE %)	49.0%* (4.8%)	16.7% (3.0%)	58.2% (3.6%)	18.8% (3.9%)	58.4% (6.5%)	20.9% (5.2%)	53.7% (2.2%)	17.9% (2.5%)
Not Well	35.6% (5.3%)	28.8% (3.9%)	25.3% (3.1%)	35.9% (3.6%)	27.1% (5.0%)	43.4% (6.8%)	30.5% (2.6%)	33.0% (2.1%)
Well or Very Well	15.4% (4.0%)	54.4% (3.9%)	16.4% (2.2%)	45.3% (3.9%)	14.4% (4.6%)	35.75% (6.9%)	15.8% (2.2%)	49.1% (1.9%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Cell entries represent the percentage of individuals with each level of English proficiency.

**Note.** Eighteen “Don’t Know” or refusals to respond were excluded from tabulations for English proficiency at time of arrival, and 16 “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. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 18 or older at the time of survey administration in the 5-year population consisting of refugees who arrived during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.



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

### ***Civic Engagement***

Attaining lawful permanent residency and citizenship provides refugees and other ORR-served populations with the same rights as native-born Americans and fosters a sense of belonging and inclusion. Nearly all refugees and other ORR-served populations seek lawful permanent resident status in the United States.

Table 17 reports, by arrival cohort, the percentage of refugee adults ages 18 and older who have applied for lawful permanent residence and who have future plans to apply.

**Table 17: Refugee Applications for Lawful Permanent Resident Status by Arrival Cohort, Refugees 18 or Older**

	<b>FY2014- FY2015</b>	<b>FY2016- FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>All</b>
<b><i>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</i></b>	<b><i>4.5 to 6.5</i></b>	<b><i>2.5 to 4.5</i></b>	<b><i>1.5 to 2.5</i></b>	
<i>Number of Individuals Age 18 or Older</i>	937	940	977	2,854
<b>Has Already Applied for Law Permanent Resident (LPR) Status (MOE %)</b>	<b>85.1%*</b> (4.8%)	<b>81.8%</b> (3.7%)	<b>82.2%</b> (3.8%)	<b>83.5%</b> (3.0%)
<b>Plans to Apply in the Future</b>	<b>12.9%</b> (4.7%)	<b>17.0%</b> (3.6%)	<b>15.8%</b> (4.4%)	<b>14.9%</b> (2.8%)
<b>Has Not Applied to Adjust LPR Status but Does Not Plan to Apply in the Future</b>	<b>2.0%</b> (1.9%)	<b>1.2%</b> (0.9%)	<b>2.0%</b> (1.6%)	<b>1.7%</b> (1.0%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Cell entries represent the percentage of individuals with each LPR Status.

**Note.** Excluded from tabulations were 33 “Don’t Know” and refusals to respond. Figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. Margin of error (MOE)% represents the half-width of a 95% confidence interval (i.e., the amount to be added and subtracted from the point estimate to create a 95% confidence interval).

**Source.** 2019 ORR Annual Survey of Refugees. Data refer to individuals age 18 or older at the time of survey administration in refugee households in the 5-year population consisting of refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the United States during the period from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2018.

There are no statistically significant differences in legal permanent resident status adjustment by year of refugee arrival. Overall, 83.5 (+/-3.0) percent of adults ages 18 or older had applied for permanent residency at the time of the survey. Nearly all remaining indicated intentions to apply in the future (14.9 [+/-2.8] percent). A small percentage of refugees (1.7 [+/- 1.0] percent) indicated that they had not yet applied and did not intend to do so.

## Unaccompanied Refugee Minors

The Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program provides specialized foster care for refugees and other special populations of youth. Currently, unaccompanied children and youth in the following categories are eligible for the URM Program: refugee, asylee, Cuban/Haitian entrant, victim of human trafficking, Special Immigrant Juvenile, and U status.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>32</sup> 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.

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 other populations already in the United States eligible for the URM Program.<sup>34</sup> 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 as a significant proportion of URM participants are now referred from the Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program.

The URM Program is administered by participating states and funded by the CMA grant. 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 services required by ORR regulations.<sup>35</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.

Services may include:

- 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,
- 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, minors must enter the URM Program before the age of 18. Depending on the state, the

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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> The Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-422) and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-386; 22 U.S.C. § 7105 (b)(1)(A)) authorize ORR to provide the same benefits and services available to refugees for Cuban and Haitian entrants and victims of a severe form of human trafficking, respectively. The Trafficking Victims Protection and Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-457; 8 U.S.C. § 1232 (d)(4)) extends URM eligibility to Special Immigrant Juveniles who were in the custody of ORR or receiving services as Cuban or Haitian entrants at the time a dependency order was signed. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (Pub. L. 113-4; 8 U.S.C. § 1232 (d)(4)) extends URM eligibility to child victims of crime with U visa status.

<sup>35</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.



youth may continue to receive benefits and services, such as independent living services and support for education and/or vocational training, through the URM Program up to age 26.

In total, the URM Program served 1,965 youth in FY 2019, which included 346 new enrollees. The URM Program served participants from 49 countries in FY 2019.

**Table 18: FY 2019 Participants in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program by Category of Eligibility**

<b>Category of Eligibility</b>	<b>Number</b>
Refugee	1,152
Special Immigrant Juvenile	522
Victim of Trafficking	231
Asylee	42
Cuban/Haitian Entrant	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,965</b>

**Source.** ORR's URM Database.

In FY 2019, the URM Program operated in 24 locations across 14 states and the District of Columbia. Table 19 provides the number of URM's served in each state and the District of Columbia in FY 2019. Former UCs are represented in all eligible categories, with the exception of refugees.

**Table 19: FY 2019 Participants in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program by State**

<b>State</b>	<b>Number</b>
Arizona	73
California	278
Colorado	70
District of Columbia	32
Florida	23
Massachusetts	176
Michigan	520
Mississippi	41
New York	84
North Dakota	69
Pennsylvania	103
Texas	131
Utah	106
Virginia	68
Washington	193

**Note.** The total number of participants (N=1,967) served by all states includes two cases that transferred from one program to another and were therefore served by more than one state.

**Source.** ORR's URM Database.

## Technical Assistance

ORR supports its grantees and other service providers through a grant to provide a one-stop source for refugee-related TA. The goals of the program are to improve refugee service providers' capacity to (1) provide evidence- and strengths-based programming that addresses the barriers that refugees 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 2019, ORR awarded a grant of \$1,194,063 to the International Rescue Committee for the 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 the support of subject matter experts, Switchboard delivered multiple webinars to ORR-funded organizations on subjects such as introduction to data analysis for learning and program improvement and overcoming employment barriers. Switchboard created an online, searchable resource library with over 400 new and existing resources, such as webinar recordings, videos, and podcasts. Switchboard also responded to individual TA requests on topics such as working with youth and adult education and produced two self-paced, e-learning courses to assist providers in working with interpreters.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

ORR conducts oversight and systematic monitoring of the programmatic and administrative operations of its Refugee Resettlement Program grantees. Monitoring and evaluation is designed to ensure that grantees provide high-quality services and adhere to federal regulations and policies.

