

# Refugee Resettlement in Arapahoe County Request for Consent

## **Presented by:**

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# Background

- Executive Order 13888 issued 9/26/19
  - Mandates new state and local consent requirements for the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.
  - Requires U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) to develop and implement a local consent mechanism.
- PRM has elected to task Resettlement Agencies (RAs) with obtaining consent and has made its annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) the mechanism for implementation.
  - RAs are required to obtain a letter of consent from each municipality where they intend to initially place a refugee individual or family
  - Written consent is required as part of RAs' proposals to PRM
  - Consent must be obtained no later than **January 21, 2020**



# Prior to EO 13888

- Three RAs operate in Colorado – ACC, LFSRM, IRC
- Prior to EO 13888, RAs were required to consult with communities where 25+ refugees were resettled annually.
  - No requirement for each jurisdiction to provide explicit consent.
  - Newly-arrived refugees typically placed where family was already living or in an area that allowed them to access RA services and receive support from existing community.



# U.S. Refugee Admission Program

- PRM partners with RAs and local communities to provide services to refugees approved for resettlement through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.
  - Public private partnership
- The U.S. accepts a limited number of refugees each year.
  - The president, in consultation with Congress, determines the authorized target for refugee admissions through a Presidential Determination.

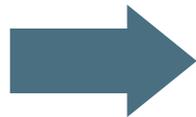


# U.S. Refugee Admission Program

- Refugees referred for resettlement to the U.S. must satisfy the following criteria:
  - The definition of a "refugee" as determined by U.S. government officials.
  - Be among those refugees determined by the President to be of special humanitarian concern to the U.S.
  - Be otherwise admissible under U.S. law.
  - Not be firmly resettled in any foreign country.



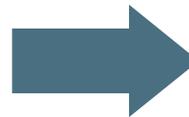
# How individuals are selected for resettlement in the U.S.



UNHCR refers only the most vulnerable cases to countries for possible resettlement. **Refugees cannot pick their country of resettlement**

- Urgent medical needs
- Survivors of violence/torture
- Child at risk
- Women & girls at risk

- 8** Federal government agencies
- 6** Different security databases
- 5** Separate background checks
- 4** Biometric security checks
- 3** Separate in-person interviews
- 2** Inter-agency security checks
- 2** years on average before approval



Referral to one of nine national resettlement agencies



# Role of a resettlement agency



## Case management

- Pre-arrival logistics
- Airport pick-up
- Housing
- School enrollment
- Public benefits
- Initial budgeting
- Home checks
- Social Security



## Health

- Health screenings and immunizations
- Community health resources
- WIC
- Ongoing care
- Health insurance literacy
- Medical case management



## Economic Empowerment

- Job placement
- Job readiness training
- Employment mentors
- Cultural orientation
- Ongoing budgeting
- Access to public benefits
- English language acquisition assistance
- Financial literacy
- Credit building loans

## Family stabilization, psychosocial support & integration



- Family stabilization services
- Mental health resources
- Psychosocial support programs
- Group acculturation classes
- Youth programs
- Family mentor program
- Digital literacy resources
- Transportation navigation
- Survivors of torture services
- Family reunification
- Immigration services

# Refugees in Colorado

- Since the Refugee Act of 1980, Colorado has welcomed more than 60,000 refugees.
  - 10% of Colorado's population.

