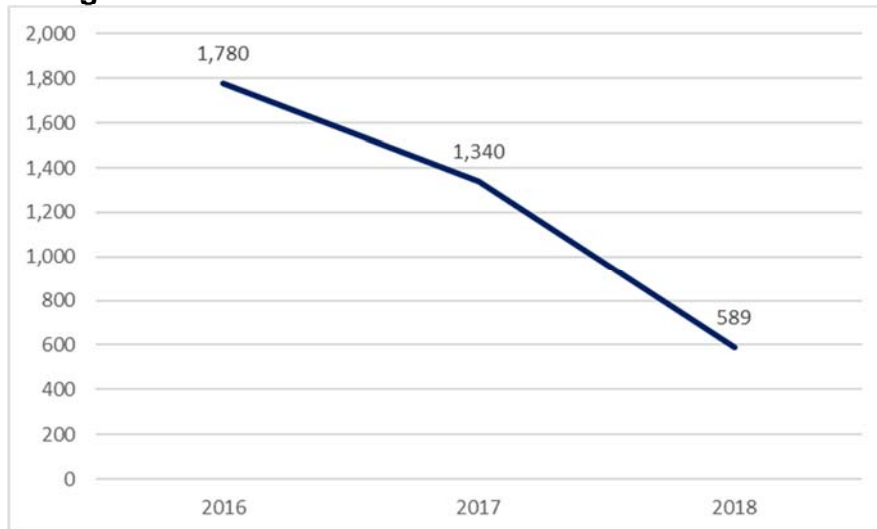


Refugee Program Information Sheet

Feb. 26, 2019

Refuges Served 2016-2018



Since 2016, we have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of refugees in the Refugee Program with only 589 being served in 2018 – a reduction of almost 1,200 people in two years.

In FFY 2017, the most common refugee groups arriving in Oregon were from Ukraine, Somalia, Cuba, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Refugee Services

Refugee Resettlement Agencies are contracted by the Department of State to do the initial resettlement. The Resettlement Agencies perform such essential tasks as picking up the refugees at the airport, finding them a place to live and helping to furnish their home with necessities. This initial RRA period lasts up to 90 days.

DHS contracts with Catholic Charities, Lutheran Community Services, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees and Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization to provide services, which include:

- **New Arrival Employment Services:** Employment assistance to help newly arrived refugees achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.
- **Pre-Employment Training:** Classroom English language instruction and other skills to get individuals ready to work. This service helps refugees understand the dynamics of the American work place, function more effectively on the job and improves their potential for job retention.
- **Cuban and Haitian Assistance Project:** Assistance to eligible Cubans and Haitians to obtain employment documentation, adjustment of status, and citizenship and naturalization services through the SOAR/EMO agency.
- **Oregon Refugee Senior Services:** Naturalization test and document preparation; socialization; hot meal services in partnership with Loaves and Fishes to refugee seniors.

- **Oregon Refugee Children Assistance and Support (ORCAS):** Assists newly arrived refugee school-age children by providing school orientations, connections and supportive services to help families navigate the U.S. school system.

Program Funding

The state program is based on two federal agencies; the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The president determines the number of refugees that will be admitted to the United States during a fiscal year (FY) and then the Department of State divides the refugees they expect to serve during the year amongst the local affiliates in each state. The state of Oregon has three affiliates; Catholic Charities, Lutheran Community Services and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (SOAR).

Funding levels are based on the number of arrivals over the past two years. The services that are provided with these funds include; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Refugee assistance, case management services for up to 60 months, cultural orientation, connection to mainstream services and refugee specific services (i.e. language skills).

Employment services are offered through the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) for all adults who are eligible.

- During FY 2017, 62% of the employment ready refugees were placed in jobs.
- In FY 2018, 58% of employment ready refugees were placed in jobs.

Special programs also help school age children and seniors through special grant funding that is available through the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Additional Facts about Oregon's Refugee Program

- Unaccompanied minors are not served through DHS. A federal program from ORR, administered locally by private, non-profit organizations administers this program. The occasional exception is when the courts place undocumented minors in state custody with DHS.
- The U.S. Department of State is responsible for security screening of refugees working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and organizations.
- Refugees may be eligible to receive additional assistance from DHS through other Self-Sufficiency Programs (i.e. TANF, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Employment Related Day Care).

The Oregon Department of Human Services Self-Sufficiency Programs Refugee Program serves individuals and families who fled persecution in their country of origin and were legally admitted for resettlement by the U.S. government. The program provides cash assistance, for a maximum of eight months, to individuals who have been admitted or paroled to the United States under certain humanitarian statuses. The goal of the program is to help individuals gain early self-sufficiency through employment.

The Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement defines a refugee as any person who cannot return to their own country out of fear they will be persecuted due to race, religion, political opinion or national origin.