

Report to Congress

FY 2007

Office of Refugee Resettlement

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Administration for Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement**



Executive Summary

The Refugee Act of 1980 (Section 413(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act) requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to submit an annual report to Congress on the Refugee Resettlement Program. This report covers refugee program developments in FY 2007, from October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007. It is the forty-first in a series of reports to Congress on refugee resettlement in the U.S. since FY 1975 and the twenty-seventh to cover an entire year of activities carried out under the comprehensive authority of the Refugee Act of 1980.

Key Federal Activities

- **Congressional Consultations:** Following consultations with Congress, the President set a worldwide refugee admission ceiling at 70,000 for FY 2007. This included 22,000 for Africa, 11,000 for East Asia, 6,500 for Europe and Central Asia, 5,000 for Latin America and the Caribbean, 5,500 for the Near Asia and South Asia, and 20,000 for an unallocated reserve.

Admissions

- The U.S. admitted 48,281 refugees, including 64 Amerasian immigrants, in FY 2007. An additional 17,294 Cuban and 147 Haitian nationals were admitted as entrants, for a total of 65,722 arrivals.
- Refugees and entrants from Cuba (20,217) comprised the largest admission group, followed by arrivals from Burma (9,776), Somalia (6,958), Iran (5,474), the successor republics of the Soviet Union (4,583), and Burundi (4,525).
- Florida received the largest number of arrivals (17,782), followed by California (6,744), Texas (4,830), Minnesota (3,200), New York (3,146) and Washington (2,218).

Domestic Resettlement Program

- **Refugee Appropriations:** In FY 2007, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) received an appropriation of \$492.5 million to assist refugees and Cuban and Haitian entrants.
- **Cash and Medical Assistance** for refugees was provided from grants totaling \$151.7 million awarded to States for maintenance during the first eight months after arrival.
- **Social Services:** In FY 2007, ORR provided \$87.8 million in formula grants to States and non-profit organizations for a broad range of services for refugees, such as English language and employment-related training.
- **Targeted Assistance:** In FY 2007, ORR provided \$48.6 million in targeted assistance funds to supplement available services in areas with large concentrations of refugees and entrants.
- **Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program:** ORR awarded grants totaling \$60 million during FY 2007. Under this program, ORR awards Federal funds on a matching basis to national voluntary resettlement agencies to provide assistance and services to refugees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, asylees, and victims of trafficking.

- **Refugee Health:** ORR provided funds to State and local health departments for refugee health assessments. Obligations for these activities and technical assistance support amounted to approximately \$4.8 million in FY 2007.
- **Wilson/Fish Alternative Projects:** In FY 2007, ORR continued to fund 11 state-wide Wilson/Fish projects (Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota and Vermont) and one county-wide project (San Diego County, CA).
- **Cuban/Haitian Initiative:** ORR provided \$19 million in funds to increase services to Cuban/Haitian refugees and entrants in the areas of access to health, mental health, crime prevention, employment and vocational/education.
- **Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) program:** In FY 2007, ORR was appropriated \$95.3 million for the UAC program.

Refugee Population Profile

- Southeast Asians remain the largest group admitted since ORR established its arrival database in 1983, with 670,411 refugees, including 75,895 Amerasian immigrant arrivals. Nearly 521,900 refugees from the former Soviet Union arrived in the U.S. between 1983 and 2007.
- Other refugees who have arrived in substantial numbers since the enactment of the Refugee Act of 1980 include Afghans, Cubans, Ethiopians, Iranians, Iraqis, Poles, Romanians, Somalis, and citizens of the republics of the former Yugoslavia.

Economic Adjustment

- The fall 2007 Annual Survey of Refugees who have been in the U.S. less than five years indicated that 56.8 percent of refugees age 16 or over were employed as of October 2007, as compared with 63.0 percent for the U.S. population.
- The labor force participation rate was 64.0 percent for the sampled refugee population, slightly lower than the 66.0 percent for the U.S. population. The refugee unemployment rate was 11.2 percent, compared with 4.6 percent for the U.S. population.
- Approximately 64.5 percent of all sampled refugee households were entirely self-sufficient. About 21.8 percent received both public assistance and earned income; another 10.1 percent received only public assistance.
- The average hourly wage of employed refugees in the five-year survey population was \$9.30. This represents a three percent drop in real (inflation-adjusted) wages from the overall average rate in the 2005 survey (\$8.80; \$9.59 adjusted) and a 15.5 percent drop from the 2002 survey year, where respondents reported an adjusted overall hourly wage of \$9.37 (\$11.00 adjusted for inflation).¹
- Approximately 18.5 percent of refugees in the five-year sample population received medical coverage through an employer, while 39.1 percent received benefits from Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance. About 24.6 percent of the sample population had no medical coverage in any of the previous 12 months.

¹ The average hourly pay for all full-time workers in the U.S. in 2003 was \$18.09, not adjusted for inflation.

- The average number of years of education was the highest for the refugees from Latin America (12.2 years), while the lowest was for refugees from Southeast Asia (6.3 years). About 14.5 percent of refugees reported they spoke English well or fluently upon arrival, but 57.7 percent spoke no English at all.
- The most common form of cash assistance was Supplemental Security Income, received by about 15.3 percent of refugee households. About 49.3 percent of refugee households received food stamps, and 25 percent lived in public housing.

Trafficking

- In FY 2007, ORR issued 270 certification letters to adult victims of trafficking and 33 eligibility letters to minors for a total of 303. ORR has issued a total of 1,379 letters during the first seven years of the program. Seventy percent of victims certified in FY 2007 were female.

Unaccompanied Alien Children Program

- ORR placed 8,212 unaccompanied alien children (UAC) in its various housing facilities during FY 2007, an increase of 6 percent from FY 2006. These averaged approximately 1,300 children in care at any point in time. ORR funded capacity for approximately 1,700 beds during FY 2007.

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Director's Message

True to the mission of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), fiscal year 2007 proved to be another successful year of providing some of the most vulnerable populations with critical resources to assist them in becoming integrated members of American society. In this effort, ORR funded a network of national and local service providers that assist refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, victims of torture, unaccompanied alien children, and victims of human trafficking. Throughout the fiscal year, ORR worked in close cooperation with national voluntary agencies (VOLAGs) and refugee Mutual Assistant Associations (MAAs) as well as Federal, State, and local partners. ORR's goal was to ensure that incoming refugees had the needed services and assistance to help them attain economic self-sufficiency as early as possible after their arrival.

In FY 2007, Refugee admissions totaled 48,281, compared with 41,279 in FY 2006. An additional 17,294 Cuban and 147 Haitian entrants were admitted, for a total of 65,722. The largest admission groups in FY 2007 included refugees and entrants from Cuba, Burma, Somalia, Iran, successor republics of the Soviet Union, and Burundi.

ORR provided eight months of cash and medical assistance for newly arrived refugees during FY 2007. ORR also provided funding for formula and discretionary social services to serve refugees up to five years after their arrival.

Major accomplishments during FY 2007 included the following:

In FY 2007, ORR's Unaccompanied Alien Children's Program continued to provide care and placement for unaccompanied alien children (UACs) who left their home countries to rejoin family already in the U.S., to escape abusive family relationships in their home country, or to find work to support their families in their home country. Most of the children in ORR's custody and care were from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, and approximately 76 percent were male and 24 percent female; 15 percent were below the age of 14. The majority of children were cared for through a network of ORR-funded facilities, most of which are located close to areas where immigration officials apprehended large numbers of UACs. With an operating budget of \$95 million in 2007, ORR funded approximately 1,700 beds and placed 8,212 children in its various shelter facilities, which number more than 40 in 10 states.

ORR's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Program (ATIP) continued to make strides in helping to identify, certify, and provide services for victims of human trafficking. In 2007, ORR issued 270 certification letters to adult victims of trafficking and 33 eligibility letters to minors, for a total of 303. The 18 street outreach grantees identified approximately 1,500 potential victims of human trafficking, while four "intermediary" organization contractors identified approximately 200 potential victims in their work fostering connections between ORR's *Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking* public awareness campaign and local awareness building and service provision. Two hundred and seven pre-certified and 457 certified victims received services through a per capita contract that makes financial support available to organizations throughout the country that provide services to victims. ORR/ATIP launched four new *Rescue and Restore* coalitions around the country and provided targeted training and technical assistance to its new coalitions and all grantees. ORR/ATIP also created an "in-reach" campaign to educate and coordinate with other HHS programs in the pursuit of easier access to victim services, and renamed its 24/7 hotline the National Human Trafficking Resource Center in order to reflect increased response capabilities.

