Addressing Housing Challenges Experienced by Refugees
Addressing Housing Challenges Experienced by Refugees

David Zverow
RAN / ICNA Relief

Dr. Galya Ben-Arieh
Northwestern University / Compass

Lori Lucchetti
Building Peaceful Bridges

Housing Matters 2022  |  October 20, 2022  |  Bloomington, Illinois
Addressing Housing Challenges Experienced by Refugees

David Zverow
Program Consultant
Chair, RAN Housing Committee
Mission: Refugee Action Network is a statewide advocacy group supporting the inclusive integration of refugees in Illinois through public policy and community education.

About us: We are a coalition of refugees, resettlement agencies, mutual aid societies, community organizations, and other advocates working together to advocate for refugees, asylees, asylum-seekers, and those with similar status.

Formerly named The Golden Door Coalition, we’ve advocated for refugees in Chicago and throughout Illinois for more than a decade. We are committed to creating welcoming communities that value refugees and empower them to lead fulfilling lives of safety and dignity.

Refugee Action Network’s work focuses on:
• Creating an inclusive network that uplifts the voices of refugees
• Educating communities, civic leaders, and the media about refugees
• Mobilizing individuals and organizations to advocate for refugees
### Refugee Action Network Member Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arab American Family Services</th>
<th>CPS - Office of Early Childhood Education</th>
<th>Iraqi Christian Relief Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian Human Services</td>
<td>Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago</td>
<td>Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Peaceful Bridges</td>
<td>Exodus World Service</td>
<td>MIRA (formerly IMAS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Charities</td>
<td>FORA</td>
<td>RefugeeOne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Jews for Refugees Coalition</td>
<td>Girland Forward</td>
<td>Syrian Community Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Refugee Coalition</td>
<td>Heartland Alliance</td>
<td>United African Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Mutual Aid Association</td>
<td>HIAS</td>
<td>Vietnamese Association of Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compass Partnerships</td>
<td>ICNA Relief</td>
<td>World Relief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago</td>
<td>Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RAN Housing Committee Activity

Refugee Action Network

• Origin and activity of Housing Committee

• Partnership with Housing Action Illinois
  • State advocacy:
    • HB 2775-Source of Income discrimination prevention
    • $150M in American Rescue Plan Act funds for affordable housing

• Federal advocacy:
  • Legislator visits for Build Back Better Act

• Municipal advocacy:
  • Meet with mayors and/or housing officials in designated suburbs
Refugee Resettlement Flow Chart

1. Oversees United Nations and U.S. vetting of refugee family
   a. Families often wait years for resettlement from refugee camps
   b. Most Afghan and Ukrainian families come in as parolees, not refugees
      i. Parolees are not guaranteed benefits by the U.S., just emergency placement
      ii. Afghans, Ukrainians are granted most refugee benefits
   c. Asylees proceed through a different process

2. Resettlement agencies in placement citys
   d. Three months of government services are mandated. Sometimes service period is extended.
   e. Chicago area resettlement agencies: Refugee One, Ethiopian Community Association, World Relief, Heartland Alliance, Catholic Charities, JCFS (HIAS Chicago), Muslim Women’s Center, Arab-American Family Services
   f. Resettlement agencies are responsible for finding families housing, jobs, and applying for benefits

3. Mutual aid societies/local independent agencies
   g. ICNA Relief, Building Peaceful Bridges, Compass in this category
   h. Provide wide variety of case management and other services in languages of most common refugee groups.
Refugee Action Network Housing Poll

We would like to ask you the following questions so we can better understand your housing needs. We hope that your answers will help us to better advocate for housing assistance on your behalf with our state and federal legislators. Your participation will in no way affect your ability to get services from the agency. We will not share any personal identifying information. Your information will only be used to tabulate anonymous totals.