## Top populations coming to Colorado since 1980



1982  
Vietnam



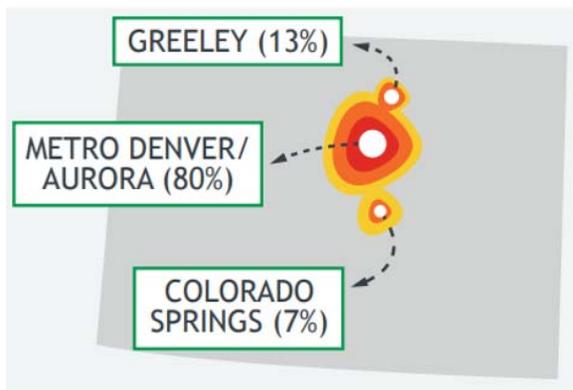
1992  
Soviet Union



1998  
Bosnia



2017  
Afghanistan



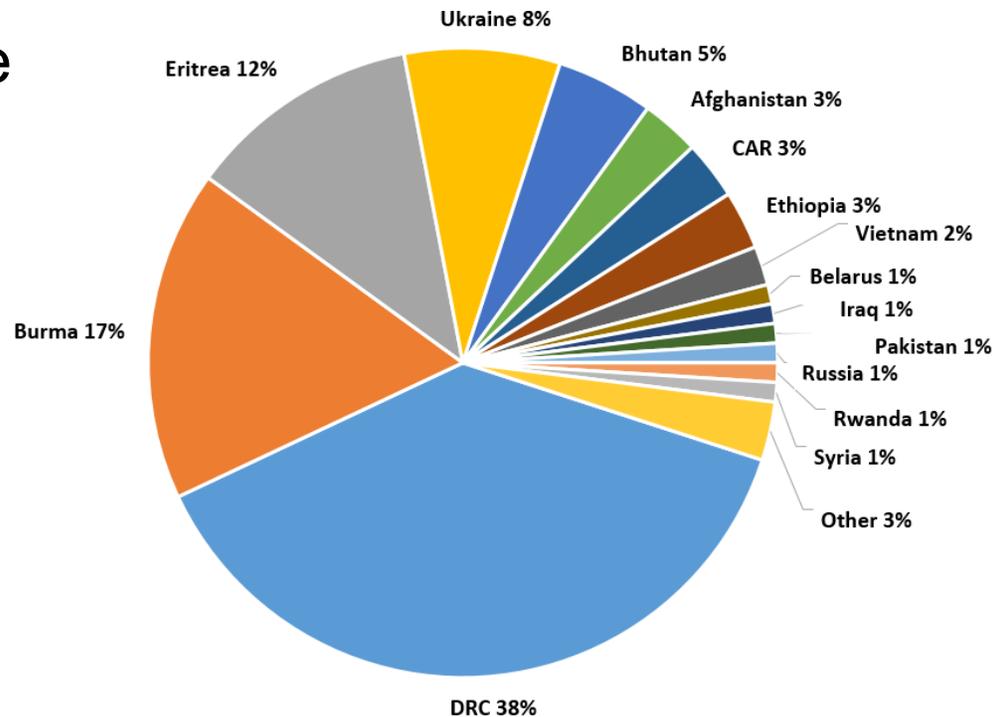
80% of refugees are initially placed in the Denver-metro area

Historically, Colorado welcomes 1-2% of the national number of refugees admitted each year



# Refugees in Arapahoe County

- Over the last two fiscal years approximately **408 refugees** were initially placed in Arapahoe County
- **31%** two parent house holds
- **27%** single parent house holds
- **33%** single adults
- **6%** married, childless couples



# Refugees in Arapahoe County

	<u>District 1</u>	<u>District 6</u>
Immigrant residents	115,576	117,789
Immigrant spending power	\$2.6B	\$3.1B
Manufacturing (% of workforce)	22.8%	21.2%
Construction (% of workforce)	38.9%	33.5%
Immigrant entrepreneurs	3,824	4,900



# What does consent mean?

- Arapahoe County will continue to allow RAs to initially place newly-arrived refugee individuals and families within their jurisdiction.
- Arapahoe County will pass a resolution and/or provide a letter that consents to the initial resettlement of refugees within their jurisdiction.
  - A copy of Arapahoe County's consent resolution and/or letter will be shared with PRM and with the RAs for submission with their responses to PRM's NOFO



# Will refugees still be able to live in Arapahoe County if consent is not provided ?

- Yes.
  - The Executive Order will prevent RAs from initially placing refugees in your community and from providing them with services during their first 90 days in the U.S.
  - Refugees arrive in the U.S. with legal status and freedom of mobility and could decide to self-place in your city.

# Benefits of providing consent

- Many refugees choose to make Arapahoe County their home—some of them have family members they are hoping to be reunited with.
  - If consent is provided and a family member of an Arapahoe County resident is approved to come to the U.S., RAs would be able to place the newly-arrived individual in the city where their family member is already residing.
  - **If consent is not provided**, RAs would not be able to place the reuniting family member in the same city where their loved one is currently residing.
- Consent will allow RAs to serve refugees in your community and to provide vital services
  - **If consent is not provided**, RAs will not be able to provide services to newly-arrived refugees in your community during the first 90 days they are in the U.S.



# Benefits of providing consent

- RAs regularly provide technical assistance to communities where refugees are resettled.
  - Training for police, fire and first responders
  - Support for school districts, health clinics and other providers
  - Engagement with faith groups, civic organizations and individuals to help them learn about their new neighbors and how they can play a role in the resettlement process.

# Request for consent

We respectfully request that Arapahoe County consider passing a resolution that would provide consent for Ethiopian Community Development Council's African Community Center, Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountain Refugee and Asylee Programs and the International Rescue Committee in Denver to initially place refugees within Arapahoe County.

**Thank you!**



# Questions?