ORR tracked State and county performance in FY 2007 for outcome measures related to refugee economic self-sufficiency. In FY 2007, the caseload (68,999) increased by two percent over FY 2006 (67,893). Seventy-three percent of refugees who found employment were still employed 90 days later, a one percent increase from FY 2006. Sixty-three percent of full-time job placements offered health insurance, also a one percent increase from FY 2006. The rate of job placements was 53 percent.

In 2007, ORR continued to provide the Points of Wellness Toolkit and training workshops to help State and local governments, as well as community based organizations develop and implement refugee health promotion and disease prevention activities and programs. Additionally, ORR led a national effort to promote and enhance the relationship of refugee health and access to health and mental health services, with successful integration into American society. Under interagency agreements with the HHS' Office of Global Health Affairs and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, ORR convened the Refugee Medical Screening Protocol Work Group in partnership with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to update the medical screening services for refugees when they are admitted into the U.S.

The partnerships between ORR and other federal agencies continued to flourish in FY 2007. The Rural Initiative/Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program (RAPP) with the Department of Agriculture partnered refugees with local farmers, growers, and distributors. In addition to ORR funding, the partnership has resulted in additional public (USDA) and private support of \$2.5 million. ORR also worked with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to find innovative ways to address housing issues for refugees. Recently, ORR collaborated with the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment & Training Administration (ETA) to develop strategies to enable refugee service providers to become partners with local One-Stop career centers, and to enhance information sharing between ORR and ETA at the federal, state and local levels.

In other areas of its operations, ORR:

- Continued its support of efforts that foster integration through refugee self-help. In 2007, ORR awarded 51 discretionary grants for a total of \$8.5 million to organizations in 21 states and the District of Columbia through Ethnic Community Self Help Program.
- Awarded \$3.8 million in Healthy Marriage grants to 10 grantees to promote stable marriages and family life, and to prevent family conflict and divorce.
- Supported 12 Wilson/Fish projects throughout 11 States and one county.
- Provided \$19 million to localities most heavily impacted by Cuban and Haitian entrants and refugees, particularly where their arrival numbers in recent years have increased.

ORR's FY 2008 goals include:

- Ensuring that all ORR programs provide for the safety and well being of children;
- Continuing to improve the quality of care, family reunification, and foster care services provided to unaccompanied alien children and unaccompanied refugee minors;
- Continue expanding efforts to increase the number of persons identified, certified, and served as victims of trafficking;
- Identifying and addressing changing needs of a diverse refugee population;

- Focusing on the importance of integration, self-sufficiency, and civic responsibility of incoming populations, and;
- Continue developing relationships and fostering greater collaboration with Federal partners to enhance the availability of services.

David Siegel
Acting Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

I. Refugee Resettlement Program

Admissions

To be admitted to the United States, an individual must be determined by an officer of the Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to meet the definition of refugee as defined in the Refugee Act of 1980. He or she also must be determined to be of special humanitarian concern to the U.S., be admissible under U.S. law, and not be firmly resettled in another country. Special humanitarian concern generally applies to refugees with relatives residing in the U.S., refugees whose status as refugees has occurred as a result of their association with the U.S., and refugees who have a close tie to the U.S. because of education here or employment by the U.S. government. In addition, the U.S. admits a share of refugees determined by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to be in need of resettlement in a third country outside the region from which they have fled.

The ceiling for the number of refugees to be admitted each year is determined by the President after consultation between the Executive Branch and the Congress. The President has authority to respond beyond the ceiling in cases of emergencies. The **Ceilings and Admissions** table shows the arrivals and ceilings from FY 1983 to FY 2007.

Ceilings and Admissions (1983 to 2007)			
Year	Ceiling	Admissions	% of Ceiling
2007	70,000	48,281	69.0
2006	70,000	41,279	59.0
2005	70,000	53,813	77.1
2004	70,000	52,858	75.6
2003	70,000	28,117	40.2
2002	70,000	27,070	38.7
2001	80,000	68,388	85.4
2000	90,000	72,519	80.5
1999	91,000	85,014	93.4
1998	83,000	76,750	92.5
1997	78,000	76,456	98.0
1996	90,000	75,755	84.1
1995	112,000	99,553	88.8
1994	121,000	112,065	92.6
1993	132,000	119,050	90.2
1992	142,000	131,749	92.8
1991	131,000	113,980	87.0
1990	125,000	122,935	98.3
1989	116,500	106,932	91.8
1988	87,500	76,930	87.8
1987	70,000	58,863	84.1
1986	67,000	60,559	90.4
1985	70,000	67,166	96.0
1984	72,000	70,604	98.1
1983	90,000	60,040	66.7

Source: Reallocated ceilings from Department of State (except for FY 1989 in which the reallocated ceiling was revised from 94,000 to 116,500). Admissions based on ORR data system, which commenced in 1983. Data on arrivals not available prior to the establishment of the refugee database in 1983. Does not include entrants.

For FY 2007, the President determined the refugee ceiling at 70,000 refugees. During the fiscal year, 48,281 refugees (including 64 Amerasians) and 17,441 Cuban and Haitian entrants were admitted to the U.S.

Refugee and entrant arrivals from Cuba comprised the largest admission group (20,217), followed by refugee arrivals from Burma (9,776), Somalia (6,958), Iran (5,474), the successor republics of the Soviet Union (4,583), and Burundi (4,525).

After several years of robust admissions, arrivals from Laos (98) declined sharply from the year before (815). These arrivals consist largely of Laotian Hmong tribesmen who have been confined for long periods in refugee camps where schooling and job training were spotty, and few refugees achieved even a primary school degree. Not surprisingly, their lack of marketable skills has translated into difficulty in finding employment and achieving self-sufficiency. The Hmong will need an intensive level of services for a prolonged period of time. The educational background, labor force participation, and welfare utilization of the Hmong arrivals will be dealt with in greater detail in the section entitled, *Hmong Resettlement in the United States*.

Comparing the countries of origin of this year's arrivals with those of a decade earlier illustrates the wide swings and abrupt reversals in the refugee program. In FY 1995, the arrivals from Cuba reached 37,037, almost double the arrivals this year. In FY 1994, refugees from the former republics of the Soviet Union reached 35,509, a significant decline in this year's total (4,583), followed by Vietnam with 33,198 (only 1,551 this year including Amerasians).

The former republics of Yugoslavia also have exhibited great variability. It sent only six refugees to the U.S. in FY 1990, but reached as high as 38,620 in FY 1999 before sinking to 2 this year. Somali admissions reveal a similar pattern. In FY 1994, 3,508 Somalis fled to the U.S. Admissions reached 6,022 in FY 2000 before plunging to 242 in FY 2002 and then swelling to 6,958 this year.

Florida received the largest number of FY 2007 arrivals (17,782). Arrivals to California reached 6,744, followed by Texas (4,830), Minnesota (3,200), New York (3,146) and Washington (2,218). Unlike countries of origin, the States of initial resettlement vary little from year to year. The only notable difference from a decade earlier is Florida's rise to the top spot from only 4,850 in FY 1995—due entirely to a sustained increase in entrants.

Amerasians

The admission numbers for refugees included in this chapter include individuals admitted under the Amerasian Homecoming Act of 1988.

Amerasians are children born in Vietnam to Vietnamese mothers and American fathers and are admitted as immigrants, rather than refugees; however, these youths and their immediate relatives are entitled to the same ORR-funded services and benefits. Since FY 1988, 76,024 Vietnamese have been admitted to the U.S. under this provision. In the peak year for this population (1992), over 17,000 youths and family members arrived in the U.S. In FY 2007, they numbered only 64. The *Refugees in the United States* section and associated tables in Appendix A of this report provide refugee, Amerasian, and entrant arrival numbers by country of origin and State of initial resettlement for the period FY 1983 through FY 2007.

Cuban and Haitian Entrants

Congress created the Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program under Title V of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980. The law provides for a program of reimbursement to participating States for cash and medical assistance to Cuban and Haitian entrants under the same conditions and to the same extent as

such assistance and services for refugees under the refugee program. The first recipients of the new program were the approximately 125,000 Cubans who fled the Castro regime in the Mariel boatlift of 1980.

By law, an entrant, for the purposes of ORR-funded benefits, is a Cuban or Haitian national who is (a) paroled into the U.S., (b) subject to exclusion or deportation proceedings, or (c) an applicant for asylum.

Under the terms of a bilateral agreement between the U.S. and Cuba, up to 20,000 Cuban immigrants are allowed to enter the U.S. directly from Cuba annually. These individuals are known as Havana Parolees and are eligible for ORR-funded benefits and services in States that have a Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program.

Entrant Arrivals (1991 to 2007)			
Year	Cuba	Haiti	Total
2007	17,294	147	17,441
2006	16,645	55	16,690
2005	15,745	144	15,885
2004	26,235	326	26,559
2003	10,205	993	11,198
2002	18,001	867	18,868
2001	14,499	1,451	15,950
2000	17,871	1,570	19,441
1999	20,728	1,270	21,998
1998	13,492	590	14,082
1997	5,284	42	5,326
1996	16,985	346	17,331
1995	31,195	1,035	32,230
1994	12,785	1,579	14,364
1993	3,452	700	4,152
1992	2,539	10,385	12,924
1991	696	395	1,091
Does not include Cuban and Haitian arrivals with refugee status.			