(Optional) Name: __________________________

Country of Origin: __________________________

(Optional) Phone number to call for more information if needed or want to share their story: ________

Zip code: ________

Neighborhood: ________________________________

1. How many people live in your home? ________
2. How many bedrooms is your unit? ______
3. How much is your monthly rental/mortgage? ________
4. (Optional) What is your monthly income? ________

Date: ________________  THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!
Refugee Action Network Housing Poll Results

Survey of housing data from 120 refugees from:

- ICNA Relief
- Refugee One
- Arab American Action Network
- World Relief

Average family rental cost: $1,105
Average family income/mo: $1,521
Percentage of family income spent on rent: 73%
What is ICNA Relief?
Islamic Circle of North America Relief

- ICNA Relief is a national non-profit social services organization.
- Our work centers on empowering families, preventing hunger, rescuing homeless women, preparing students for school, providing basic healthcare, and more.
- Our organization is faith-inspired, "Muslims for Humanity"
- Our services are open to the public regardless of religion, gender, nationality, etc., serving right here in our local neighborhoods.
- Our team consists of 80% volunteers.
ICNA Relief Flagship Programs

- Muslim Family Services
- Hunger Prevention
- Transitional Home
- Back2School
- Health Services
- Disaster Response

+ Seasonal Drives
Refugee Housing

Patterns and Outcomes in Illinois

Galya Ben-Arieh, J.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Northwestern University
Founding President, COMPASS –
Community Partnerships for Settlement Strategies
89.3 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE
at the end of 2021 as a result of persecution, conflict, violence,
human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order.

27.1 million refugees
21.3 million refugees under UNHCR’s mandate
5.8 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA’s mandate

53.2 million internally displaced people

4.6 million asylum seekers

4.4 million Venezuelans displaced abroad

https://www.unhcr.org/ph/figures-at-a-glance
TERMINOLOGY

**REFUGEE:** Afforded legal protection to stay in host country on account of past or future persecution – cannot return – states who signed the Refugee Convention are obligated to recognize refugees through an administrative process.

**UNDOCUMENTED:** yet undetermined legal status or basis for protection in the country

**ILLEGAL:** determined legal status – adjudicator determined person has no legal right to be in the country as per the county’s ADMINISTRATIVE law and policy (not criminal law).

- **Exclusion** from entry at the border vs. **Deportation** (removal from the interior for unlawful presence)
ART 1: LEGAL RECOGNITION AS A REFUGEE

A REFUGEE IS SOMEONE WHO “OWING TO A WELL-FOUNDED FEAR OF BEING PERSECUTED FOR REASONS OF RACE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, MEMBERSHIP OF A PARTICULAR SOCIAL GROUP, OR POLITICAL OPINION, IS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY OF HIS NATIONALITY, AND IS UNABLE TO OR, OWING TO SUCH FEAR, IS UNWILLING TO AVAIL HIMSELF OF THE PROTECTION OF THAT COUNTRY...”

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
• City Locations- go to local UNHCR offices and apply for status
• Refugee Camps- register for status
• UNHCR ID Card

- Do not choose country they would like to live
  - US Ties can increase odds of going to particular country

- UNHCR identifies most vulnerable refugees for resettlement and makes recommendations to countries
  - Urgent protection cases
  - Single parent households
  - Women head of households
  - Chronic illness/significant medical needs

Less than 1% of the world's refugees are resettled into a 3rd country
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2023

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, in accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the “Act”) (8 U.S.C. 1157), and after appropriate consultations with the Congress, I hereby make the following determinations and authorize the following actions:

The admission of up to 125,000 refugees to the United States during Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest.

The admissions numbers shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with the following regional allocations:

- Africa .............. 40,000
- East Asia .......... 15,000
- Europe and Central Asia .... 15,000
- Latin America/Caribbean .... 15,000
- Near East/South Asia ...... 35,000
- Unallocated Reserve ....... 5,000

The 5,000 unallocated refugee numbers shall be allocated to regional ceilings, as needed. Upon providing notification to the Judiciary Committees of the Congress, you are hereby authorized to use unallocated admissions in regions where the need for additional admissions arises.