In FY 2018, ORR expanded its monitoring initiative to incorporate advanced data analysis and an emphasis on outcomes-oriented program assessment. In FY 2019, ORR expanded this focus by developing theories of change, logic models, and program assessment indicators for several refugee programs, and also developed a protocol for the identification and verification of promising practices.

ORR contracts a team of seasoned evaluators to complement ORR staff in performing onsite monitoring and conducting high-level analysis. Monitoring trips include an exhaustive review of programmatic documents; an assessment of client case files as appropriate; interviews with

clients, staff, and stakeholders; and a written report of findings. If corrective actions are identified, grantees are required to submit a remediation plan and time frame to ORR for follow-up monitoring.

In FY 2019, ORR conducted onsite monitoring of 115 publicly and privately administered state programs, resettlement agencies, other discretionary grantees and sub-grantees, as well as 15 desk reviews, in the following states: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Desk monitoring reviews were conducted as an alternative to on-site monitoring, primarily for sub-grantees with small ORR program caseloads, or those geographically isolated from other grantees, making an onsite visit economically and logistically untenable. The primary corrective actions identified during monitoring centered on client eligibility for services. Program monitors drafted a report of their findings after each review and grantees were required to submit a corrective action plan to address any derogatory findings. ORR conducted follow-up as needed. Monitors also identified recommendations for practices that are technically compliant with federal law, ORR policy, or programmatic guidelines but can be improved, as well as promising practices to help strengthen services across states and programs.

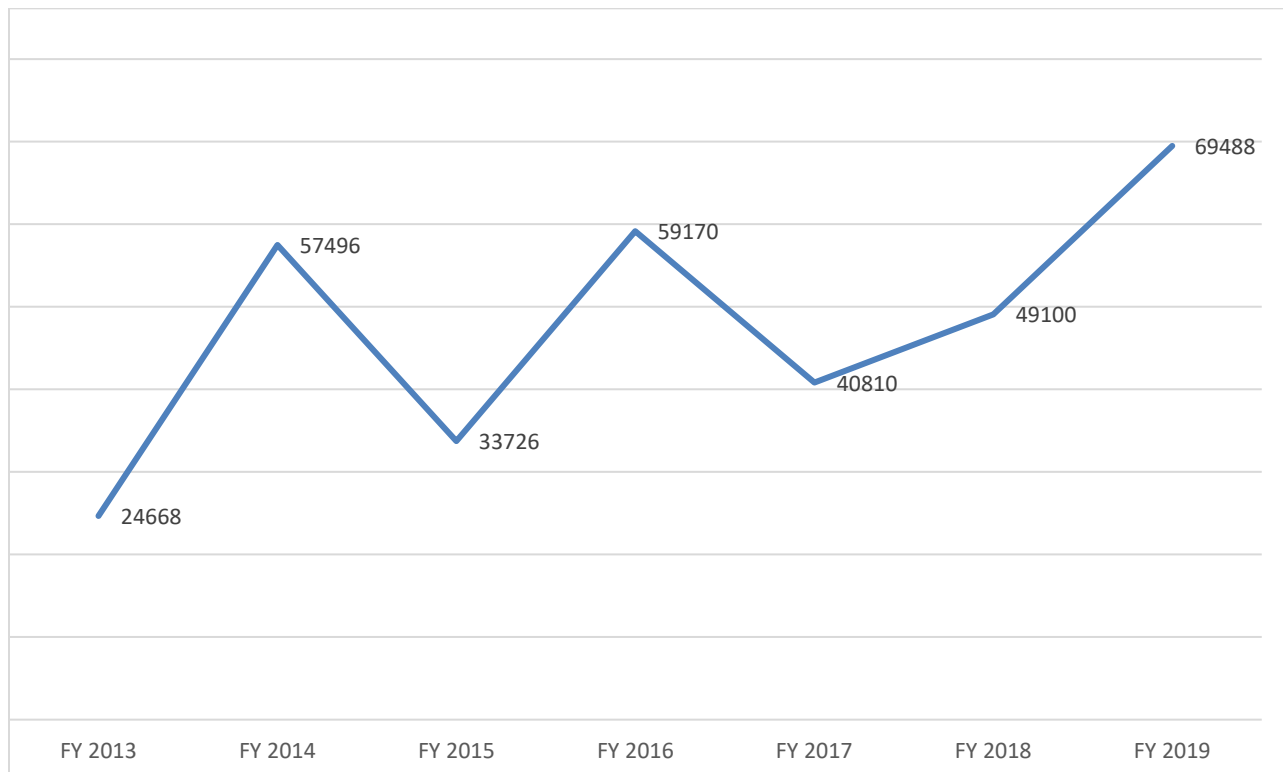
# Unaccompanied Children Program

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>36</sup> In most cases, UC are apprehended by immigration officials from DHS and then referred to the care and custody of ORR.<sup>37</sup>

## Profile of Unaccompanied Children

ORR served 69,488 UC in FY 2019, compared to 49,100 in FY 2018. Figure 4 indicates the number of UC referrals by year.

Figure 3: Number of Unaccompanied Children (UC) Referrals by Year



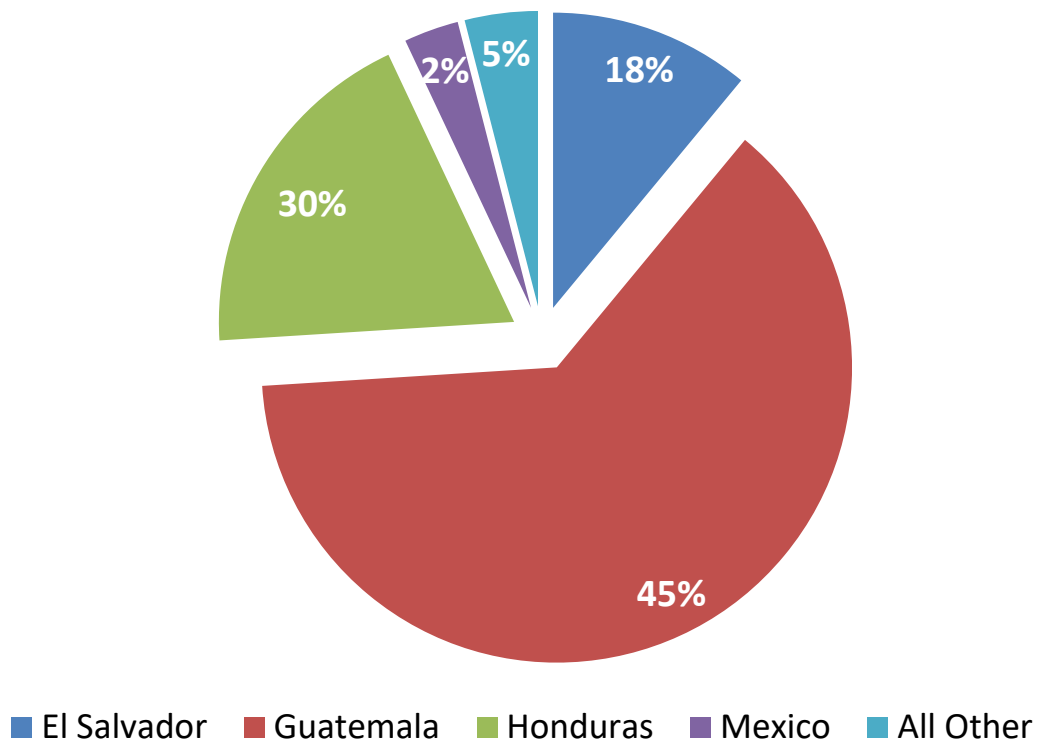
Source: Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Children Portal.