Asylees

On June 15, 2000, ORR published State Letter 00-12, which revised its policy on program eligibility for persons granted asylum. Section 412(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act provides a refugee with benefits beginning with the first month in which the refugee has entered the U.S. In the past, an asylee’s arrival date was considered his entry date for the purposes of program eligibility. The months of eligibility for assistance (currently eight) would then begin on this date. It could precede by months or even years the date that the individual was granted asylum. Because of the time it normally takes for an individual to apply for asylum and to proceed through the immigration process, this interpretation of “entry” prohibited even individuals who applied for asylum immediately upon arrival from accessing refugee cash assistance and refugee medical assistance.

In 1996, Congress revised Federal welfare programs to use date of admission, rather than date of physical entry, as the important issue in determining an alien’s legal status. Accordingly, ORR now uses the date that asylum is granted as the initial date of eligibility for ORR-funded services and benefits. In the past year, the U.S. government granted asylum to 25,256 persons.

ORR funds the “Asylum Hotline” which enables asylees to find resettlement resources in their respective area of residence. The hotline has interpreters capable of speaking seventeen languages. Asylees are informed of the hotline number either in their letter of grant of asylum from USCIS, or through posters and pamphlets available at the immigration courts. Last year, the hotline received approximately five thousand calls from asylees.

Reception and Placement

Most eligible persons for ORR’s program benefits and services are refugees resettled through the Department of State’s refugee allocation system under the annual ceiling for refugee admissions. Upon arrival, refugees are provided initial services through a program of grants, called *reception and placement cooperative agreements*, made by the Department of State to qualifying agencies. In FY 2007, the following agencies participated: Church World Service, Episcopal Migration Ministries, Ethiopian Community Development Council, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Iowa Department of Human Services/BRS Organization, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and World Relief.

These grantee agencies are responsible for providing initial “nesting” services covering basic food, clothing, shelter, orientation, and referral for the first 30 days. In FY 2007, the agencies received a per capita amount of \$850 from the State Department for this purpose. After this period, refugees who still need assistance are eligible for cash and medical benefits provided under ORR’s domestic assistance program. For more information on these agencies and their activities, see Appendix C.

ORR Assistance and Services

All persons admitted as refugees or granted asylum while in the U.S. are eligible for refugee benefits. Certain other persons admitted to the U.S. under other immigration categories are also eligible for refugee benefits. Amerasians from Vietnam and their accompanying family members, though admitted to the U.S. as immigrants, are entitled to the same social services and assistance benefits as refugees. Certain nationals of Cuba and Haiti, such as public interest parolees and asylum applicants, may also receive benefits in the same manner and to the same extent as refugees if they reside in a State with an approved Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program. In addition, certain persons deemed to be victims of a severe form of trafficking, though not legally admitted as refugees, are eligible for ORR-funded benefits to the same extent as refugees.

Domestic Resettlement Program

In FY 2007, the refugee and entrant assistance program was funded under the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (P.L. 110-5). In addition to this appropriation of \$492.5 million, Congress gave ORR permission to spend prior year unexpended funds. Congress appropriated an additional \$95.3 million for the Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) program which was transferred from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to ORR in March of FY 2003. The activities and benefits of this program are explained more fully in the *Unaccompanied Alien Children Program* section. The inclusion of the UAC appropriation brought the total ORR appropriation to \$587.8 million. The **ORR Appropriation** table explains the FY 2007 appropriations by line-item.

The domestic refugee program consists of four separate resettlement approaches: (1) the State-administered program, (2) the Public/Private Partnership program, (3) the Wilson/Fish program, and (4) the Matching Grant program.

ORR Appropriation (2007)	
Transitional and Medical Services	\$265,546,000
Social Services	154,005,000
Preventive Health	4,748,000
Targeted Assistance	48,590,000
Victims of Torture	9,817,000
Victims of Trafficking	9,823,000
Total Refugee Appropriation	492,529,000
Unaccompanied Alien Children Program	95,318,000
Total ORR Appropriation	587,847,000
New budget authority only. Does not include prior year funds available for FY 2007 authorization.	

1. State-Administered Program

Federal resettlement assistance to refugees is provided primarily through the State-administered refugee resettlement program. States provide transitional cash and medical assistance and social services, as well as maintain legal responsibility for the care of unaccompanied refugee children.

- *Cash and Medical Assistance*

Refugees generally enter the U.S. without income or assets with which to support themselves during their first few months. Families with children under 18 are eligible for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Refugees who are aged, blind, or disabled may receive assistance from the federally-administered Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Refugees eligible for these programs may be enrolled in the Medicaid program which provides medical assistance to low-income individuals and families.

Refugees who meet the income and resource eligibility standards of these two cash assistance programs, but are not otherwise eligible – such as singles, childless couples, and two-parent families in certain States with restrictive TANF programs – may receive benefits under the special Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) programs. Eligibility for these special programs is restricted to the first eight months in the U.S. except for asylees, for whom the eligibility period begins the month that asylum is granted. ORR does not reimburse States for their costs of the TANF, SSI, and Medicaid programs.

In FY 2007, ORR obligated \$151.7 million to reimburse States for their full costs for the RCA and RMA programs and associated State administrative costs. Cash and medical assistance allocations are presented on the **CMA, Social Services, and Targeted Assistance Obligations** table.

CMA (a/), Social Services (b/), Targeted Assistance (c/) Obligations (2007) (by State)				
State	CMA	Social Services	Targeted Assistance	Total
Alabama d/	-	\$113,000	-	\$113,000
Alaska d/	-	118,000	-	118,000
Arizona	2,286,000	2,235,000	1,139,000	5,660,000
Arkansas	12,000	75,000	-	87,000
California e/	20,664,000	8,555,000	4,081,000	33,300,000
Colorado f/	1,511,000	1,022,000	441,000	2,974,000
Connecticut	416,500	441,000	-	857,500
Delaware	50,000	75,000	-	125,000
District of Columbia	629,500	237,000	-	866,500
Florida	51,632,000	26,558,000	17,188,000	95,378,000
Georgia	2,554,500	1,922,000	1,141,000	5,617,500
Hawaii	29,500	75,000	-	104,500
Idaho d/	749,500	558,000	277,000	1,584,500
Illinois	4,026,000	1,469,000	795,000	6,290,000
Indiana	510,500	505,000	-	1,015,500
Iowa	854,500	502,000	271,000	1,627,500
Kansas	594,000	257,000	-	851,000
Kentucky d/	-	1,429,000	698,000	2,127,000
Louisiana	579,000	227,000	-	806,000
Maine	228,000	433,000	-	661,000

State	CMA	Social Services	Targeted Assistance	Total
Maryland	3,261,000	1,381,000	981,000	5,623,000
Massachusetts f/	3,752,000	1,439,000	742,000	5,933,000
Michigan	4,072,500	1,141,000	522,000	5,735,500
Minnesota	6,432,500	7,075,000	2,752,000	16,259,500
Mississippi	772,000	75,000	-	847,000
Missouri	639,500	938,000	405,000	1,982,500
Montana	44,500	75,000	-	119,500
Nebraska	467,500	411,000	-	878,500
Nevada d/	-	906,000	508,000	1,414,000
New Hampshire	423,000	393,000	-	816,000
New Jersey	1,969,000	1,042,000	-	3,011,000
New Mexico	1,016,000	184,000	-	1,200,000
New York	4,986,000	4,530,000	3,480,000	12,996,000
North Carolina	2,220,500	1,486,000	713,000	4,419,500
North Dakota f/	515,500	264,000	128,000	907,500
Ohio	4,840,000	2,365,000	786,000	7,991,000
Oklahoma	567,000	119,000	-	686,000
Oregon	1,346,000	1,444,000	1,233,000	4,023,000
Pennsylvania	3,797,000	1,915,000	404,000	6,116,000
Rhode Island	88,000	254,000	-	342,000
South Carolina	39,000	121,000	-	160,000
South Dakota d/	154,000	327,000	176,000	657,000
Tennessee	431,000	938,000	-	1,369,000
Texas	11,133,000	4,093,000	2,089,000	17,315,000
Utah	1,173,000	827,000	518,000	2,518,000
Vermont f/	101,000	253,000	-	354,000
Virginia	3,974,000	1,800,000	509,000	6,283,000
Washington	4,877,000	3,558,000	1,754,000	10,189,000
West Virginia	12,000	75,000	-	87,000
Wisconsin	1,333,000	1,568,000	-	2,901,000
Wyoming	-	-	-	-

State	CMA	Social Services	Targeted Assistance	Total
Total	151,763,000	87,803,000	48,590,000	288,156,000

a/ Cash/Medical/Administrative, including Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA), aid to unaccompanied minors, and State administrative expenses. Includes prior year surplus funds as well as FY 2006 appropriated funds.

b/ Includes funds for privately administered Wilson/Fish programs.

c/ Includes funds for privately administered Wilson/Fish programs.

d/ A private non-profit agency operates a State-wide Wilson/Fish program.

e/ A private non-profit agency operates a Wilson/Fish program in the County of San Diego.

f/ The State refugee program operates a State-wide Wilson/Fish program.