Additionally, upon notification to the Judiciary Committees of the Congress, you are further authorized to transfer unused admissions allocated to a particular region to one or more other regions, if there is a need for greater admissions for the region or regions to which the admissions are being transferred.

Consistent with section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2680(b)(2)), I hereby determine that assistance to or on behalf of persons applying for admission to the United States as part of the overseas refugee admissions program will contribute to the foreign policy interests of the United States and designate such persons for this purpose.

Consistent with section 101(a)(42) of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)), and after appropriate consultation with the Congress, I also specify that, for FY 2023, the following persons may, if otherwise qualified, be considered refugees for the purpose of admission to the United States within their countries of nationality or habitual residence:

- a. Persons in Cuba;
- b. Persons in Eurasia and the Baltics;
- c. Persons in Iraq;
- d. Persons in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; and
- e. In certain circumstances, persons identified by a United States Embassy in any location.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the Federal Register.
Low Numbers due to:
- Afghan Parolee Assistance Program
- Low numbers in Pipeline
- Needing to stabilize infrastructure of resettlement process
  - Resettlement Agencies
  - Abroad

FY2022
October 2021-September 2022
125,000

FY2022 Number of admitted 15,000
Department of State
Summary of Refugee Admissions as of 30, September 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Refugee Admissions Ceiling</th>
<th>FY Total Admitted to the U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>27,500</td>
<td>31,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>12,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin Am/Caribbean</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near East/S.Asia</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>35,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Totals</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Africa: Somalia (9,020), Democratic Republic of Congo (16,370), Burundi (694), Sudan (1,458), Eritrea 1,949), Ethiopia (1,131)
- East Asia: Burma (12,347)
- Europe/Central Asia: Ukraine (2,543)
- Latin America/Caribbean: Columbia (529)
- Near East/South Asia: Pakistan (545) Bhutan (5,817), Syria (12,587), Afghanistan (2,737), Iran (3,750), Iraq (9,880)
Refugee & Asylees – two pathways to admission as a refugee under the 1980 Refugee Act

➢ 3,515,366 resettled refugees since 1975
  ➢ Approximately 124,644 of whom were resettled in Illinois

➢ 610,000 individuals granted asylum since 1990

---

### Table 16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Defensive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>8,472</td>
<td>5,672</td>
<td>2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>5,035</td>
<td>2,808</td>
<td>2,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>6,367</td>
<td>4,123</td>
<td>2,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>5,943</td>
<td>7,599</td>
<td>2,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>13,845</td>
<td>11,775</td>
<td>2,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>20,763</td>
<td>17,573</td>
<td>3,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>16,824</td>
<td>13,924</td>
<td>4,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>16,300</td>
<td>12,799</td>
<td>6,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>10,442</td>
<td>10,442</td>
<td>6,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>20,071</td>
<td>16,500</td>
<td>6,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>32,514</td>
<td>25,279</td>
<td>7,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>30,148</td>
<td>29,148</td>
<td>10,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>36,937</td>
<td>25,850</td>
<td>10,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>28,743</td>
<td>15,267</td>
<td>13,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>27,576</td>
<td>14,554</td>
<td>13,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>25,304</td>
<td>15,547</td>
<td>11,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>25,552</td>
<td>15,648</td>
<td>11,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>25,318</td>
<td>12,458</td>
<td>12,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>23,032</td>
<td>12,130</td>
<td>10,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>22,363</td>
<td>12,003</td>
<td>10,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>18,777</td>
<td>11,258</td>
<td>7,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>23,031</td>
<td>13,493</td>
<td>10,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>27,812</td>
<td>17,337</td>
<td>10,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>24,666</td>
<td>15,699</td>
<td>8,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>23,083</td>
<td>14,447</td>
<td>8,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>25,813</td>
<td>17,673</td>
<td>8,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>20,165</td>
<td>11,472</td>
<td>8,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>25,218</td>
<td>15,653</td>
<td>10,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>37,317</td>
<td>24,117</td>
<td>13,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>40,130</td>
<td>27,229</td>
<td>18,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>31,429</td>
<td>16,864</td>
<td>14,565</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


---

https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliate State Name</th>
<th>PA Nationality</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burma</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African..</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem. Rep. Con..</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>231</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka (Ceyl..</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://www.wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals/
What does Refugee and Asylum Status provide?