<sup>36</sup> See 6 U.S.C. § 279(g)(2).

<sup>37</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.

The majority of UC placed in ORR custody in FY 2019 were from Central American countries (Figure 5). The Central American countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras accounted for 93 percent of the 69,388 UC in ORR custody.

Figure 4: Unaccompanied Children (UC) by Country of Birth in FY 2019

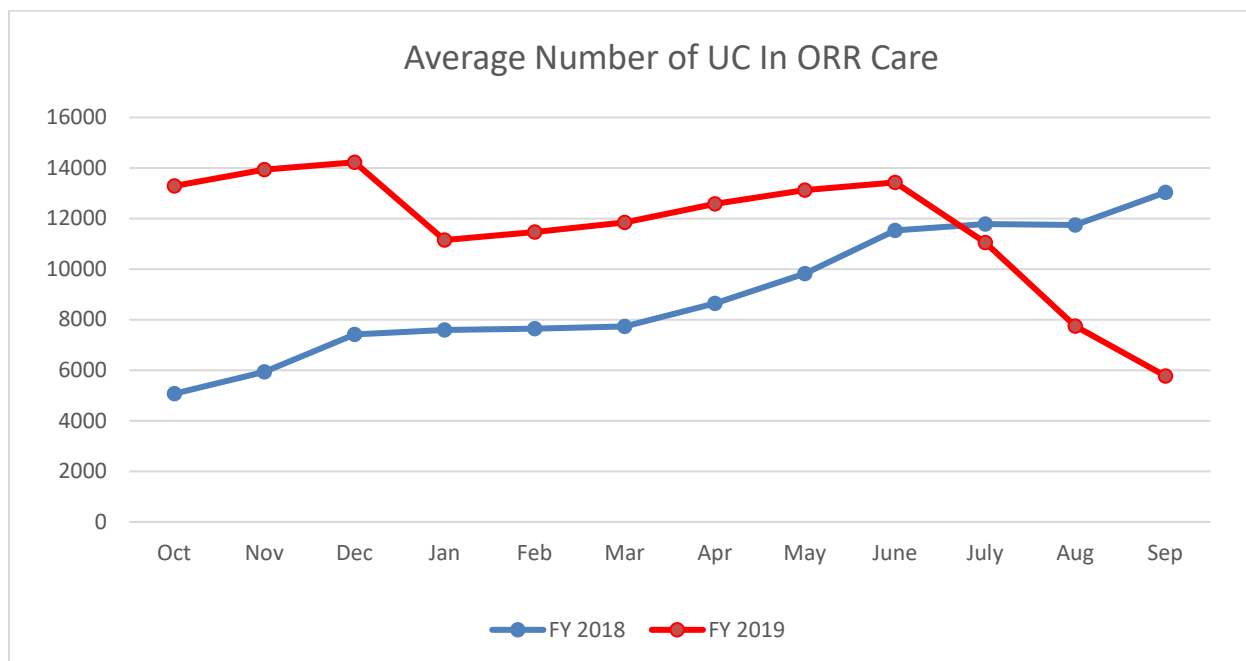


**Source:** Office of Refugee Resettlement's Unaccompanied Children Portal.

Of the children placed into ORR custody in FY 2019, 66 percent were boys and 34 percent were girls. The gender ratio is different from that of FY 2018, when 71 percent were boys and 29 percent were girls, but is similar to that of FY 2017, when 68 percent were boys and 32 percent were girls.

ORR experienced an increase in the number of DHS referrals from FY 2018 (49,100) to FY 2019 (69,488). The average number of UC in ORR care at any point in time increased in FY 2019 (11,637) compared to FY 2018 (8,997). As shown in Figure 6, the average number of UC in care was significantly higher in FY 2019 until June.

Figure 5: Average Number of Unaccompanied Children (UC) in ORR Care by Month in FY 2018 and FY 2019



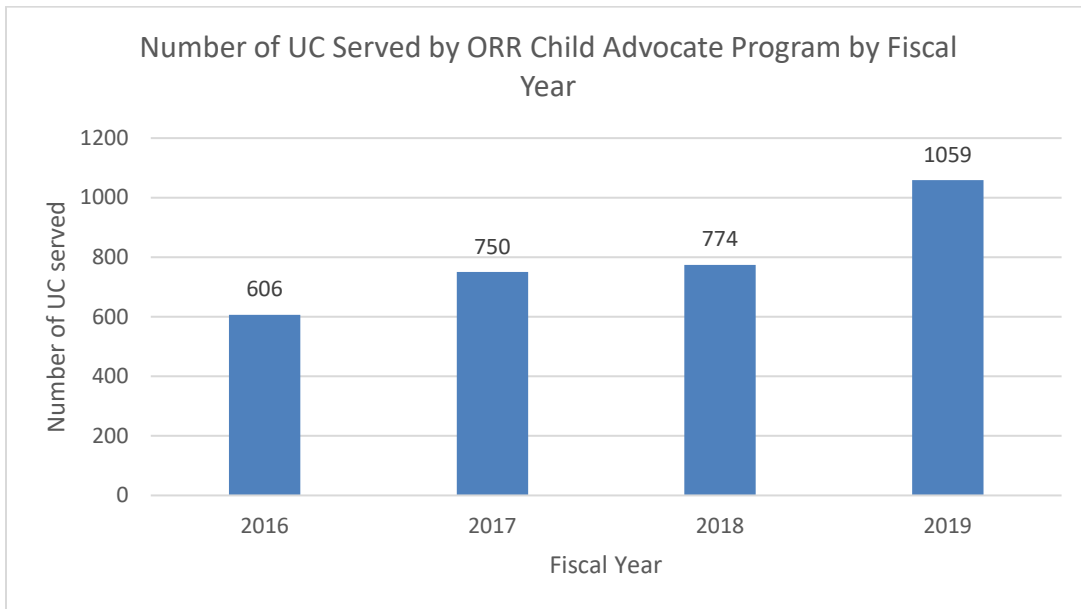
**Source:** Office of Refugee Resettlement’s Unaccompanied Children Portal.

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 staffings.

Child advocates and ORR maintain regular communication, informing each other of considerations or updates that impact service provision and release planning. Figure 7 shows the increase in number of child advocates since FY 2016.