- **Social Services**

ORR provides funding for a broad range of social services to refugees, both through States and direct service grants. With these funds, States provide services to help refugees obtain employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency and social adjustment as quickly as possible. After deducting funds used to support programs of special interest to Congress, ORR, as in previous fiscal years, allocated 85 percent of the remaining social service funds on a formula basis. For both programs, social services are provided only to refugees who have resided in the U.S. for fewer than 60 months.

Formula obligations varied according to each State’s proportion of total refugee and entrant arrivals during the previous three fiscal years. States with small refugee populations received a minimum of \$100,000 in social service funds. In FY 2007, of total social service funds, ORR obligated \$87.8 million to States under the State-administered formula program.

In addition to these funds, ORR obligated social service funds to a variety of discretionary programs. A discussion of these discretionary awards may be found in the *Discretionary Grants* section.

- **Targeted Assistance**

The targeted assistance program funds employment and other services for refugees and entrants who reside in high need areas. These areas are defined as counties with unusually large refugee and entrant populations, high refugee or entrant concentrations in relation to the overall population, or high use of public assistance. Such counties need supplementation of other available service resources to help the local refugee or entrant population obtain employment with less than one year’s participation in the program.

In FY 2007, ORR obligated \$48.6 million for targeted assistance activities for refugees and entrants. Of this, \$43.7 million was awarded by formula to 36 States on behalf of the 47 counties eligible for targeted assistance grants. Funds not allocated in the formula program were reserved for communities in the form of discretionary grants through the Targeted Assistance discretionary program. A discussion of these discretionary awards may be found in the *Discretionary Grants* section. The **Targeted Assistance** table presents the amount of funds awarded to individual counties. The amounts awarded to States under the allocation formula are provided on the **CMA, Social Services, and Targeted Assistance Obligations** table.

Targeted Assistance (2007) (by County)		
Maricopa	AZ	\$1,139,091
Los Angeles	CA	1,341,897
Sacramento	CA	1,553,851
San Diego	CA	782,729
Santa Clara	CA	402,094
Denver	CO	440,615
Broward	FL	971,288
Collier	FL	330,681
Dade	FL	12,941,066
Duval	FL	391,541
Hillsborough	FL	902,865
Orange	FL	767,778
Palm Beach	FL	882,285
DeKalb	GA	929,777
Fulton	GA	211,425
Ada	ID	277,385
Cook/Kane	IL	795,394
Polk	IA	270,701
Jefferson	KY	698,476
Baltimore	MD	363,749
Montgomery/Prince Georges	MD	617,741
Hampden	MA	325,053
Suffolk	MA	416,693
Ingham	MI	299,900
Kent	MI	221,627
Hennepin/Ramsey	MN	2,752,041
St. Louis	MO	405,436
Clark	NV	508,158
Erie	NY	474,739
Monroe	NY	315,906
New York	NY	1,998,686
Oneida	NY	235,874
Onondaga	NY	455,038
Guilford	NC	328,219
Mecklenburg	NC	384,505
Cass	ND	127,523
Franklin	OH	785,720
Multnomah	OR	1,232,843
Philadelphia	PA	404,381
Minnehaha	SD	175,718
Dallas/Tarrant	TX	962,141
Harris	TX	1,126,603
Davis/Salt Lake	UT	518,360
Fairfax	VA	347,567
Richmond	VA	162,174
King/Snohomish	WA	1,503,544
Spokane	WA	250,122
Total		\$43,731,000

- *Unaccompanied Minors*

ORR continued its support of care for unaccompanied refugee minors in the U.S. The majority of these children are identified in countries of first asylum as requiring foster care upon their arrival in this country. A smaller percentage become reclassified as unaccompanied refugee minors after their arrival in the U.S., following a determination of eligible status (such as asylee, victim of a severe form of trafficking, or Cuban or Haitian entrant) or a determination of unaccompanied status (due to post-resettlement family breakdown). Two national voluntary agencies—the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) -- place unaccompanied refugee minors in licensed child welfare programs operated by their local Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Service affiliate agencies. ORR works with states on implementation and oversight of the program; states contract with the identified child welfare agencies, which provide services to unaccompanied refugee minors.

Each refugee minor in the care of this program is eligible for the same range of child welfare benefits as non-refugee children. Where possible, the child is placed with an affiliated agency of USCCB and LIRS in an area with nearby families of the same ethnic background. Depending on their individual needs, the minors are placed in home foster care, group care, independent living, or residential treatment. Foster parents must be licensed by their State or county child welfare provider and receive on-going training in child welfare matters. Foster parents come from a diversity of ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, and they receive special training on the adjustment needs of refugee youth. ORR reimburses costs incurred on behalf of each child until the month after his eighteenth birthday or such higher age as is permitted under the State's Plan under title IV-B of the Social Security Act. Allowable services through the URM program include:

- Appropriate and least restrictive placement
- Family tracing and reunification, where possible
- Health care
- Mental health care
- Social adjustment
- English language training
- Education and vocational training
- Career planning and employment
- Preparation for independent living and social integration
- Preservation of heritage: ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic

By the end of FY 2000, only 199 refugee youth remained in the program. As a result, programs in 24 States had been phased out.

FY 2001 saw the revival of the program. More than 3,800 Sudanese youth from the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya arrived in the U.S. to begin a new life. These youth—dubbed the Lost Boys of Sudan due

to their mass exodus from the war in Sudan—ranged in ages from 11 to 27. Almost 500 of these youth had not attained the age of 18 and were placed in the unaccompanied minor program.

In FY 2007, 132 youth entered the program, and 617 youth, from 42 countries of origin were served. The top countries of origin – represented by ten or more children in care – include: Sudan, Liberia, Honduras, Haiti, Somalia, Afghanistan, Burma, Guatemala, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, China, and Rwanda.

Unaccompanied refugee minors resided in the following States in FY 2007: Arizona, California, the District of Columbia, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Dakota, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

2. Public/Private Partnerships

In March 2000, ORR published a final rule which amended the requirements governing refugee cash assistance. The final rule offered States flexibility and choice in how refugee cash assistance and services could be delivered to refugees not eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

States have the option of entering into a partnership with local resettlement agencies to administer the program through a public/private refugee cash assistance (RCA) program. The partnerships facilitate the successful resettlement of refugees by integrating cash assistance with resettlement services and ongoing case management. Through these public/private RCA programs, States are permitted to include employment incentives that support the refugee program's goal of family self-sufficiency and social adjustment in the shortest possible time after arrival. To be eligible for the public/private RCA program, a refugee must meet the income eligibility standard jointly established by the State and local resettlement agencies in the State. The goal of the public/private partnership is to promote more effective and better quality resettlement services through linkage between the initial placement of refugees and the refugee cash assistance program.

Five states have been approved to operate public/private partnerships: Maryland, Texas, Oregon, Oklahoma, and Minnesota. States and local resettlement agencies are encouraged to look at different approaches and to be creative in designing a program that will help refugees to establish a sound economic foundation during the eight-month RCA period.

3. Wilson/Fish Alternative Program

The Wilson/Fish amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act, contained in the FY 1985 Continuing Resolution on Appropriations, directed the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to develop alternatives to the traditional State-administered refugee resettlement program for the purpose of:

- Increasing refugee self-sufficiency;
- Avoiding welfare dependency; and
- Increasing coordination among service providers and resettlement agencies.

The Wilson/Fish authority allows projects to establish or maintain a refugee program in a State where the State is not participating in the refugee program or is withdrawing from all or a portion of the program. These projects are considered under Category 1 in the Wilson/Fish announcement.

The Wilson/Fish authority also provides public or private non-profit agencies the opportunity to develop new approaches for the provision of cash and medical assistance, social services, and case management. These projects are considered under Category 2 in the Wilson/Fish announcement.

No additional funding is appropriated for Wilson/Fish projects; funds are drawn from regular cash/medical/administration (CMA) and social services formula allocations. FY 2007 funding to Wilson-Fish totaled \$28.7 million of which \$20.9 million was CMA funding and the remaining \$7.8 million was through formula social services.

