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September 23, 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 August 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."

Eight resettlement agencies have been working under contract with the Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) since March. RAs and shelter providers are coordinating on rehousing work with migrants in shelters and overflow sites. This monthly report reflects activity in August, 2024.

To date, few families have exited from shelter with support from RAs. ORI, with support from Housing and Livable Communities, has worked with RAs to address the barriers to success, for example by clarifying the responsibilities of shelter providers and RAs, and allowing RAs to access state funds more quickly on behalf of shelter residents. We are hopeful that we might see improvements in exit numbers in the coming weeks.

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

As of August, 2024

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 is current though August.

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

See Attachment 2 for 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;

All people served through these contracts are residing in shelters, or were in shelter and subsequently exited, and all of them entered the program as migrants, refugees or asylum seekers as a result of the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Therefore, the only difference between category (a) and (b) is whether they are currently still in shelter (a), versus were in shelter, were placed in permanent housing, and continue to receive stabilization services (b but not a).

No one served by these contracts is in category (c) (waitlisted for shelter). Data below is as of September 16, 2024:

Agency	Individuals Served Currently in EA Shelter (a)	Individuals Arrived as Refugees/Migrants/Asylum Seekers (b)
Ascentria	35	52
Catholic Charities Association Boston (CCAB)	115	124
International Institute of New England (IINE)	76	95
Jewish Family Services Metro West (JFSMW)	77	79
Jewish Family Services Western Mass (JFSWM)	36	36
Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS)	86	90
Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC)	67	67
Total	**492**	**543**

(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;

As of the end of August, a total of 26 immigrants and refugee families 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

RAs have approximately 299 "enrolled" adults with whom they are actively working. Within this active caseload, as of September 16, the breakdown is as follows:

EAD Status	Individual Adults Served
EAD Received	121
EAD Filed	65
Unknown	113
Total	**299**

(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 (at initiation of program)**	**MRSP Budgeted Distribution**	**Expenditures through July**
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
Total	**2330**	**$2,500,000**	**$2,500,000**

PART 2: ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO SUPPPORT 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 July**
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
Total	**400**	**$8,000,000**	**$4,000,000**

Attachment 2. Families Served by RA and Municipality (as of 9/16/24)

Agency Caseloads by Region	Individuals Served
Ascentria Care Alliance	**52**
Chicopee	27
Peabody	3
Springfield	18
West Springfield	4
Catholic Charities Association Boston (CCAB)	**124**
Boston	42
Dedham	3
Malden	17
Sharon	60
Unknown	2
International Institute of New England (IINE)	**95**
Arlington	14
Chelsea	1
Lowell	76
Medford	3
Unknown	1
Jewish Family Services Metro West (JFSMW)	**79**
Foxborough	14
Framingham	64
Unknown	1
Jewish Family Services Western Mass (JFSWM)	**36**
Great Barrington	30
Unknown	6
Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS)	**90**
Auburn	6
Hudson	35
Leicester	3
Medway	3
Middleborough	8
Northborough	3
Westborough	30
Unknown	2
Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC)	**67**
Auburn	34
Worcester	33
Grand Total	**543**