Figure 7: Participation in Child Advocate Program

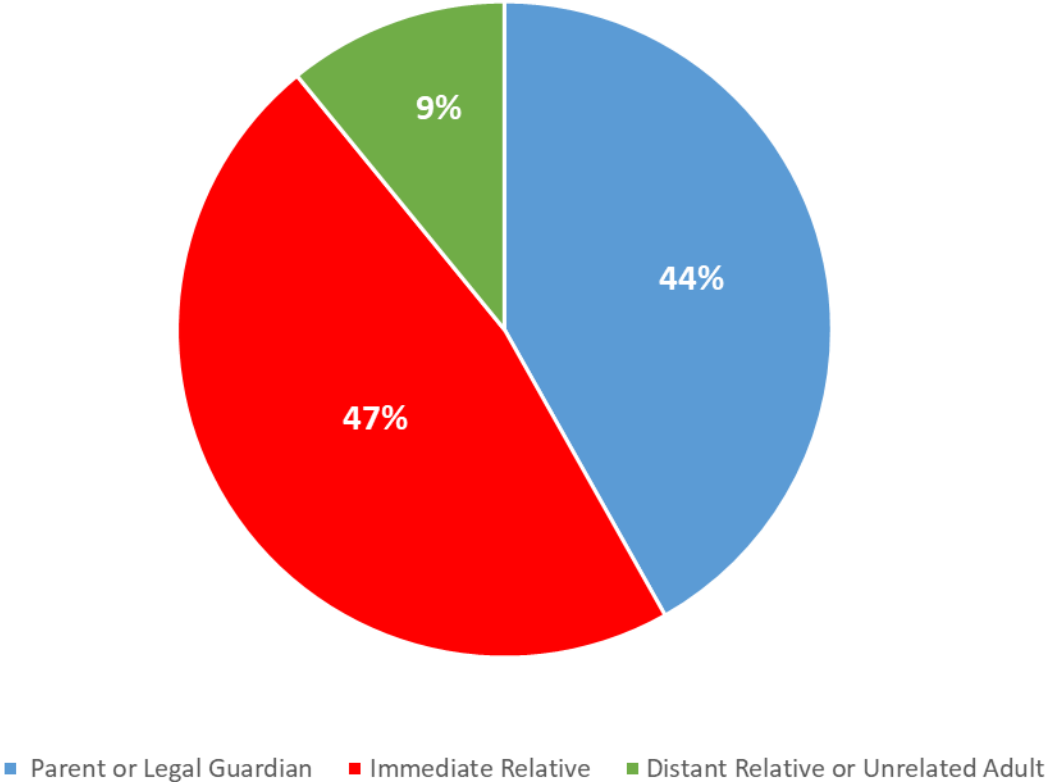


**Note.** UC = Unaccompanied children.

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 adults (referred to as “sponsors”) who are able to care for the child’s physical and mental well-being.

Approximately 91 percent of UC released to sponsors in FY 2019 were released to sponsors immediately related to the child. Figure 8 indicates the sponsor relationship to UC released in FY 2019.

Figure 8: Sponsor Relationship to Unaccompanied Children (UC)  
Released in FY 2019



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

UC were released to sponsors residing in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in FY 2019. Table 20 provides the state-by-state data.



Table 20: Number of Unaccompanied Children (UC)  
Released to a Sponsor by State in FY 2019

State	Number of UC (Oct. 2017– Sep. 2018)
Alabama	1,111
Alaska	4
Arizona	493
Arkansas	359
California	8,447
Colorado	714
Connecticut	959
Delaware	383
District of Columbia	322
Florida	7,408
Georgia	2,558
Hawaii	16
Idaho	62
Illinois	863
Indiana	794
Iowa	489
Kansas	453
Kentucky	710
Louisiana	1,966
Maine	26
Maryland	4,671
Massachusetts	1,756
Michigan	248
Minnesota	624
Mississippi	482
Missouri	431
Nebraska	563
Nevada	324
New Hampshire	25
New Jersey	4,236
New Mexico	89
New York	6,367
North Carolina	2,522
North Dakota	10
Ohio	1,091
Oklahoma	581
Oregon	318

Pennsylvania	1,229
Puerto Rico	3
Rhode Island	453
South Carolina	1,012
South Dakota	149
Tennessee	2,191
Texas	9,900
Utah	179
Vermont	6
Virginia	4,215
Washington	723
West Virginia	41
Wisconsin	246
Wyoming	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72,837</b>

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

## Profile of the Unaccompanied Children Program

A network of ORR-funded care providers supplies temporary housing and other services to UC 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 provider facilities are generally state licensed 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; staff secure, secure, and residential treatment centers.

Approximately 88 percent of UC were initially placed in a shelter in FY 2019. Foster care was the second-most common initial placement in approximately 12 percent of cases. 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 state 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 UC who do not have a viable sponsor and who have been identified as potentially eligible for immigration relief and are younger than 17 years and 6 months at time of placement.

Table 21: Unaccompanied Children (UC) by Initial Placement Type in FY 2019

Facility Type for Initial Placement	Number of UC
Shelter	61,183
Foster Care*	8,167
Secure/Staff Secure	136
Residential Treatment	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,488</b>

\* ORR funds long-term care placements for certain UC who do not have a viable sponsor and who 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.

Care providers operated under cooperative agreements and provide children with classroom education, health care, socialization/recreation, vocational training, legal services, mental health services, and case management.

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 UC. Information about legal services, including notices and referrals to community-based pro bono legal service providers, are provided to UC 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 ensuring they will bring the UC 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 Help Line, and to other children who would benefit from ongoing assistance from a community-based service provider.

ORR uses comprehensive monitoring to address immediate problems, prevent and address any lapses in compliance, and provide for continuous improvement in the delivery of services for children and youth. ORR conducts site visits at least monthly to ensure that care providers meet minimum standards for the care and timely release of UC, 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. 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 TA, as needed, to ensure that deficiencies are addressed.

# Appendix A

Table II-1: FY 2019 Wilson/Fish Grantees

State	Grantee	Wilson/Fish Funding*
Alabama	Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Mobile	\$270,023
Alaska	Catholic Social Services, Inc.	\$474,867
California (San Diego County)	Catholic Charities of San Diego	\$1,700,379
Colorado	Colorado Department of Human Services	\$2,507,035
Idaho	Jannus, Inc.	\$1,315,017
Kentucky	Catholic Charities of Louisville	\$2,728,793
Louisiana	Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge	\$1,330,582
Massachusetts	Office of Refugees and Immigrants	\$1,948,503
Nevada	Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada	\$1,772,648
North Dakota	Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota	\$770,483
South Dakota	Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota	\$736,877
Tennessee	Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc.	\$1,954,146
Vermont	U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants, Inc.	\$526,160

\* \$3.9 million of the total available funds for Wilson/Fish agencies in FY 2019 is derived from FY 2019 appropriated funds.

Table II-2: FY 2019 State Oversight

State/Program	State Oversight*
Alabama	Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)
Alaska	None
Colorado	Refugee Resettlement Program
Idaho	RMA, Refugee Medical Screening (RMS)
Kentucky	None
Louisiana	RMA
Massachusetts	Refugee Resettlement Program
Nevada	None
North Dakota	RMA, RMS, Unaccompanied Refugee Minor
San Diego	RMA, RMS, Refugee Support Services (RSS)
South Dakota	RMA, RMS
Tennessee	None
Vermont	RMA, RSS, State Refugee Coordinator position

\* "State Oversight" indicates which programs the state government oversees. "None" in the State Oversight column indicates that the state ceased participation in the Refugee Resettlement Program entirely.

