



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS
600 WASHINGTON STREET, 4TH FL, BOSTON, MA 02111

Tel: (617) 727-7888
Fax: (617) 727-1822
www.mass.gov/ori

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR
KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN E. WALSH
SECRETARY
CRISTINA AGUILERA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and
Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
Chair, House Committee on Ways and
Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs Rodrigues and Michlewitz,

Enclosed is the April Resettlement Agency Report, submitted in compliance with item 4003-0123 of chapter 77 of the acts of 2023. That act, which became law in December of 2023, appropriated \$10 million for resettlement agencies (RAs) that resettle and support refugees and immigrants under contract with the U.S. State Department. The money is authorized to be expended by the RAs to “provide services to refugees and other displaced persons eligible for [RA] services” and “to prevent families from entering the emergency shelter system.”

The Office of Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) entered into contracts with eight resettlement agencies in early March, and the Administration announced the launch of the new partnership on March 7. This monthly report, the first one submitted pursuant to the reporting requirements in chapter 177, reflects activity through April 30, 2024.

I hope you find this document useful and informative. Please feel free to contact Susan Church, Chief Operating Officer at ORI if you have any questions about the report.

Respectfully,

Cristina Aguilera, Executive Director

Resettlement Agency Report

Chapter 77 of the acts of 2023, the final supplemental appropriations act for the state's fiscal year 2023, appropriated \$10 million in item 4003-0123 for resettlement agencies (RAs) that resettle and support refugees and immigrants under contract with the U.S. State Department. The money is authorized to be expended by the RAs to "provide services to refugees and other displaced persons eligible for [RA] services" and "to prevent families from entering the emergency shelter system."

The \$10 million in c. 77 supplemented \$500,000 appropriated in the same item in the fiscal year 2024 budget. This \$10.5 million, which goes to the same entities for the same purposes, is addressed in combination in this report.

Chapter 77 requires that monthly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means detail the following information:

(i) a list of recipients of such funds; (ii) the amounts distributed to each recipient; (iii) the number of immigrants and refugees served by each recipient, delineated by municipality; (iv) a breakdown of the number of immigrants and refugees served by each recipient, delineated by individuals: (a) currently residing in the emergency housing assistance program under section 30 of chapter 23B of the General Laws; (b) who entered said program as migrants, refugees or asylum seekers as a result of the ongoing humanitarian crisis; and (c) who are currently on the waitlist for placement into said program; (v) a breakdown of the number of immigrants and refugees served by each recipient who have been resettled into long term housing other than the emergency shelter system; (vi) a breakdown of the number of immigrants and refugees served by each recipient who are currently awaiting federal work authorization versus the number of said immigrants and refugees who have had their federal work authorization approved; and (vii) a list of all municipalities served by each recipient of such funds

The status of these items is as follows:

(i) a list of recipients of such funds; (ii) the amounts distributed to each recipient;

Eight RAs receive funds through this item, covering eight geographic regions of the state. ORI worked with the RAs to assess the number of refugees they serve, and to develop expectations about the numbers of EA shelter families they can each commit to resettling by the end of calendar year 2024.

Of the \$10.5 million in authorized spending, \$2.5 million will be distributed to support each recipients' work with their identified caseload of refugees as of January of 2024, when the contracts were negotiated. These funds are allocated in proportion to the January caseload.

The remaining \$8.0 million is committed based on RA's estimates of the numbers of families they can rehouse by December 2024.

See Attachment 1 for more detail.

(iii) the number of immigrants and refugees served by each recipient, delineated by municipality;

See Attachment 1 for a snapshot estimate of immigrants and refugees served by recipient.

The Administration is developing Interim Emergency Data Manager (IEDM) to track this data on an ongoing basis. IEDM is expected to go live within the next few months for this data.

(iv) a breakdown of the number of immigrants and refugees served by each recipient, delineated by individuals: (a) currently residing in the emergency housing assistance program under section 30 of chapter 23B of the General Laws; (b) who entered said program as migrants, refugees or asylum seekers as a result of the ongoing humanitarian crisis; and (c) who are currently on the waitlist for placement into said program;

We anticipate being able to give a detailed response to this question once IEDM is rolled out.

(v) a breakdown of the number of immigrants and refugees served by each recipient who have been resettled into long term housing other than the emergency shelter system;

We anticipate being able to give a detailed response to this question once IEDM is rolled out.

(vi) a breakdown of the number of immigrants and refugees served by each recipient who are currently awaiting federal work authorization versus the number of said immigrants and refugees who have had their federal work authorization approved; and

We anticipate being able to give a detailed response to this question once IEDM is rolled out.

(vii) a list of all municipalities served by each recipient of such funds

See attachment 2 for a list of municipalities served by each RA.

Attachment 1. Massachusetts Resettlement Support Program (MRSP) – Distribution of C. 77 Funds

| PART 1: DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT REFUGEES | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Agencies | Number of Assured Refugees | MRSP Distribution |
| Ascentria (Worcester and West Springfield) | 410 | \$439,914.16 |
| Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston | 220 | \$236,051.50 |
| Catholic Charities Agency of Diocese of Springfield | 280 | \$300,429.18 |
| International Institute of New England (Boston and Lowell) | 365 | \$391,630.90 |
| Jewish Family Service of Metrowest | 95 | \$101,931.33 |
| Jewish Family Service of Western MA | 375 | \$402,360.52 |
| Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS) | 185 | \$198,497.85 |
| Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (Boston and Worcester) | 400 | \$429,184.55 |
| | 2330 | \$2,500,000.00 |

| PART 2: ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT SHELTER EXIT/APARTMENT PLACEMENT OF THOSE ON WAITING LISTS FOR EA | | |
|---|--|--|
| Agencies | # of Families agency will commit to exit from shelter | Distribution of MRSP funds by Agency (\$8M) |
| Ascentria (Worcester and West Springfield) | 75 | \$1,500,000.00 |
| Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston | 50 | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Catholic Charities Agency of Diocese of Springfield | 50 | \$1,000,000.00 |
| International Institute of New England (Boston and Lowell) | 50 | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Jewish Family Service of Metrowest | 25 | \$ 500,000.00 |
| Jewish Family Service of Western MA | 50 | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS) | 50 | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (Boston and Worcester) | 50 | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Total | 400 | \$8,000,000.00 |

Attachment 2. Towns serviced by Resettlement Agencies pursuant to this contract. (As of April 30)

| Massachusetts Town Name | Resettlement Agency Servicing |
|-------------------------|--|
| Springfield | Ascentria Care Alliance |
| Chicopee | Ascentria Care Alliance |
| Holyoke | Ascentria Care Alliance |
| Leicester | Ascentria Care Alliance |
| Boston | Catholic Charities Boston |
| Malden | Catholic Charities Boston |
| Sturbridge | Catholic Charities Springfield |
| Arlington | International Institute of New England |
| Chelsea | International Institute of New England |
| Great Barrington | Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts |
| Framingham | Jewish Family Services of MetroWest |
| Hudson | Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success |
| Shrewsbury | Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success |
| Westborough | Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success |
| Middleborough | Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success |
| Worcester | Refugee & Immigrant Assistance Center |