



Office of New Americans
October 16, 2023

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Disclosures

- I have no pertinent financial interests to disclose.

Agenda

- Overview of the Office of New Americans
- Refugee Resettlement and serving ORR-Eligible Populations
- Services for ORR-Eligible Populations
- Domestic Medical Screenings (DMS)
- Working with State Partners
- Looking Ahead

The Office of New Americans

- The **Office of New Americans** was established by executive order by Gov. Murphy on July 4th, 2019.
 - Nearly 23 percent – more than 2 million – of New Jersey’s 9 million residents are immigrants, making New Jersey the third state, after California and New York.
 - Over a quarter-million U.S. citizens in New Jersey live with at least one family member who is undocumented.
- Promote outreach, trainings, and other community supports to inform new Americans of their rights and of the services available to them
- Increase accessibility to State programs through partnerships with organizations and advocacy groups
- Coordinate with organizations and advocacy groups to ensure service accessibility through cultural competency and language access.
- Oversee and Administer NJ’s Refugee Resettlement Program and Domestic Medical Screenings

ONA Ongoing Programs and Initiatives

Refugee Resettlement Program

Publicly Funded Legal Services for Immigrants

Language Access

Refugee Resettlement Background

- Refugees resettled to the US since the mid-1900s
- Formalized by the Refugee Act of 1980
→ US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)
- Currently the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) serves refugees, asylees, and other humanitarian immigrants designated by the federal government.

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)-Eligible Populations served in New Jersey:

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants & Supporter-Based Parolees
- Special Immigrant Visa Recipients (SIVs)
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (APA) - *Evacuees from Operation Allies Welcome (OAW)**
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP) - *Uniting for Ukraine**
- Certified Victims of Human Trafficking
- Amerasians

**Those arrived on or before 9/30/23*

Cuban and Haitian Parolees

- Cuban and Haitian parolees arriving in New Jersey may have entered through one of two different parole programs.
 - 1) **Cuban/Haitian Entrant**
 - Individuals who have been granted entry into the U.S. must either be a Cuban or Haitian national and,
 - Often times arriving through the southern border
 - 2) Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan (CHNV)
 - **supporter-based parole** have arrived through a sponsorship program established by the Department of Homeland Security
 - Arriving through the airport.



Uniting for Ukraine (U4U)

- On April 21, 2022, President Biden announced *Uniting for Ukraine*, a new streamlined process to provide Ukrainian citizens who have fled Russia's unprovoked war of aggression opportunities to come to the United States.

- Welcome.US**

- Sponsorship model: an individual, faith or community-based organization can sponsor a Ukrainian refugee
- <https://ukraine.welcome.us/>



Top Nationalities of ORR-Eligible Populations

- Other ORR-Eligible populations in NJ in FFY23 (~7,000 people)
 - Haiti (4,200+)
 - Cuba (1,600+)
 - Ukraine (850+)

- TOP 5 Refugee Arrival Nationalities in FFY23 (~650 people)
 - Syria (150)
 - Afghanistan (45)
 - Colombia (85)
 - Dem. Republic of Congo (45)
 - El Salvador (35)



Serving ORR-Eligible Populations in New Jersey

In NJ, two agencies are contracted with the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to administer refugee services.

Office of New Americans, New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) – Lead Agency

DHS has responsibility for the State Refugee Program and the Refugee Health Program. DHS prepares the Refugee State Plan and works directly with federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for plan submission. Services provided include medical coordination, health assessments, referrals, and connecting newly arrived eligible individuals to Medicaid, SNAP and TANF.

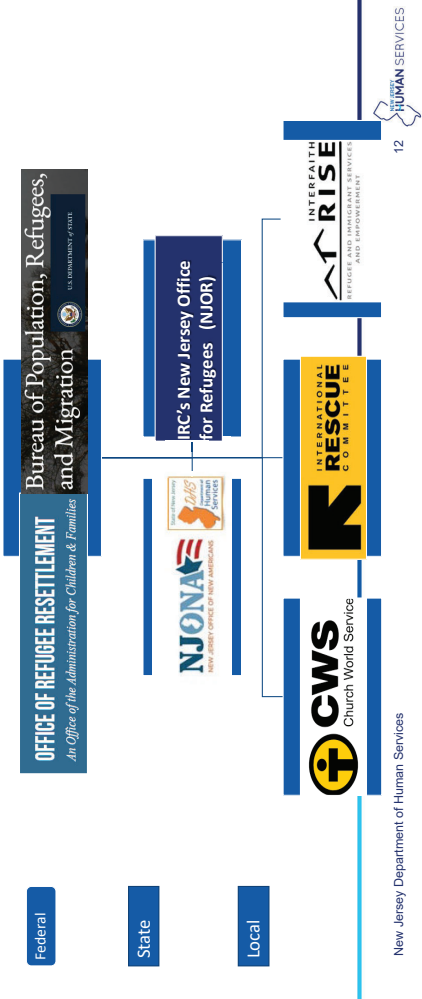
DHS staff assigned to the refugee program include:

- State Refugee Coordinator (*designated by the Governor of NJ*)
- Refugee Health Coordinator

IRC's New Jersey Office for Refugees (NJOR)

An office of the International Rescue Committee, NJOR administers Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Support Services (RSS) programs