Table II-3: FY 2019 Cash and Medical Assistance Grantees

Grantee Name	Total Funds Issued in FY2019
Alabama	\$63,041
Alaska (Catholic Social Services, Inc.)	\$40,854
Arizona	\$4,165,281
Arkansas	\$59,144
California - Cash	\$24,937,223
California - Medical	\$5,571,775
Colorado	\$5,398,631
Connecticut	\$500,277
Delaware	\$95,000
District of Columbia	\$2,112,342
Florida	\$26,286,169
Georgia	\$3,617,126
Hawaii	\$8,373
Idaho	\$1,213,476
Illinois	\$3,714,682
Indiana	\$2,048,948
Iowa	\$851,596
Kansas (International Rescue Committee)	\$2,330,496
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$1,088,415
Louisiana	\$9,636
Maine (Catholic Charities Maine)	\$896,755
Maryland	\$5,990,957
Massachusetts	\$11,837,338
Michigan	\$20,354,454
Minnesota	\$2,610,297
Mississippi	\$1,977,108
Missouri (International Institute of St. Louis)	\$829,758
Montana	\$403,917
Nebraska	\$1,366,064
Nevada (Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada)	\$135,300
New Hampshire	\$803,660
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$1,704,094
New Mexico	\$562,384
New York	\$8,910,000
North Carolina	\$2,811,489
North Dakota	\$1,967,249
Ohio	\$3,116,809
Oklahoma	\$364,990
Oregon	\$964,413
Pennsylvania	\$6,890,957
Rhode Island	\$256,700
South Carolina	\$357,047
South Dakota	\$324,939
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$867,841
Texas (Catholic Charities Fort Worth)	\$5,115,427

Texas (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$1,408,086
Texas (Refugee Services of Texas)	\$3,806,809
Texas (U.S Conference of Catholic Bishops)	\$5,809,762
Texas (YMCA of Greater Houston)	\$7,468,181
(U.S Committee for Refugees and Immigrants)*	\$20,226,026
Utah	\$5,654,630
Vermont	\$341,761
Virginia	\$4,889,525
Washington	\$14,745,812
West Virginia	\$12,683
Wisconsin	\$2,446,385
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$232,342,092</b>

\* U.S Committee for Refugees and Immigrants' grant covers Refugee Medical Assistance in Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas.

**Note.** Private nonprofit agencies that received CMA funds are listed within parentheses.

**Table II-4: FY 2019 Refugee Support Services (RSS) Grantees**

<b>State</b>	<b>FY2019 Total Base</b>
Alabama (Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Mobile)	\$147,748
Alaska (Catholic Social Services, Inc.)	\$153,026
Arizona	\$3,524,881
Arkansas	\$76,772
California	\$16,732,631
California WF (Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego)	\$955,095
Colorado	\$2,461,612
Connecticut	\$1,031,608
Delaware	\$75,000
District of Columbia	\$184,687
Florida	\$25,605,516
Georgia	\$2,994,566
Hawaii	\$75,000
Idaho (Jannus Inc.)	\$1,055,354
Illinois	\$2,770,303
Indiana	\$1,414,174
Iowa	\$1,659,543
Kansas (International Refugee Committee, Inc.)	\$1,147,697
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$3,305,895
Louisiana (Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge)	\$693,895
Maine (Catholic Charities Maine)	\$266,477
Maryland	\$3,524,881
Massachusetts	\$1,799,378
Michigan	\$2,553,956
Minnesota	\$2,400,929
Mississippi	\$75,000
Missouri (International Institute of St. Louis)	\$1,743,972
Montana	\$300,776
Nebraska	\$1,329,745
Nevada (Catholic Charities Diocese of Southern Nevada)	\$1,511,794



New Hampshire	\$448,525
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$1,250,594
New Mexico	\$269,115
New York	\$6,453,487
North Carolina	\$3,065,802
North Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)	\$485,463
Ohio	\$4,197,669
Oklahoma	\$324,521
Oregon	\$1,714,950
Pennsylvania	\$3,184,529
Rhode Island	\$261,200
South Carolina	\$311,329
South Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota)	\$598,913
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$2,385,099
Texas (Catholic Charities Fort Worth)	\$4,545,935
Texas (International Refugee Committee)	\$1,081,737
Texas (Refugee Services of Texas)	\$3,714,845
Texas (YMCA of Greater Houston)	\$5,804,445
Utah	\$1,287,531
Vermont	\$374,651
Virginia	\$4,437,762
Washington	\$6,772,732
West Virginia	\$75,000
Wisconsin	\$1,282,255
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$135,900,000</b>

**Note.** Private nonprofit agencies that received RSS funds are listed within parentheses.

**Table II-5: FY 2019 Matching Grant Grantees**

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Federal Award Amount</b>
Church World Service (CWS)	\$5,711,400
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS)	\$1,848,600
Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)	\$1,727,300
HIAS, Inc. (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)	\$2,392,800
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	\$9,031,100
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)	\$4,027,400
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)	\$9,780,300
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)	\$9,885,200
World Relief (WR)	\$3,093,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,497,900</b>

Table II-6: FY 2019 Average Full-Time Hourly Wage by Grantee

Grantee	Average Full-Time Hourly Wage at 180 Days
Church World Service (CWS)	\$11.77
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS)	\$16.00
Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)	\$12.38
HIAS, Inc. (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)	\$12.48
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	\$12.20
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)	\$12.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)	\$12.13
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)	\$11.84
World Relief (WR)	\$14.14

Table II-7: FY 2019 Matching Grant Outcomes by Grantee

Grantee	Clients Newly Enrolled	Self-sufficient at 120 Days*	Self-sufficient at 180 Days*	Entered Employment at 180 Days	Employer Health Benefits Offered at 180 Days
Church World Service	2,257	1,302	1,581	744	429
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society	893	606	744	293	213
Ethiopian Community Development Council	749	435	565	273	219
HIAS, Inc. (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)	940	618	647	301	144
International Rescue Committee	3,474	2,479	2,759	1,137	734
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	1,980	892	1,195	480	296
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	3,941	2,594	3,190	1,465	899
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	3,834	2,336	2,648	1,268	597
World Relief	1,375	812	1,108	508	294

\* This number includes all FY 2018 and FY 2019 enrolled clients reaching day 120 or day 180 of their Matching Grant service period during FY 2019.

**Note.** The Matching Grant guidelines provided to grantees 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 public cash assistance. In practice, this means having earnings that exceed the income eligibility level for receipt of a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance grant in the state and the ability to cover the family living expenses. The use of this definition is only for comparisons in the Matching Grant outcomes.