**Asylum Seeker**
- **Work permit after 180 days** if their case has not been heard
- **No formal status** – limbo
- **No support** (EU countries there is support)
- Can be a **2-10 year process**

**Asylee**
- **Immediate access to SS card and Work Permit**
- **Asylum** for individual and family
- **Green Card** after 1 year, May be granted citizenship in 5 years
- **May be eligible to receive help from ORR refugee agency**

**Resettled Refugees**
- **Immediate access to SS card and Work Permit**
- **Green Card** after 1 year, May be granted citizenship in 5 years
- **Reception & Placement support services w/ a Refugee Agency (90 days)**
Refugee Program

Since 1975 Illinois has resettled more than 123,644 refugees from more than 60 countries. The Refugee Program facilitates relocation and social service assistance to people who are victims of political and religious persecution that have been granted the legal right to rebuild their lives in the United States. Due to the diverse ethnic characteristics, the Refugee Program designed a unique social service program to provide specialized multi-lingual services.

The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago administers this program through a network of community-based partner agencies.

The Refugee Program procures community-based services which include adjustment counseling, orientation, English as a Second Language, vocational training, job readiness, and job placement. Multi-lingual mental health services are provided for those refugees who experienced severe trauma and require therapy. Of a total of 9 program sites, 6 are in Chicago and 3 are outside Chicago city limits.

The Refugee Program also procures health screening services with local health care providers to ensure that newly-arrived refugees are provided with a complete health screening. The goal of the program is to prevent any public health problems resulting from lack of detection and treatment of communicable diseases.
Reception and Placement (R&P) Period

- 30 to 90 days
- Core services with specific timelines
- Designed to help with integration and obtaining self-sufficiency
Preparing for Arrival

**Agency**
- Receive Case Manager
- Housing
  - Furniture, kitchen utensils, etc.
- Food
  - Welcome meal - hot culturally relevant food
  - Culturally Relevant groceries
- Spending Money
  - $200 per person
- Planning Airport Reception

**Participant**
- Cultural Orientation
- Final Medical Screening
- COVID-19 Test
Core Services Include...

- Housing
- Furnishings
- Public Benefits
- **Health Screening**
- English Class
- K-12 school enrollment
- Employment Services
- Social Security Card
- State ID
- Transportation

- Home Visits (24 hr and 30 day)
- Intake
- Reception
- Service Plan
- Pocket Money
- Selective Service
- AR-11
- Budget
- Cultural Orientation
Refugee Agencies Overwhelmed with Housing Placement

- Federal funds for other services have been diverted for pressing need of housing
- Scrambling to house new arrivals
  - Hotels
  - Airbnb
Beyond Reception & Placement – Mutual Assistance/Aid Associations (MAA)

- Historically ethnically based organizations to provide longer term support for refugee newcomers (Chinese Mutual Aid, Cambodian Mutual Aid, Iraqi Mutual Aid, Syrian Community Network)
- Provide a range of services such as ESL, career training, citizenship preparation, child afterschool programs, legal aid, food pantry
Greatest overall impact of Reception & Placement is cost of housing due to underemployment.

Back on Track

Below Average Outcomes

Graduate high school and enter college at the same rate as U.S.-born residents of similar ages.

Lower-than average educational levels due to language barriers and need to support families.

