



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

June 26, 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 May 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. In April and May, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC) worked with the Office of Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) to coordinate services delivery between HLC-contracted shelter providers and ORI-contracted RAs. The RAs enrolled families in their services. This monthly report reflects activity in May of 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 was 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; half was distributed in an initial payment at the commencement of the contract.

See Attachment 1 for more detail, which has been updated to show actual expenditure through May.

(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 developed the Interim Emergency Data Manager (IEDM) to track this data on an ongoing basis. ORI had a training in mid-May for the RAs on how to use IEDM to record their progress on this contract. The information in Attachment 1 is still the best information available on counts of refugees served.

(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 fully operational.

(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;

Through May, 5 immigrants and refugees have been resettled into long-term housing through the efforts of the RAs funded through this appropriation. Please note that this number is not the total for refugees and immigrants resettled out of shelters, but narrowly those resettled through this program.

(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 fully operational.

(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, which is unchanged since April.

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 Budgeted Distribution	Expenditures through May
Ascentria (Worcester and West Springfield)	410	\$439,914	\$439,914
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston	220	\$236,051	\$236,051
Catholic Charities Agency of Diocese of Springfield	280	\$300,429	\$300,429
International Institute of New England (Boston & Lowell)	365	\$391,631	\$391,631
Jewish Family Service of Metrowest	95	\$101,931	\$101,931
Jewish Family Service of Western MA	375	\$402,361	\$402,361
Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS)	185	\$198,498	\$198,498
Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (Boston & Worcester)	400	\$429,185	\$429,185
<u>Total</u>	<u>2330</u>	<u>\$2,500,000</u>	<u>\$2,500,000</u>

PART 2: ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT SHELTER EXIT/APARTMENT PLACEMENT OF THOSE ON WAITING LISTS FOR EA			
Agencies	# of Families agency commits to exit from shelter	Distribution of MRSP funds by Agency (\$8M)	Expenditures through May
Ascentria (Worcester and West Springfield)	75	\$1,500,000	\$750,000
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston	50	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
Catholic Charities Agency of Diocese of Springfield	50	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
International Institute of New England (Boston & Lowell)	50	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
Jewish Family Service of Metrowest	25	\$500,000	\$250,000
Jewish Family Service of Western MA	50	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS)	50	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (Boston & Worcester)	50	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>\$8,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,000,000</u>

Attachment 2. Towns serviced by Resettlement Agencies pursuant to this contract. (As of May 31)

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 of Boston
Malden	Catholic Charities of Boston
Sturbridge	Catholic Charities of 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