Table II-8: FY 2019 Highlights of Matching Grant Providers with More than 140 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	350	91%	96%	81%	\$11.00
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	Phoenix, AZ	156	98%	94%	79%	\$11.00
International Rescue Committee	Tucson, AZ	149	81%	89%	76%	\$11.00
World Relief	North Highlands, CA	214	58%	82%	78%	\$14.00
Church World Service	Doral, FL	441	52%	65%	53%	\$10.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Miami, FL	830	20%	41%	41%	\$10.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Miami, FL	148	15%	39%	41%	\$11.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Riviera Beach, FL	212	52%	62%	75%	\$10.00
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	Tampa, FL	241	29%	40%	29%	\$10.00
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	Atlanta, GA	224	77%	98%	75%	\$11.00
Church World Service	Atlanta, GA	168	76%	93%	76%	\$11.00
International Rescue Committee	Atlanta, GA	554	79%	94%	66%	\$11.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Des Moines, IA	184	79%	97%	65%	\$13.00
Church World Service	Indianapolis, IN	163	78%	86%	63%	\$12.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Indianapolis, IN	197	70%	80%	63%	\$12.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Bowling Green, KY	271	100%	97%	58%	\$11.00
International Rescue Committee	Baltimore, MD	254	66%	66%	65%	\$12.00
Church World Service	Grand Rapids, MI	286	42%	96%	78%	\$12.00

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	Grand Rapids, MI	195	45%	98%	69%	\$12.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Kansas City, MO	224	85%	93%	75%	\$10.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	St. Louis, MO	184	93%	93%	70%	\$11.00
Church World Service	Durham, NC	196	86%	96%	77%	\$10.00
Church World Service	Greensboro, NC	152	76%	95%	76%	\$11.00
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	Omaha, NE	154	88%	86%	49%	\$12.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Brooklyn, NY	280	72%	89%	78%	\$16.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	New York, NY	289	57%	67%	68%	\$15.00
Church World Service	Lancaster, PA	183	61%	83%	72%	\$11.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Philadelphia, PA	204	85%	88%	75%	\$11.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Nashville, TN	171	63%	75%	71%	\$13.00
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society	Austin, TX	230	47%	92%	57%	\$36.00
International Rescue Committee	Dallas, TX	219	82%	86%	74%	\$11.00
Church World Service	Dallas, TX	149	64%	83%	47%	\$11.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Dallas, TX	150	68%	95%	77%	\$10.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Fort Worth, TX	254	80%	95%	88%	\$10.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Houston, TX	321	68%	90%	81%	\$12.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Houston, TX	376	69%	76%	61%	\$10.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	San Antonio, TX	181	72%	80%	70%	\$10.00
International Rescue Committee	Salt Lake City, UT	225	69%	91%	66%	\$11.00

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Salt Lake City, UT	161	9%	77%	65%	\$11.00
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Manassas, VA	201	74%	87%	76%	\$13.00
World Relief	Kent, WA	352	36%	76%	63%	\$16.00
International Rescue Committee	SeaTac, WA	226	84%	94%	64%	\$15.00

Table II-9: FY 2019 Microenterprise Development Grantees

Grantee	State	Awarded Amount
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Arizona	\$223,300
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	California	\$162,400
Opening Doors Inc.	California	\$174,000
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment	California	\$232,000
Community Enterprise Development Services	Colorado	\$231,600
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Georgia	\$175,000
Jannus, Inc.	Idaho	\$181,945
Jewish Vocational Career and Services of Louisville, Inc.	Kentucky	\$146,300
HIAS, Inc. (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)	Maryland	\$249,995
Hmong American Partnership	Minnesota	\$250,000
International Institute of St. Louis	Missouri	\$232,000
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	New Mexico	\$188,175
Business Outreach Center Network, Inc.	New York	\$232,000
Center for Community Development for New Americans	New York	\$232,000
Westminster Economic Development Initiative, Inc.	New York	\$170,400
North Carolina African Services Coalition, Inc.	North Carolina	\$247,800
Economic And Community Development Institute, Inc.	Ohio	\$232,000
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.	Pennsylvania	\$232,000
Women's Opportunities Resource Center	Pennsylvania	\$200,472
ECDC Enterprise Development Council, Inc.	Virginia	\$236,924
New Roots	Washington	\$248,467
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,478,778</b>

Table II-10: FY 2019 Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Grantees

Grantee	State	Amount
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	California	\$187,500
Jannus, Inc.	Idaho	\$187,500
Catherine McAuley Center, Inc.	Iowa	\$158,705
Midlands Latino Community Development Corp.	Nebraska	\$187,278
Journey's End Refugee Services	New York	\$187,500
The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization	Oregon	\$187,500
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Utah	\$187,500
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.	Virginia	\$187,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,470,983</b>

Table II-11: FY 2019 Individual Development Account Grantees

Grantee	State	Amount
Alliance for African Assistance	California	\$250,000
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment	California	\$250,000
Pars Equality Center	California	\$250,000
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	Colorado	\$187,687
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. (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)	Maryland	\$250,000
World Relief	Maryland	\$249,235
Isuroon	Minnesota	\$199,612
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska	Nebraska	\$250,000
Refugee & Immigrant Self-Empowerment, Inc.	New York	\$250,000
Ohio CDC Association	Ohio	\$250,000
The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization	Oregon	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Utah	\$250,000
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.	Virginia	\$250,000
New Roots Fund	Washington	\$245,177
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,280,806</b>

Table II-12: FY 2019 Refugee Career Pathways Grantees

Grantee	State	Grant Amount
Upwardly Global	California	\$250,000
Pars Equality Center	California	\$250,000
Colorado Department of Human Services	Colorado	\$250,000
Broward College	Florida	\$250,000
Center for PanAsian Community Services, Inc.	Georgia	\$181,085
Jannus, Inc.	Idaho	\$250,000
Institute For Latino Progress	Illinois	\$249,963
Lutheran Services in Iowa, Inc.	Iowa	\$250,000
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Inc.	Maryland	\$249,011
International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis	Missouri	\$249,560
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	New York	\$250,000
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester	New York	\$250,000
The Immigrant And Refugee Community Organization	Oregon	\$245,000
Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit School District #13	Pennsylvania	\$250,000
International Institute Rhode Island	Rhode Island	\$225,300
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota	South Dakota	\$227,630
Snohomish County Workforce Development Council	Washington	\$244,347
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,121,896</b>

Table II-13: FY 2019 Refugee Health Promotion Grantees

Grantee	State	Amount
Catholic Social Services, Inc.	Alaska	\$75,000
Arizona Dept. of Economic Security	Arizona	\$7,420
Arkansas Department of Health	Arkansas	\$119,500
California Department of Public Health	California	\$195,000
Colorado Department of Human Services	Colorado	\$86,821
Connecticut Department of Public Health	Connecticut	\$80,000
Community of Hope, Inc.	District of Columbia	\$75,000
Florida Department of Health	Florida	\$108,000
Georgia Department of Public Health	Georgia	\$103,000
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare	Idaho	\$27,337
Illinois Department of Public Health	Illinois	\$75,500
Indiana State DOE	Indiana	\$149,200
Iowa Dept. of Human Services	Iowa	\$114,000
International Rescue Committee	KS	\$91,000
Catholic Charities of Louisville	KY	\$140,000
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge	LA	\$75,000
Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants	MA	\$114,000
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	MD	\$151,000
Catholic Charities Maine	ME	\$119,000
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services	MI	\$152,000
Minnesota Department of Health	MN	\$125,000
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services	NC	\$125,000
Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota	ND	\$75,000
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	NE	\$141,500
NH Department of Health and Human Services	NH	\$75,000
International Rescue Committee	NJ	\$115,000
New Mexico Department of Health	NM	\$75,000
Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada	NV	\$100,000
NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance	NY	\$175,000
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services	OH	\$140,000
Multnomah County Health Department	OR	\$98,400
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	PA	\$126,000
Rhode Island Department of Health	RI	\$75,000
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota	SD	\$78,300
Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc.	TN	\$115,000
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	TX	\$195,000
Utah Department of Health	UT	\$75,000
Virginia Department of Social Services	VA	\$119,600
Vermont Department of Health	VT	\$75,000
WA Department of Social and Health Services	WA	\$135,000
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families	WI	\$110,100
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,406,678</b>