Much lower levels of education and poorer language skills:
- Initially poor with lower employment, higher welfare use, and low earnings
- After about 6 years in country, refugees work at higher rates than US-born respondents
- Refugees never attain the earnings level of natives

Significantly Worse Outcomes
United States Refugee Assistance Program (USRAP)

- USRAP Reception & Placement Program - Local refugee resettlement agencies are responsible for refugee housing placement
  - World Relief, HIAS Chicago, Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, RefugeeOne and Heartland Alliance
  - Private Sponsorship circles

- Federal regulations stipulate that agencies must find housing that is “suitable”:
  - regulated 15 mile radius from the core refugee resettlement services offered during the first five years of settlement
  - supports refugee cultural, educational, health and social needs.
  - little is known about how refugee agencies or private sponsors define "suitable" and negotiate competing demands of cost and availability of housing, the prevalence of social supports, or lack thereof, and resettling refugees' economic realities in the context of resettlement.

- Challenges:
  - Rising rental costs
  - Reluctant landlords
ILLINOIS (2016)

- 3,048 Individuals (3.5% of the total)
- 1,706 adults
  - $10.64 Average full-time hourly wages
  - Many have marketable skills that are untapped
Geographic Information System (GIS) research on refugee housing patterns in Illinois indicates:

Refugees are placed in low-income neighborhoods and, even then, depend on rental assistance.
Chicago – 15,574 Refugees Resettled between 2002-2019
Refugees have been resettled in mainly 14 localities that are within 15 miles of the Resettlement Agency responsible for their initial resettlement:

- Addison
- Aurora
- Bloomingdale
- Carol Stream
- Des Plaines
- Evanston
- Glen Ellyn
- Glendale Heights
- Glenview
- Niles
- Schaumburg
- Skokie
- West Chicago
- Wheaton
Designing Effective Refugee Settlement Strategies
The mission of COMPASS is to support the well-being and long-term potential of adults who arrived in our communities as refugees or asylees and have not yet been able to attain a high school diploma, certification or professional degree that would enable them to attain a living wage career

- COMPASS supports the removal of barriers so that refugees can be producers of their own well-being
- We enable our grantees, members of the community, to build on their strengths and we support the things that will enable them to grow and attain financial well-being

GRANTEE SUPPORT

- Individual coaching and mentoring,
- Networking opportunities and job shadowing,
- Technical training grants - can be used towards housing, certification programs or repayment of refugee travel loan
- Workshop grants - refugees receive a stipend to test out career ideas by organizing a workshop
Addressing Housing Challenges Experienced by Refugees

Housing Matters 2022
October 20, 2022, Bloomington, IL

Lori Lucchetti
Building Peaceful Bridges
President and Co-Founder
The Challenge: Forced Migration

Worldwide

89.3 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE

27.1 million refugees

Source: UNHCR 2021

A Global Issue at a Local Level

Illinois

Countries of Origin

Newcomers Resettled

Cook
DuPage/Kane
Winnebago
Rock Island

United States

Building Peaceful Bridges

CUMULATIVE AMOUNT OF REFUGEES RESETTLED 2010-2021

Source: usafacts.org

Refugees Served
People Educated

2019 2020 2021

308 516 832
150 300 500
158 216 332
Mission

Building Peaceful Bridges

- assists in the integration of refugees into American society
- educates communities on the challenges they face

Vision, Values and Approach

To “bridge the hearts and minds of all people.”

WE BRIDGE THE GAP

- U.S. Department of Immigration
- Resettlement Agencies
- Non-governmental Organizations

- Compassion Bridges to
- Hope Bridges to
- Integrity Bridges to
- Inclusiveness Bridges to
- Respect Bridges to
- Knowledge Bridges to

- Trust
- Courage
- Resilience
- Safety
- Inspiration
- Achievement

- Empowering
- Achieving Self Sufficiency
- Belonging
- Paying It Forward

Holistic | Family Based | Collaborative | Volunteer Driven
Mentoring and Sponsoring

- Our Mentoring Volunteers build lifelong relationships with our refugee families. Home visits provide the foundation of the BPB Mentoring and Sponsoring Program.

- BPB helps families navigate their communities to find the resources, such as housing, which they need to achieve a sense of belonging.