Wilson/Fish alternative projects typically contain several of the following elements:

- Creation of a “front-loaded” service system which provides intensive services to refugees in the early months after arrival with an emphasis on early employment.
- Integration of case management, cash assistance, and employment services generally under a single agency that is culturally and linguistically equipped to work with refugees.
- Innovative strategies for the provision of cash assistance, through incentives, bonuses and income disregards which are tied directly to the achievement of employment goals outlined in the client self-sufficiency plan.

In FY 2007, approximately 13,725 clients received services and assistance through the Wilson/Fish program. Wilson/Fish projects were operated by private non-profit agencies in Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, South Dakota, and San Diego County, California. One project (Vermont) was jointly administered by the State and a private agency. In addition, there were three Wilson/Fish projects, (Colorado, Massachusetts, and North Dakota) that were publicly administered by a State Agency.

As in past years, Wilson/Fish Program Directors worked closely with ORR staff to establish outcome goal plans for their programs. The program goals established for FY 2007 are based on the program measures adopted for the State-administered program. For an explanation of each program measure and the outcomes for each project, see the section entitled, *Partnerships to Improve Employment and Self-Sufficiency Outcomes*.

Wilson/Fish Grantees			
State/County Grantee	RCA for TANF-Types	RMA Funds to WF Grantee	Social Services Funds to WF Grantee
Alabama - Catholic Social Services of Mobile (Cat. 1)	No	Yes	Yes
Alaska - Catholic Social Services (Cat. 1)	No	Yes	Yes
Colorado Department of Human Services (Cat. 2)	Yes	No	Yes
Kentucky - Catholic Charities of Louisville (Cat. 1)	No	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants (Cat. 2)	No	No	Yes
Nevada - Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (Cat. 1)	No	Yes	Yes

State/County Grantee	RCA for TANF-Types	RMA Funds to WF Grantee	Social Services Funds to WF Grantee
North Dakota Department of Human Services (Cat. 2)	Yes	No	Yes
San Diego – Catholic Charities (Cat. 2)	Yes	No	Yes
South Dakota – LSS of South Dakota (Cat. 1)	Yes	No	Yes
Vermont – USCRI (Cat. 2)	Yes	No	No
Idaho – Mountain States Group (Cat. 1)	Yes	No	Yes

4. Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program

In FY 2007, 28,137 refugees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, asylees and certified victims of human trafficking enrolled in the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program (MG) with 1,105 clients funded solely on private dollars. MG services were provided in approximately 225 locations across the U.S. MG service providers successfully employed 64 percent of all employable adults, resulting in a 69 percent self-sufficiency rate at day 120 and 81 percent self-sufficiency rate at day 180. The MG program also has an average hourly wage of \$8.47 and an extremely low 120-day out-migration rate of 3 percent.

Of the number of highlights in FY 2007, one of the largest was the \$10 million program budget increase to \$60 million, resulting in a per capita increase from \$2,000 to \$2,200 and a projected client increase from 25,000 to 27,272. The MG program continues utilizing the Performance Based Formula awarding system for calculating program awards, but has set aside \$5 million of the increase for supplementary discretionary funding to be awarded at the discretion of the ORR Director.

Another significant change in FY 2007 was the extension of the program year from January 1, 2007 through January 31, 2008. This 13-month year for FY 2007 enabled ORR to begin the 2008 program on February 1, 2008 and continue it through January 31, 2009. By beginning the program on February 1, 2008 and moving the Social Service RCA/RMA reporting to a trimester format, ORR will effectively realign the program to have outcomes reported in corresponding periods. This will provide ORR with a comprehensive view of all its programs for new arrivals and enable it to strategically deploy its monitoring and technical assistance resources.

Church World Service (CWS) received \$4,411,000 to enroll 2,005 clients. CWS served 2,019 clients, including the provision of matching grant services to an additional 14 clients through private resources. Of the clients enrolled, 1,411 were refugees, 544 were Cuban or Haitian entrants, 63 were asylees and one was a victim of human trafficking. Cubans, Burmese, Burundian and Somalis represented the largest ethnicities served through the program.

CWS had a significant amount of staff turnover at local offices over the past year and therefore spent much of 2007 focusing on providing an extensive amount of training throughout their network. Training has centered on increasing employment outcomes and self-sufficiency rates while providing tools to assist local staff in providing quality services.

Church World Service (CWS)			
Measures	Cases	Individuals	Percentage
Enrolled	910	2,019	-
Self-sufficient - 120 Days	743	1,670	73%
Self-sufficiency Retention - 180 Days	594	1,371	97%
Overall Self-sufficiency - 180 Days	697	1,626	89%
Entered Employment		895	78%
Average Hourly Wage		\$8.31	
Health Benefits		474	56%

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) received \$3,350,600 to enroll 1,523 clients. The majority of clients enrolled were Burmese Karen and Chin, Burundians, Cubans, and Iraqis. EMM enrolled 1,518 clients into the MG program for the year with reported outcomes at 74 percent at the 120th day and 87 percent at the 180th day for all individuals enrolled.

Some highlights from the field were in Tennessee, Kentucky, Houston, and Texas where MG staff provided intense support to meet the vast needs of the “1972 Burundians”, a group of refugees, primarily of Hutu ethnicity, who fled their homeland in mid-1972 following a campaign of violence by the Tutsi-dominated government against the Hutu population. This population arrived with considerable obstacles to achieving self-sufficiency, including illiteracy, lack of English, unfamiliarity with modern amenities, and a lack of marketable skills. Affiliates revamped orientation programs to include additional concentrated sessions on the world of work and transportation orientation in an effort to acclimate clients to U.S. customs. The success of these efforts is seen in the outcomes for the agency’s network, which exceeded the national average.

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM)			
Measures	Cases	Individuals	Percentage
Enrolled	622	1,518	-
Self-sufficient - 120 Days	440	1,097	74%
Self-sufficiency Retention - 180 Days	407	1,014	81%
Overall Self-sufficiency - 180 Days	464	1,160	87%
Entered Employment		551	80%
Average Hourly Wage		\$8.37	
Health Benefits		323	63%

Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) received \$1,317,800 to enroll 599 clients in PY 2007. ECDC enrolled 599 clients, including 583 refugees and 16 asylees. The major ethnic groups served through ECDC included Burmese, Burundian, Somali and Congolese.

One highlight from the field was the outreach done by ECDC’s Denver, Colorado affiliate, the African Community Center, which is increasing awareness of refugee issues through the “Voices of Refugees” series at the Denver University campus. The event was welcomed by a standing room-only audience and late broadcast by local radio programs.

Another highlight comes from ECDC’s Houston, Texas affiliate, the Alliance for Multicultural Community Services (AMCS). In addition to the standard required MG services and external referrals, MG clients have access to the following in-house programs: Driver Education, Women’s Health Initiative Program (WHIP), HIV/AIDS Project, Unanticipated Arrivals, Healthy Marriage Program, and an after school program.

Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)			
Measures	Cases	Individuals	Percentage
Enrolled	233	599	-
Self-sufficient - 120 Days	188	402	50%
Self-sufficiency Retention - 180 Days	150	317	91%
Overall Self-sufficiency - 180 Days	173	373	66%
Entered Employment		230	45%
Average Hourly Wage		\$8.86	
Health Benefits		206	91%

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) received \$1,755,600 to enroll 798 clients in PY 2007. HIAS enrolled 700 clients into the program. Almost all were refugees with the exception of 29 asylees and two victims of human trafficking. Family reunification refugees from Iran and the Former Soviet Union continued to make up a majority of the caseload, although of note is the increase in free cases placed in the program, led by Southeast Asians, mostly refugees from Burma. HIAS added two affiliates during PY 2007 program year. These sites were Columbus, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. These affiliates are among their fastest growing free case sites and had good job placement rates in other programs prior to entering the MG program.

A major accomplishment in 2007 was the continued improvement of the 120-day performance outcomes. Self-Sufficiency rates at 120 days went from 59.5 percent in 2006 to 67.5 percent in 2007. HIAS affiliates also collectively reported the highest average hourly wage rate of \$9.10 per hour.

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)			
Measures	Cases	Individuals	Percentage
Enrolled	366	700	-
Self-sufficient - 120 Days	267	518	67%
Self-sufficiency Retention - 180 Days	221	426	98%
Overall Self-sufficiency - 180 Days	228	438	59%
Entered Employment		329	62%
Average Hourly Wage		\$9.10	
Health Benefits		198	76%

International Rescue Committee (IRC) received \$7,513,000 to enroll 3,415 clients in PY 2007. Seventeen IRC regional offices participated in the program. IRC offices enrolled 3,581 new clients in the MG program, including 166 clients with private agency funds. Of clients enrolled, 2,847 were refugees, 470 were asylees, 253 were Cuban parolees and 11 were victims of trafficking.