Table II-14: FY 2019 Survivors of Torture Grantees

Grantee	State	Amount
Asian Americans For Community Involvement Of Santa Clara, Inc.	California	\$450,000
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	California	\$382,276
Partnerships for Trauma Recovery	California	\$287,512
Program for Torture Victims	California	\$328,574
Program for Torture Victims	California	\$517,724
Regents of the University of California, San Francisco,	California	\$419,475
Survivors of Torture, International	California	\$450,000
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	Colorado	\$212,936
International Institute of Connecticut, Inc.	Connecticut	\$212,957
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC), International	District of Columbia	\$418,329
Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc.	Florida	\$517,724
Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Inc.	Idaho	\$251,517
Heartland Alliance International	Illinois	\$420,269
University of Louisville Research Foundation, Inc.	Kentucky	\$382,229
HIAS, Inc. (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)	Maryland	\$336,333
Boston Medical Center Corporation	Massachusetts	\$420,269
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services	Michigan	\$327,913
Bethany Christian Services	Michigan	\$297,091
Center For Victims Of Torture	Minnesota	\$600,000
Center For Victims Of Torture	Minnesota	\$420,269
Center For Victims Of Torture	Minnesota	\$334,393
Bilingual International Assistant Services	Missouri	\$223,888
HHC Elmhurst Hospital Center	New York	\$450,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	New York	\$420,269
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	New York	\$420,269
Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County	New York	\$297,603
New York City Health & Hospitals, dba Bellevue Hospital	New York	\$450,000
New York City Health & Hospitals, dba Bellevue Hospital	New York	\$275,421
Catholic Charities Corporation	Ohio	\$419,900
Oregon Health & Science University	Oregon	\$395,233
Nationalities Services Center of Philadelphia, PA	Pennsylvania	\$420,258
Center for Survivors of Torture	Texas	\$517,724
Utah Health and Human Rights Project	Utah	\$319,237
Vermont Psychological Services: Leitenberg Center	Vermont	\$212,957
Northern Virginia Family Service	Virginia	\$281,531
Lutheran Community Services Northwest	Washington	\$419,053
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$13,511,133</b>

Note. dba = doing business as.

Table II-15: FY 2019 Ethnic Community Self-Help Program Grantees

Grantee	State	Amount
Somali-American United Council of Arizona	Arizona	\$200,000
The Somali Bantu Association of America	California	\$199,086
Center for Immigrants and Immigration Services	Colorado	\$200,000
Refugee Family Assistance Program	Georgia	\$150,000
Iraqi Mutual Aid Society	Illinois	\$199,845
Burmese American Community Institute	Indiana	\$199,840
Ethnic Minorities from 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	Nebraska	\$200,000
Building Community In New Hampshire	New Hampshire	\$130,449
Refugee & Immigrant Self-Empowerment, Inc.	New York	\$198,766
Refugees Helping Refugees	New York	\$199,991
North Carolina African Services Coalition, Inc.	North Carolina	\$199,332
The Bhutanese Nepali Community of Columbus	Ohio	\$154,150
US Together, Inc.	Ohio	\$188,982
Refugee Empowerment Program	Tennessee	\$200,000
Association of Africans Living in Vermont, Inc.	Vermont	\$198,794
Ethiopian Community Development Council	Virginia	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,807,529</b>

Table II-16: FY 2019 Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program Grantees

Grantee	State	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
International Institute Of Metropolitan St. Louis	Missouri	\$99,993
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska	Nebraska	\$100,000
Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success	New Hampshire	\$100,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	New York	\$100,000
Journey's 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	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,699,813</b>

Table II-17: FY 2019 Preferred Communities Grantees

Grantee	Amount
Church World Service	\$1,585,215
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society	\$1,289,431
Ethiopian Community Development Center	\$1,416,989
HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)	\$1,357,888
International Rescue Committee	\$2,151,363
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	\$2,092,420
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	\$1,990,049
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops	\$3,144,736
World Relief	\$1,579,010
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,607,101</b>

Table II-18: FY 2019 Youth Mentoring Grantees

State	Amount
Arizona	\$350,193
California	\$650,000
Colorado	\$208,194
Connecticut	\$100,000
Florida	\$750,000
Georgia	\$289,336
Idaho (Jannus, Inc.)	\$100,000
Illinois	\$247,698
Indiana	\$100,000
Iowa	\$152,676
Kansas (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$100,000
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$267,983
Maine (Catholic Charities Maine)	\$75,000
Maryland	\$265,848
Massachusetts	\$176,164
Michigan	\$242,359
Minnesota	\$210,329
Missouri (International Institute of St. Louis)	\$141,999
Nebraska	\$100,000
Nevada (Catholic Charities Diocese of Southern Nevada)	\$100,000
New Hampshire	\$75,000
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$102,496
New York	\$541,304
North Carolina	\$265,848
North Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)	\$75,000
Ohio	\$373,682
Oregon	\$119,578
Pennsylvania	\$255,171
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$182,570

Texas Catholic Charities	\$195,065
Texas (International Rescue Committee)	\$46,410
Texas (Refugee Services of Texas, Inc.)	\$159,445
Texas (YMCA)	\$249,080
Utah	\$100,000
Virginia	\$345,922
Washington	\$513,545
Wisconsin	\$112,105
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,340,000</b>

**Note.** Private nonprofit agencies that received Refugee Support Services Youth Mentoring funds are listed within

**Table II-19: FY 2019 Refugee School Impact Grantees**

<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Arizona	\$634,746
California	\$1,000,000
Colorado	\$322,322
Connecticut	\$134,249
Florida	\$1,000,000
Georgia	\$459,046
Idaho (Jannus, Inc.)	\$150,953
Illinois	\$408,935
Indiana	\$209,726
Iowa	\$165,182
Kansas (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$125,000
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$496,166
Louisiana (Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge)	\$75,000
Maine (Catholic Charities of Maine)	\$125,000
Maryland	\$456,572
Massachusetts	\$283,347
Michigan	\$610,618
Minnesota	\$365,628
Missouri (International Institute of St. Louis)	\$348,306
Nebraska	\$282,728
Nevada (Catholic Charities Diocese of Southern Nevada)	\$170,750
New Hampshire	\$100,000
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$125,000
New Mexico	\$75,000
New York	\$903,863
North Carolina	\$451,622
North Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)	\$125,000
Ohio	\$628,559
Oklahoma	\$75,000
Oregon	\$243,134
Pennsylvania	\$519,056
Rhode Island	\$75,000
South Carolina	\$75,000
South Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota)	\$100,000
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$275,923
Texas (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops)	\$1,000,000