BPB’s Mentoring and Sponsoring Program is built upon hope, compassion, respect and inspiration.
February 28, 2022 Learning Luncheon

Housing Challenges for Afghan Newcomers

ISSUES ADDRESSED
- Finding housing: one of the most difficult part of the settlement process
- Not enough affordable housing
- Lack of credit and rent history
- Afghan crisis created unique housing challenges for resettlement agencies
- Discrimination

David Zverow
ICNA Relief
Refugee Action Network

Bob Palmer
Housing Action Illinois

Jessica Schaffer
HIAS / JCFS

"Some people see things as they are and say why, I dream things that never were and say, why not" - George Bernard Shaw
Refugee Housing Stories

“There is nothing more important than a good, safe, secure home.”

An American Dream
Bushra and Zeyad
- Arrived IL in December 2014 Special Immigration Visa (SIV) from Iraq
- Unaffordable housing in Chicago and moved to affordable housing in Indiana 2018
- Rent assistance provided by ICNA and BPB
- Sold home in Iraq; purchased a house and renovated; sold for double the price
- Achieved a sense of belonging in America and independence over 8 years

Average Refugee Housing Story
Asha’s Family
- Arrived 2019 from the Democratic of Congo
- Pandemic 2020 - BPB partners with RefugeeOne and provides 9 months rent assistance and food support
- BPB bridges the gap for Asha’s family until employed steadily in low income jobs
- Provide clothing and household needs support continuously
- Achieved a sense of belonging in America and working towards independence

American Housing Nightmare
Basharmal and family
- Evacuated from Afghanistan August, 2022
- Arrived Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; relocated to Chicago by Catholic Charities
- BPB provides 1 year Rent Guarantee to landlord and pays rent until family employed
- Unprofessional landlord; court action by neighbors; home uninhabitable
- Immediate relocation to professional landlord property
- Working toward a sense of belonging in America; not independent
| Ahadi's Story | Three Months is Not Enough |
Bridge to Belongings

Turning a house into a home

- BPB collects, stores, and provides food, clothing, furniture and household items for refugee families.

- We conduct spring and fall clothing drives, providing clothing for over 300 refugees with dozens of extra bags for distribution through ICNA Relief, Muslim Women’s Resource Center and Hispanic organizations.
Advocacy

Engaged in 4 major advocacy campaigns

Afghan Evacuation
Initiated letter writing campaign to the President, Congress and State Legislatures to encourage them to evacuate Afghans in the aftermath of U.S. troop withdrawal.

Humanitarian Parole
Worked with Baker McKenzie global law firm to apply for Humanitarian Parole for Afghan family members. Collaborated with multiple organizations for application approval.

Affordable Housing
Worked at a state and local level to provide affordable housing for our refugees. Initiated rent guarantee to replace landlord credit requirements.

Afghan Adjustment Act
BPB, with the Refugee Action Network, worked to improve funding and status for Afghan evacuees. Efforts continue in 2022 for Congressional passage.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.
- Margaret Mead
"I can do things you cannot; you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." — Mother Teresa
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• U.S. Resettlement Policy provides 3 or 4 months of rent support upon refugee arrival</td>
<td>• Federal legislative changes in resettlement policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 73% of income spent on rent</td>
<td>• Housing vouchers at state level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Occupancy issues for large families;</td>
<td>• 50% of monthly rent payments for 6 months or 12 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◦ Per person bedroom occupancy (e.g., Skokie - 2 per room)</td>
<td>• Partner with other organizations (ICNA, Catholic Charities) to split rent payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◦ House occupancy issues: 2 families or more living together</td>
<td>• Waiver from community or landlord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Landlord reluctance</td>
<td>• Settle in communities without these restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Zoning: limits refugee access to neighborhoods</td>
<td>• Identify realtors willing to partner with BPB to benefit refugee housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Build relationships with landlords to show how refugees make good tenants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Legislation, education, and avoidance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Addressing Housing Challenges Experienced by Refugees

DISCUSSION