IRC began resettling Iraqi refugees in 2007. In preparation for these refugees, senior IRC staff conducted an assessment of each regional office’s capacity to participate in the resettlement of this caseload and subsequently devised a national strategy for the placement of and assistance to Iraqi refugees. While every IRC resettlement office resettled Iraqis in 2007, the sites that were most heavily impacted by this population included Atlanta, Boston, Charlottesville, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Diego, Seattle and Tucson. A large number of these Iraqis arrived with war-related injuries and other medical concerns, and IRC staff has worked closely with local medical providers to inform them of the needs of this population and provide new arrivals with medical support and follow-up care. IRC has responded to reports of a high rate of exposure to traumatic events among Iraqi refugees by engaging in consultations with local mental health professionals, religious leaders, and ethnic community based organizations in order to provide newly-arrived Iraqis with comprehensive psychosocial support. IRC also has worked closely with public school officials to address the educational needs of Iraqi youth. To enhance the degree of community receptivity to new arrivals, IRC regional staff conducted outreach and public education to share information about Iraqi refugees and have closely coordinated with existing Iraqi communities in each resettlement location.

International Rescue Committee (IRC)			
Measures	Cases	Individuals	Percentage
Enrolled	1,439	3,581	-
Self-sufficient - 120 Days	1,301	3,228	72%
Self-sufficiency Retention - 180 Days	647	1,612	94%
Overall Self-sufficiency - 180 Days	1,165	2,843	85%
Entered Employment		1,676	63%
Average Hourly Wage		\$9.55	
Health Benefits		882	59%

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) received \$8,245,600 to enroll 3,748 clients in PY 2007. The LIRS affiliate network served 3,748 including 2,547 refugees, 315 asylees, 843 Cuban parolees and 43 victims of trafficking. Primary ethnicities served were Cuban, Burmese, Liberian and Burundian.

One highlight from the field is in the area of technology. Many sites have begun to more creatively use technology to support their programs. For example, many affiliates have established computer labs for online job searches and resume writing. At Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the community orientation program is now completely technology based. The step-by-step orientation is in PowerPoint and available in seven different languages. As each new language group arrives, the agency has staff or community members translate the orientation into the appropriate language. In addition, the agency is in the process of digitally recording each presentation, so that clients can listen if they are not literate in their language. These innovations allow clients to watch and/or listen to the orientation at their own pace, and review it multiple times, if needed.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)			
Measures	Cases	Individuals	Percentage
Enrolled	1,741	3,748	-
Self-sufficient - 120 Days	1,155	2,765	71%
Self-sufficiency Retention - 180 Days	968	2,166	95%
Overall Self-sufficiency - 180 Days	1,171	2,543	82%
Entered Employment		1,499	68%
Average Hourly Wage		\$8.39	
Health Benefits		919	65%

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) received \$16,981,800 to enroll 7,719 clients in PY 2007. USCCB served 8,644 clients through the program, 925 additional clients through private resources. Thirty-four percent of clients served were asylees. USCCB served approximately 115 different nationalities and ethnic groups in PY 2007.

USCCB continues to be ORR’s largest MG grantee serving the greatest number of clients. In addition to the 925 clients enrolled solely on USCCB’s private dollars (see table), eight sites have provided more in agency cash and in-kind resources than they have expended in federal resources, this amounts to greater than 100 percent agency match. These eight sites were Allentown, Pennsylvania; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Cincinnati, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Joliet, Illinois; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Paterson and Portland, Maine.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)			
Measures	Cases	Individuals	Percentage
Enrolled	3,794	8,644	-
Self-sufficient - 120 Days	2,596	6,106	66%
Self-sufficiency Retention – 180 Days	2,262	4,948	94%
Overall Self-sufficiency – 180 Days	2,985	6,581	76%
Entered Employment		3,271	59%
Average Hourly Wage		\$8.30	
Health Benefits		1,603	54%

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) received \$12,623,600 to enroll 5,738 clients in PY 2007. USCRI enrolled 5,605 clients serving 2,657 refugees, 846 asylees, 26 victims of trafficking and 2,076 Cuban and Haitian entrants. USCRI served clients from 78 different countries, primarily from Cuba, Burma, Burundi, Somalia and Iraq.

USCRI expanded its MG program network to four new sites in 2007: Dearborn, Michigan; Raleigh, North Carolina; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Twin Falls, Idaho. These four sites served a total of 395 clients.

One highlight from the field was in the area of financial education for refugees. USCRI continued to expand its capacity to deliver financial education to local agencies through its partnership with the Citi Foundation. Local agencies in Erie, Pennsylvania; Los Angeles, California; and Miami, Florida have been recent direct beneficiaries of funding for implementing on-site financial education for clients through this initiative.

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)			
Measures	Cases	Individuals	Percentage
Enrolled	2,975	5,605	-
Self-sufficient - 120 Days	2,134	4,011	66%
Self-sufficiency Retention – 180 Days	1,827	3,264	98%
Overall Self-sufficiency – 180 Days	2,269	4,031	85%
Entered Employment		2,444	63%
Average Hourly Wage		\$8.58	
Health Benefits		982	43%

World Relief (WR) received \$3,799,400 to enroll 1,727 clients in PY 2007. Eleven affiliate offices participate in the MG Program with a total of 1,723 clients enrolled. Of the clients enrolled, 1,428 were refugees, 116 were asylees, 178 Cuban parolees and one was a victim of trafficking. Primary populations served were Burmese and from various countries in Africa.

One highlight from the field came from the WR DuPage office in Illinois. In 2007, WR DuPage received significant support from local churches in assisting Burmese and Burundian cases, which is expected to multiply in impact, as some of the beneficiaries were community leaders who will assist future cases.

World Relief (WR)			
Measures	Cases	Individuals	Percentage
Enrolled	623	1,723	-
Self-sufficient - 120 Days	601	1,490	79%
Self-sufficiency Retention - 180 Days	454	1,042	92%
Overall Self-sufficiency - 180 Days	479	1,161	81%
Entered Employment		764	69%
Average Hourly Wage		\$8.19	
Health Benefits		547	77%

Partnerships to Improve Employment and Self-Sufficiency Outcomes

In FY 2007, ORR continued its Economic Self- Sufficiency Work Group comprised of ORR staff, State coordinators, Wilson/Fish programs, local and National Voluntary Agencies, Mutual Assistance Associations, an employment technical assistance provider, and the Department of State.

The 2007 Work Group revisited the work of a 1994 Work Group on Self-Sufficiency, which allowed ORR to develop specific performance measures that have served as a basis for reporting outcomes for State-Administered and Wilson-Fish programs since 1996.

The Work Group was established so that ORR could:

- Review goals and performance measures related to refugee economic self-sufficiency.
- Clarify performance measures and select new or revised measures.
- Where possible, recommend policy and programmatic solutions to establish greater consistency and accuracy in reporting across State-Administered, Wilson/Fish, and Voluntary Agency Matching Grant programs.
- Strengthen overall ORR policies and operations related to refugee economic self-sufficiency.

States and counties have been required since 1996 to establish annual outcome goals aimed at continuous improvement in the following six outcome measures:

- **Entered Employment**, defined as the entry of an active employment services participant into unsubsidized full or part time employment. This measure refers to the unduplicated number of refugees who enter employment at any time within the reporting period, regardless of how many jobs they enter during the reporting period.
- **Terminations Due to Earnings**, defined as the closing of a cash assistance case due to earned income from employment in an amount that exceeds the State's eligibility standard for the case based on family size, rendering the case over-income for cash assistance. For those clients enrolled in TANF rather than ORR-funded cash assistance programs, the cash assistance termination decision would be based on whether or not the earned income is in an amount "predicted to exceed" the State's TANF payment income standard. This measure is calculated using as the denominator the total number of refugees receiving cash assistance who entered employment.
- **Reductions Due to Earnings**, defined as a reduction in the amount of cash assistance that a case receives as a result of earned income. As with the cash assistance termination rate noted above, the cash assistance reduction rate is computed using as the denominator the total number of individuals receiving cash assistance who entered employment.
- **Average Wage at Employment**, calculated as the sum of the hourly wages for the full time placements divided by the total number of individuals placed in employment. The methodology for calculating the aggregate average wage for the nation and California counties was improved. The new methodology replaces the previous calculation of taking the mean of the average wages with a weighted average that accounts for the differences in total number of full-time entered employments between States and California counties.
- **Job Retentions**, defined as the number of persons working for wages (in any unsubsidized job) on the 90th day after initial placement. This measure refers to the number of refugees who are employed 90 days after initial employment, regardless of how many jobs they enter during the reporting period. This is a measure of continued employment in the labor market, not retention of a specific job.
- **Entered Employment with Health Benefits**, defined as a full-time job with health benefits, offered within six months of employment, regardless of whether the refugee actually accepts the coverage offered.

