

New York State Enhanced Services to Refugees



January 2020

THE NEW YORK STATE ENHANCED SERVICES TO REFUGEES PROGRAM

began in 2017 as a remarkable response to the federal government’s retreat from refugee resettlement. New York did what no other state would: provide flexible state funds to support the state’s strong network of resettlement agencies through a difficult time, and help them reframe their focus on integration. New York State allocated \$2 million for NYSESRP in fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020. **Because of continued federal cuts in support for refugee integration, New York for Refugees—the coalition of 16 agencies resettling refugees, the Fiscal Policy Institute, and the New York Immigration Coalition—is requesting \$5 million for FY 2021.**

The Enhanced Services to Refugees Program delivers measurable impact. In the past year alone, the program has provided nearly 8,000 unique services to refugees, including almost 5,000 case management/integration services, over 1,000 employment training services, and over 600 connections to English language training.

The Enhanced Services to Refugees Program allows agencies to concentrate on long-term integration in a way that addresses the needs of each client, unlike federal programs, which focus merely on the first 90 days of arrival. The flexible funding and extended case management approach allows agencies to provide deeper and broader support, benefitting refugees and communities. In challenging times, this program is continuing to establish best practices.

The Enhanced Services to Refugees Program is a model for other states around the country. New York State was first: Oregon followed suit last year, and advocates in California are exploring a similar program. New York for Refugees has received repeated

Refugee Resettlement is a Statewide Tradition

	Number of Refugees Placed
2007 to 2016	
Upstate	36,628
Albany	3,048
Broome	173
Chautauqua	12
Columbia	7
Cortland	3
Dutchess	19
Erie	12,744
Genesee	6
Jefferson	18
Livingston	1
Madison	8
Monroe	6,332
Niagara	32
Oneida	4,163
Onondaga	9,536
Ontario	9
Orange	18
Orleans	10
Oswego	3
Putnam	4
Rensselaer	249
Rockland	12
Saratoga	20
Schenectady	38
St. Lawrence	7
Tioga	7
Tompkins	77
Ulster	25
Wayne	3
Westchester	44
New York City	3,070
Long Island	232
Nassau	141
Suffolk	91
New York State	39,930

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of WRAPS data.

What Enhanced Services to Refugees Makes Possible	Instances of Services Provided
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019	
Case Management	4,779
Employment and Training	1,119
English Language Training	617
Assistance with Health and Medical Services	1,029
Post-Employment Services	194
Community Information Sessions and Legal Immigration Services	114
Total	7,852

Source: New York Bureau of Refugee Service BIN data.

inquiries about the program from advocates and service providers around the state and around the country, and the program receives substantial attention in local and national media.

The state's two million dollar investment shows New York is committed to refugees and the agencies that serve them. This is critical, as over 50 refugee serving organizations in the United States have closed permanently, and over 40 have ceased resettling refugees, since 2017.

The Enhanced Services to Refugees Program is critical to successful refugee integration, is critical for Upstate NY, and exemplifies New York State's welcoming ethos. Attracting and sustaining support for the success of refugees is critical across Upstate, where refugees contribute heavily to economic revitalization and population rebound.

Refugee resettlement stems population decline and aging in Upstate New York, in some cases even tipping cities toward population rebound. The large majority of primary resettlement in New York is in Upstate communities (over 90 percent). Resettlement agencies also play a key role downstate, helping individuals reach their full potential in economic and social integration.

The Enhanced Services to Refugees Program attracts secondary migrants to New York. Because of the state's support, New York's resettlement agencies and communities welcome people from Bhutan, Somalia, Burma, Afghanistan, Congo and other countries already in the United States to New York, which is particularly beneficial to Upstate cities. When refugee and immigrant communities are more prominent, it also attracts young people who want to live in vibrant and diverse areas. A strong network of services that support the success of secondary migrants is critical to positive outcomes for the communities they choose to live in. Without the state's Enhanced Services to Refugees Program, there is no statewide network.

This is a critical moment for the state to take action. The federal government has put the refugee resettlement program under even further strain this year, setting the Presidential Determination that governs the maximum number of refugees to be resettled at a 40 year low of just 18,000 arrivals. **Because this represents another devastating cut to agency sustainability, the New York for**

Refugees coalition is asking the governor and the legislature to increase support in the state budget from \$2 million to \$5 to make sure this vibrant program continues to achieve and expand its impact on residents and communities across the state.

Members of the New York for Refugees Coalition

CAMBA

Catholic Charities of Buffalo

Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Centre

Catholic Family Center in Rochester

HIAS New York

Interfaith Works of Central New York

International Institute of Buffalo

International Rescue Committee in New York

Jewish Family Services of Buffalo & Erie Counties

Journey's End Refugee Services

The Center (formerly Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees)

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

New York Immigration Coalition

Fiscal Policy Institute



Enhanced aid to refugees helps our communities grow and thrive.

New York State Enhanced Services to Refugees Program (NYSESRP)

CAMBA Catholic Charities Community Services Catholic Charities of Buffalo Catholic Charities of Onondaga County	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Centre Catholic Family Center in Rochester HIAS New York Interfaith Works of Central New York	International Institute of Buffalo International Rescue Committee in New York Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie Counties Journey's End Refugee Services	Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants New York Immigration Coalition Fiscal Policy Institute
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