Refugee Resettlement Structure



Initial Services for Refugees



Pre-Arrival Core Services

- Receive EMAIL of family arrival (sometimes just days in advance)
- Find housing
- Collect furniture
- Organize donations
- Clean and prepare, turn an apartment into a home.
- Prepare for necessities such as food, appropriate clothes, and/or special needs assistance
- Organize the airport pickup, who's going, how many cars are needed, time of arrival



Post-Arrival Core Services

- Airport Pick-Up (sometimes at midnight)
- Home Visits
- Cultural Orientation
- Help Find Employment
- ESL Enrollment, Monitor ESL progress
- Arrange for transportation for all crucial appointments and meetings
- Ensure Interpretation/Translation is available
- Medical Health Screening
- Social Security Applications
- School Enrollment, Advocated with Child Study team
- Help enroll for childcare
- Enrolling Public Services (TANF, Medicaid, SNAP, RCA)
- Advocate for medical specialist
- GOAL of SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Services Available for ORR-Eligible Populations

Refugee Support Services

- Case Management
- English Language Training
- Employment & Economic Empowerment Services
- Youth/School Supports
- Health & Mental Health Promotion

Domestic Medical Screening

- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Public Benefits
 - Medicaid
 - SNAP
 - TANF

Domestic Medical Screenings & Refugee Health

All refugees are required to have a Domestic Medical Screening (DMS) within 90 days, and most ORR-eligible populations are eligible for a DMS within 90 days of the start of their eligibility.

ONA and the State Refugee Health Coordinator ensure provision of the DMSs through:

- Contracting with and providing technical assistance to FQHCs
- Coordinating with local health networks and resettlement agencies.
- Collaborating with federal partners: CDC Immigrant, Refugee and Migrant Health Branch; Office of Refugee Resettlement

Key Components of the DMS

- Laboratory Testing
 - Blood and Stool
- History and Physical-
 - Vision and dental screenings
 - Immunizations
 - Nutrition and Growth
 - Sexual and Reproductive Health

- Mental Health Screening
- Screenings
 - HIV Infection
 - Tuberculosis
 - Viral Hepatitis
 - Intestinal Parasites
 - Lead
 - Malaria

The Domestic Medical Screening (DMS)

The CDC's full Guidance for the U.S. Domestic Medical Examination for Newly Arriving Refugees is available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/guidelines/domestic-guidelines.html>

Health Insurance

- All ORR-eligible populations can apply for NJ FamilyCare immediately upon arrival to NJ or start of eligibility.
- Presumptive Eligibility may also be applied for in necessary cases



ONA-Contracted FQHCs for DMS

- Eric B. Chandler Health Center
- Newark Community Health Centers
- North Hudson Community Action Center
- South Jersey Family Medical Center
- Zufall Health Centers, Inc.

Medically Fragile & Special Cases

- Medically Fragile Arrivals & Case Coordination
- Pregnant women
- Individuals with Class A or Class B Conditions

- **Class A:** An excludable medical condition (e.g., infectious tuberculosis, HIV infection, physical or mental disorder that may pose a threat, drug abuse or addiction) diagnosed in a refugee during the overseas medical examination. Class A conditions require approved waivers for United States entry and require immediate follow-up upon arrival by appropriate medical personnel.
- **Class B Condition A** physical or mental abnormality, disease, or disability serious in degree or permanent in nature amounting to a substantial departure from normal well-being diagnosed during the overseas medical examination. Class B designations indicate a need for follow-up soon after arrival in the United States by appropriate medical personnel.

Special Cases: Tuberculosis Considerations for UHPs

- Ukraine is considered a high priority country in the WHO European Region and has a high burden of multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis (TB). While TB incidence has decreased in Ukraine over the last 15 years, overall prevalence and mortality remains high.
- NJ Department of Health is offering free IGRA tests to U4U recipients.
<https://www.nj.gov/health/hivstd/tb/index.shtml>
- **Vaccination and Tuberculosis Requirements under U4U:** UHPs must meet health requirements under U.S. Department of Homeland Security rules that were developed in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The applicants for parole are instructed to seek medical care and to record the completion of health requirements for vaccinations and tuberculosis testing by submitting a Uniting for Ukraine Vaccine Attestation Form to USCIS. The requirement for tuberculosis testing with an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) **must be met within 90 days of entry**
- **A tuberculin skin test will not be accepted in place of an IGRA.** U.S. Department of Homeland Security is collecting attestations online but is not requesting IGRA reports or other health records; the applicants are instructed to retain these records.



Working with State Partners

- Division of Family Development
 - SNAP, TANF
- Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
 - Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare
- Department of Health
 - Share information on TB and other cases

Possible Challenges & Health Conditions to Consider

- Post-traumatic stress
- Limited formal education, pre-literacy
- Adjustment challenges (navigation of U.S. governmental and health care systems, culture shock, etc.)
- Fear of authorities, including medical professionals
- Lack of access to adequate health care (vaccinations, preventative screenings, etc.)
- Vaccinations are not required for US-bound refugees
 - Refugees may be incompletely immunized
 - Outbreaks can occur during and after resettlement
 - School entry delays for children after arrival
- Mental Health stigma and access to appropriate services

Looking Ahead

- Presidential Determination of 125,000 Refugees for FY24
- Continued high numbers of Haitians and Cubans arrivals
- Arrivals and those seeking DMS services are increasing



Questions

Thank you.

The Office of New Americans was created to better serve the diverse immigrant communities that call New Jersey home. For more information on our programs and initiatives please visit our website. NewAmericans.nj.gov

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