<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Utah	\$191,785
Vermont	\$75,000
Virginia	\$737,444
Washington	\$757,859
Wisconsin	\$221,481
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,580,000</b>

**Note.** Private nonprofit agencies that received Refugee School Impact funds are listed within parentheses.

Table II-20: FY 2019 Services to Older Refugees Grantees

State	Amount
Arizona	\$150,000
California	\$325,000
Colorado	\$100,000
Connecticut	\$75,000
Florida	\$325,000
Georgia	\$100,000
Idaho (Jannus, Inc.)	\$90,000
Illinois	\$186,598
Indiana	\$75,000
Iowa	\$75,000
Kansas (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$75,000
Kentucky (Catholic Charities of Louisville)	\$100,000
Louisiana (Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge)	\$75,000
Maine (Catholic Charities of Maine)	\$75,000
Maryland	\$90,000
Massachusetts	\$100,000
Michigan	\$260,014
Minnesota	\$125,000
Missouri (International Institute of St. Louis)	\$100,000
Nebraska	\$100,000
Nevada (Catholic Charities Diocese of Southern Nevada)	\$90,000
New Hampshire	\$75,000
New Jersey (International Rescue Committee, Inc.)	\$90,000
New York	\$223,306
North Carolina	\$150,000
North Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)	\$90,000
Ohio	\$195,775
Oklahoma	\$75,000
Oregon	\$100,000
Pennsylvania	\$150,000
South Carolina	\$75,000
South Dakota (Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota)	\$75,000
Tennessee (Catholic Charities of Tennessee)	\$100,000
Texas (Catholic Charities of Fort Worth)	\$84,460
Texas (Refugee Services of Texas)	\$75,000
Texas (YMCA of Greater Houston)	\$135,540
Utah	\$90,000
Vermont	\$75,000
Virginia	\$125,000
Washington	\$249,307
Wisconsin	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

**Note.** Private nonprofit agencies that received Refugee Support Services to Older Refugees funds

# Appendix B

# Technical Notes about the Annual Survey of Refugees

## History and Purpose of the ASR

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) completed the Annual Survey of Refugees 2019 (ASR 2019) in the first quarter of 2020. Respondents to this cross-sectional study were drawn from the population of refugees who arrived in the United States between October 1, 2013, and September 30, 2018 (federal fiscal years [FYs] 2014 and 2018). 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 ASR 2019 were conducted over 14 weeks from January to April, 2019. The ASR 2019 was administered by The Urban Institute and surveys were overseen by its subcontractor, Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS).

## Improvements in ASR 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019

The ASR focuses on recently arrived refugee households, tracking their economic progress during their first 5 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 5 years in the United States. To improve the representativeness of data and quality of point-in-time estimates, 2016–2019 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, 2016–2019 ASRs sampled refugees entering in the previous 5 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 8 months and 5 years.



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

All 2016–2019 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.

Due to these revisions in study design and survey administration, *estimates from the 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 ASR are not directly comparable to prior years' surveys. The 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 ASR are directly comparable.*

## Sampling and Non-Response

The ASR 2019 sample was drawn as fresh cross-sections within three arrival cohorts (FY 2018, FY 2016–FY 2017, and FY 2014–FY 2015). The goal was to contact 500 households per cohort to prioritize the statistical precision of cohort estimates. The 2019 ASR field effort resulted in 1,506 completed household interviews, representing 3,003 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 27 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 2014–FY 2018 spoke 207 non-English languages. The 2019 ASR was offered in English and 20 other languages, covering 76 percent of refugees entering during the survey period. The remaining 24 percent of refugees (speaking an additional 186 languages) were intentionally excluded from the sample frame for reasons of feasibility.

The 2019 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 1 and 2 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 2019 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 ASR 2019 is due to insufficient or outdated contact

information. The response rate was largely driven by the inability to locate or speak to 75 percent of sampled individuals.

Table III-1: Arrival Time Frames, Cohort Years, and ASR 2019 Cohort N Response Rate

ASR Cohort	Time of Arrival	Years in United States at Time of Survey	Sample N	N Responded	Response Rate
(1) FY2018	Oct 1, 2017–Sept. 30, 2018	<2.5 years	2,128	503	24%
(2) FY2016– FY2017	Oct 1, 2015–Sept. 30, 2017	2.5 to 4.5 years	2,556	502	20%
(3) FY2014– FY2015	Oct 1, 2013–Sept. 30, 2015	4.5 years to 6.5 years	3,334	501	15%

Table III-2: Comparing ASR 2019 and Administrative Estimates by Arrival Cohort to Demonstrate Post Stratification Weighting

Individuals	FY2014–FY2015		FY2016–FY2017		FY2018		Total	
<i>Years in United States at Time of Survey Administration</i>	4.5 to 6.5		2.5 to 4.5		<2.5			
	<b>RADS</b>	<b>ASR</b>	<b>RADS</b>	<b>ASR</b>	<b>RADS</b>	<b>ASR</b>	<b>RADS</b>	<b>ASR</b>
<i>Individuals Age 16 or Older</i>	105,769	993	92,938	1062	14,472	948	213,179	3,003
<b>Region of Origin</b>								
Africa	26.7	20.6	35.5	26.8	43.0	32.2	31.7	24.2
East Asia	22.9	17.6	12.8	11.1	16.8	22.7	18.1	15.1
Europe	2.4	5.1	7.0	7.5	16.1	13.9	5.3	6.9
Latin America/Caribbean	5.3	9.7	2.6	8.2	4.9	11.7	4.1	9.2
Near East/South Asian	42.7	47.0	42.1	46.4	19.1	19.6	40.8	44.7
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	52.7	54.6	50.2	50.0	50.0	45.1	51.4	51.9
Female	47.3	45.4	49.8	50.0	50.0	54.9	48.6	48.1
<b>Age at Arrival</b>								
0-15	13.1	12.4	10.5	9.6	5.7	8.0	11.5	10.8
16-24	23.8	23.1	26.9	26.4	31.1	33.6	25.6	25.4
25-39	36.4	35.5	37.1	39.2	36.1	31.4	36.7	36.8
40-54	17.3	19.4	16.9	15.5	17.7	17.9	17.1	17.6
55+	9.4	9.5	8.6	9.2	9.3	9.1	9.0	9.4
<b>Family Size</b>								
1	27.4	25.3	26.4	29.1	29.4	29.7	27.1	27.3
2	12.2	13.1	11.3	11.2	12.0	10.6	11.8	12.0
3+	60.4	61.6	62.3	59.8	57.3	58.1	61.0	60.5
<b>Primary Language</b>								
Arabic	22.5	24.4	22.9	26.4	1.4	1.2	21.2	23.5
Nepali	11.1	11.6	7.7	9.0	11.0	12.7	9.6	10.5
Somali	11.1	9.5	9.5	9.6	1.0	1.5	9.7	8.9
Sgaw Karen	5.4	6.4	2.7	2.5	2.9	4.8	4.1	4.6
Spanish	5.3	9.7	2.6	8.2	3.2	11.3	4.0	9.1
Other	44.6	38.4	54.6	44.4	80.5	68.5	51.4	43.3

**Note.** ASR = Annual Survey of Refugees; RADS = Refugee Arrivals Data System.