ORR tracked State and county performance throughout the year, with FY 2007 performance reported as follows:

- **Entered Employment** totaled 36,805, or 53 percent of the total caseload (68,999), representing a one percent decrease from FY 2006 (36,670 or 54 percent).
- **Terminations due to Earnings** totaled 10,978, or 60 percent of those entering employment who had received cash assistance. This is a two percent decrease from FY 2006 (12,063 or 62 percent).
- **Reductions due to Earnings** totaled 1,847, or 10 percent of those entering employment who had received cash assistance. This is a one percent decrease from FY 2006 (2,198 or 11 percent).
- **Average Wage at Placement** for those entering full-time employment was \$8.29, a \$0.05 increase from the average wage in FY 2006 (\$8.24).

- **Employment Retention** totaled 27,601 for a retention rate of 73 percent. This is a one percent increase from FY 2006 (27,514 or 72 percent).
- **Entered Employment with Health Benefits** reached 19,522 or 63 percent of those entering full-time employment having health benefits available through their employer, a one percent increase from FY 2006 (18,999 or 62 percent).

In FY 2007, the caseload (68,999) increased by two percent over FY 2006 (67,893). A caseload is defined as the unduplicated number of active employable adults enrolled in employability services. Seventy-three percent of refugees who found employment were still employed 90 days later, a one percent increase from FY 2006. Sixty-three percent of full-time job placements offered health insurance, also a one percent increase from FY 2006. The rate of job placements was 53 percent, compared to 54 percent in FY 2006. The changing demographics of the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program present new challenges and many populations require extended employment services in order to enter the U.S. labor market and integrate into U.S. society. In order to address these challenges, ORR is striving to work in closer collaboration with states and Wilson-Fish agencies to better communicate ORR priorities and to share knowledge of promising practices that can be transferred across programs.

Twenty-two states and five California counties exceeded their entered employment rate from FY 2006. Four states had the same entered employment rate as FY 2006. Also 22 states, two California counties and the San Diego Wilson-Fish program increased the termination rate of refugees terminating their cash assistance over the previous year, while Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, and West Virginia reported a termination rate of 100 percent.

Twenty-four states and nine California counties improved their job retention rates over the previous year. Alabama, North Dakota and West Virginia all reported a retention rate of 100 percent. Retention rates over 90 percent were reported in the District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Rhode Island. Also, 34 states and five California counties improved the rate of refugees entering full-time employment offering health benefits.

In FY 2007, 36 states, eight California counties and the San Diego Wilson-Fish program improved their average wage from FY 2006. Thirty-two states, eight California counties and the San Diego Wilson-Fish program reported higher wages than the average aggregate wage for all States (\$8.29); Alabama (\$8.76); Alaska (\$9.43); California (\$8.92); Colorado (\$9.51); Connecticut (\$10.31); Delaware (\$10.21); District of Columbia (\$9.48); Florida (\$8.43); Georgia (\$8.69); Indiana (\$9.00); Iowa (\$9.19); Kentucky (\$8.83); Maine (\$9.10); Maryland (\$9.33); Massachusetts (\$10.34); Minnesota (\$8.65); Montana (\$9.25); Nebraska (\$9.89); Nevada (\$9.65); New Jersey (\$9.60); New York (\$9.13); North Carolina (\$8.91); Ohio (\$8.42); Oklahoma (\$9.85); Oregon (\$8.86); Pennsylvania (\$9.57); Rhode Island (\$8.75); South Dakota (\$9.57); Vermont (\$9.23); Virginia (\$9.35); Washington (\$9.25); Wisconsin (\$8.98), California counties of Alameda (\$10.55); Butte (\$10.00); Los Angeles (\$8.70); Orange (\$8.54); Sacramento (\$9.27); San Francisco (\$11.73); Santa Clara (\$9.68); Yolo (\$10.41) and the San Diego Wilson-Fish program (\$8.54).

ORR also tracked the cost per job placement in each state and California county. This measure is the ratio of the total funds used by the State for employment services divided by the number of refugees entering employment during the fiscal year. The average unit cost for all States in FY 2007 was \$2,048.84 per job placement. This represented a \$574.74 decrease from FY 2006 average unit cost of \$2,625.58.

The following tables summarize the FY 2006 and FY 2007 outcomes for all states and California counties. The caseload presented for each state and county consists of the number of refugees with whom a service provider had regular and direct involvement during the fiscal year in planned employability related activities for the purpose of assisting the refugee to find or retain employment. For job retentions, each goal and outcome is expressed as a percent of the total number of refugees who entered employment

during the fiscal year. Terminations and reductions are described as a percent of the total number of refugees receiving cash assistance who entered employment. Health benefit availability is presented as a percentage of the total number of refugees who entered full time employment.

All States (Aggregate)	FY2006		FY 2007	
	Caseload	67,893		68,999
Entered Employment	36,670	54%	36,805	53%
Terminations	12,063	62%	10,978	60%
Reductions	2,198	11%	1,847	10%
Average Wage	\$8.24		\$8.29	
Retention	27,514	72%	27,601	73%
Health Benefits	18,999	62%	19,522	63%

Colorado	FY 2006		FY 2007	
	Caseload	766		771
Entered Employments	464	61%	359	47%
Terminations	372	98%	264	99%
Reductions	8	2%	4	1%
Average Wage	\$8.68		\$9.51	
Retentions	434	88%	358	87%
Health Benefits	367	88%	305	91%

Alabama	FY 2006		FY 2007	
	Caseload	86		117
Entered Employments	82	95%	65	56%
Terminations	21	100%	13	46%
Reductions	0	0%	2	7%
Average Wage	\$7.99		\$8.76	
Retentions	111	100%	53	100%
Health Benefits	52	64%	39	63%

Connecticut	FY 2006		FY 2007	
	Caseload	310		190
Entered Employments	304	98%	190	100%
Terminations	5	3%	11	24%
Reductions	13	8%	3	7%
Average Wage	\$9.94		\$10.31	
Retentions	149	71%	187	82%
Health Benefits	76	31%	69	44%

Alaska	FY 2006		FY 2007	
	Caseload	165		165
Entered Employments	55	33%	64	39%
Terminations	6	18%	19	45%
Reductions	26	79%	22	52%
Average Wage	\$9.49		\$9.43	
Retentions	47	84%	51	86%
Health Benefits	3	8%	22	43%

Delaware	FY 2006		FY 2007	
	Caseload	37		81
Entered Employments	9	24%	47	58%
Terminations	2	50%	11	58%
Reductions	0	0%	3	16%
Average Wage	\$10.92		\$10.21	
Retentions	9	82%	25	61%
Health Benefits	5	100%	4	19%

Arizona	FY 2006		FY 2007	
	Caseload	615		332
Entered Employments	549	89%	184	55%
Terminations	23	15%	0	0%
Reductions	9	6%	2	3%
Average Wage	\$7.12		\$7.81	
Retentions	411	72%	110	70%
Health Benefits	384	72%	152	86%

Dist. of Columbia	FY 2006		FY 2007	
	Caseload	312		256
Entered Employments	131	42%	89	35%
Terminations	106	91%	57	76%
Reductions	10	9%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$9.62		\$9.48	
Retentions	122	69%	79	94%
Health Benefits	65	54%	43	62%

Florida	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	19,154		23,253	
Entered Employments	11,599	61%	12,356	53%
Terminations	5,239	90%	5,569	92%
Reductions	0	0%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$8.04		\$8.43	
Retentions	7,438	66%	8,521	70%
Health Benefits	5,854	55%	6,330	56%

Due to low assistance payment levels, almost all refugees in Florida terminate assistance when they enter employment.

Georgia	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1,181		1,036	
Entered Employments	500	42%	480	46%
Terminations	76	84%	8	27%
Reductions	9	10%	1	3%
Average Wage	\$8.15		\$8.69	
Retentions	543	55%	459	91%
Health Benefits	362	74%	432	91%

Idaho	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	356		282	
Entered Employments	313	88%	234	83%
Terminations	158	95%	105	84%
Reductions	0	0%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$8.13		\$8.22	
Retentions	298	94%	214	85%
Health Benefits	190	72%	181	85%

Illinois	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1,371		1,130	
Entered Employments	740	54%	869	77%
Terminations	322	57%	280	61%
Reductions	216	38%	99	22%
Average Wage	\$8.21		\$8.13	
Retentions	590	80%	775	89%
Health Benefits	561	85%	681	88%

Indiana	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	125		174	
Entered Employments	125	100%	174	100%
Terminations	32	60%	46	79%
Reductions	17	32%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$7.50		\$9.00	
Retentions	123	68%	66	69%
Health Benefits	63	52%	168	97%

Iowa	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	653		403	
Entered Employments	363	56%	235	58%
Terminations	123	58%	44	79%
Reductions	38	18%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$8.88		\$9.19	
Retentions	344	95%	219	96%
Health Benefits	282	93%	183	94%

Kansas	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	136		211	
Entered Employments	69	51%	75	36%
Terminations	19	59%	13	62%
Reductions	10	31%	5	24%
Average Wage	\$7.86		\$8.22	
Retentions	54	72%	60	83%
Health Benefits	42	64%	59	89%

Kentucky	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1,004		1,107	
Entered Employments	703	70%	733	66%
Terminations	461	78%	488	82%
Reductions	34	6%	42	7%
Average Wage	\$8.76		\$8.83	
Retentions	620	89%	602	87%
Health Benefits	618	93%	652	92%

Louisiana	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	108		131	
Entered Employments	69	64%	68	52%
Terminations	46	100%	42	70%
Reductions	0	0%	10	17%
Average Wage	\$6.61		\$7.54	
Retentions	45	90%	53	75%
Health Benefits	13	24%	29	58%

Maine	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	390		324	
Entered Employments	187	48%	176	54%
Terminations	14	13%	40	53%
Reductions	15	14%	19	25%
Average Wage	\$8.84		\$9.10	
Retentions	163	68%	93	61%
Health Benefits	44	37%	30	21%

Missouri	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1,781		1,377	
Entered Employments	403	23%	292	21%
Terminations	19	53%	13	54%
Reductions	16	44%	8	33%
Average Wage	\$8.46		\$7.91	
Retentions	302	74%	219	69%
Health Benefits	279	79%	215	85%

Maryland	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	686		1,020	
Entered Employments	481	70%	634	62%
Terminations	276	100%	284	100%
Reductions	0	0%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$8.71		\$9.33	
Retentions	416	80%	558	83%
Health Benefits	296	77%	406	79%

Montana	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	51		52	
Entered Employments	27	53%	32	62%
Terminations	2	100%	1	100%
Reductions	0	0%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$7.33		\$9.25	
Retentions	22	69%	21	78%
Health Benefits	2	17%	1	6%

Massachusetts	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1,220		1,117	
Entered Employments	882	72%	841	75%
Terminations	447	81%	403	82%
Reductions	107	19%	82	17%
Average Wage	\$10.20		\$10.34	
Retentions	677	83%	708	84%
Health Benefits	584	74%	573	88%

Nebraska	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	67		141	
Entered Employments	67	100%	110	78%
Terminations	20	65%	43	77%
Reductions	3	10%	3	5%
Average Wage	\$9.85		\$9.89	
Retentions	57	98%	74	61%
Health Benefits	63	95%	100	91%

Michigan	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1,766		977	
Entered Employments	700	40%	357	37%
Terminations	156	47%	76	45%
Reductions	115	34%	71	42%
Average Wage	\$7.72		\$7.74	
Retentions	448	53%	257	61%
Health Benefits	236	49%	146	60%

Nevada	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	811		829	
Entered Employments	539	66%	571	69%
Terminations	216	55%	259	64%
Reductions	28	7%	13	3%
Average Wage	\$9.23		\$9.65	
Retentions	193	25%	332	60%
Health Benefits	491	96%	467	98%

Minnesota	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	2,980		3,024	
Entered Employments	1,557	52%	1,661	55%
Terminations	582	56%	407	33%
Reductions	262	25%	309	25%
Average Wage	\$9.00		\$8.65	
Retentions	711	46%	869	44%
Health Benefits	253	20%	471	37%

New Hampshire	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	172		128	
Entered Employments	138	80%	107	84%
Terminations	46	94%	21	100%
Reductions	3	6%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$8.64		\$8.28	
Retentions	122	95%	82	76%
Health Benefits	109	81%	82	82%

New Jersey	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1,008		1,044	
Entered Employments	504	50%	320	31%
Terminations	29	32%	0	0%
Reductions	22	24%	1	2%
Average Wage	\$10.05		\$9.60	
Retentions	354	78%	212	68%
Health Benefits	308	66%	225	80%

Ohio	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	3,420		2,946	
Entered Employments	1,439	42%	1,610	55%
Terminations	44	3%	36	3%
Reductions	4	0%	15	1%
Average Wage	\$7.96		\$8.42	
Retentions	1,383	74%	1,542	56%
Health Benefits	63	78%	69	41%

New Mexico	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	275		295	
Entered Employments	174	63%	199	67%
Terminations	4	100%	8	80%
Reductions	0	0%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$7.63		\$7.79	
Retentions	164	76%	177	76%
Health Benefits	143	95%	157	87%

Oklahoma	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	538		316	
Entered Employments	84	16%	46	15%
Terminations	50	100%	26	100%
Reductions	0	0%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$8.87		\$9.85	
Retentions	70	73%	36	97%
Health Benefits	62	87%	30	97%

New York	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	2,810		3,344	
Entered Employments	1,447	51%	1,670	50%
Terminations	42	23%	5	2%
Reductions	137	77%	252	98%
Average Wage	\$9.00		\$9.13	
Retentions	1,171	67%	800	66%
Health Benefits	758	60%	873	59%

Oregon	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	2,533		2,452	
Entered Employments	1,258	50%	1,207	49%
Terminations	636	87%	436	79%
Reductions	97	13%	117	21%
Average Wage	\$8.59		\$8.86	
Retentions	1,076	87%	1,136	92%
Health Benefits	688	62%	677	66%

North Carolina	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	998		775	
Entered Employments	730	73%	757	98%
Terminations	188	97%	91	98%
Reductions	6	3%	2	2%
Average Wage	\$8.47		\$8.91	
Retentions	816	96%	623	95%
Health Benefits	578	84%	633	86%

Pennsylvania	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	2,068		1,558	
Entered Employments	1,289	62%	1,048	67%
Terminations	190	49%	129	39%
Reductions	98	25%	48	15%
Average Wage	\$8.87		\$9.57	
Retentions	983	73%	994	83%
Health Benefits	676	66%	594	70%

North Dakota	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	141		115	
Entered Employments	137	97%	54	47%
Terminations	79	71%	36	75%
Reductions	1	1%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$8.14		\$8.08	
Retentions	112	97%	77	100%
Health Benefits	118	95%	51	96%

Rhode Island	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	99		54	
Entered Employments	71	72%	51	94%
Terminations	23	74%	22	61%
Reductions	8	26%	14	39%
Average Wage	\$8.27		\$8.75	
Retentions	42	59%	63	95%
Health Benefits	47	89%	32	94%

San Diego (W/F)	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	589		801	
Entered Employments	328	56%	367	46%
Terminations	199	61%	251	68%
Reductions	21	6%	19	5%
Average Wage	\$8.50		\$8.54	
Retentions	238	89%	254	85%
Health Benefits	101	43%	109	43%

FY 2007 is the third year that ORR has reported the Wilson/Fish Alternative program in San Diego County as a separate program. Because this is a program separate from the California state program, the outcomes reported here are not included in the California state results.

South Carolina	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	0		62	
Entered Employments	0	0%	58	94%
Terminations	0	0%	1	50%
Reductions	0	0%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$0.00		\$8.05	
Retentions	0	0%	32	55%
Health Benefits	0	0%	42	98%

Due to staff and program changes, South Carolina was not able to report FY 2006 performance.

South Dakota	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	289		401	
Entered Employments	195	67%	347	87%
Terminations	83	77%	101	77%
Reductions	25	23%	30	23%
Average Wage	\$9.49		\$9.57	
Retentions	153	74%	260	76%
Health Benefits	146	85%	262	96%

Tennessee	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	620		588	
Entered Employments	193	31%	184	31%
Terminations	3	4%	3	21%
Reductions	0	0%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$8.50		\$7.59	
Retentions	83	55%	129	85%
Health Benefits	137	71%	132	77%

Texas	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	2,233		2,173	
Entered Employments	1,628	73%	1,846	85%
Terminations	45	6%	19	2%
Reductions	0	0%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$7.85		\$8.12	
Retentions	1,570	80%	1,480	87%
Health Benefits	1,244	82%	1,153	66%

Utah	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	766		712	
Entered Employments	603	79%	429	60%
Terminations	72	35%	40	38%
Reductions	30	14%	13	12%
Average Wage	\$7.35		\$7.68	
Retentions	489	84%	474	89%
Health Benefits	447	82%	314	79%

Vermont	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	132		86	
Entered Employments	109	83%	67	78%
Terminations	66	100%	34	97%
Reductions	0	0%	1	3%
Average Wage	\$9.33		\$9.23	
Retentions	102	89%	60	86%
Health Benefits	83	81%	46	78%

Virginia	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1,065		1,049	
Entered Employments	944	89%	966	92%
Terminations	155	75%	72	73%
Reductions	5	2%	1	1%
Average Wage	\$8.82		\$9.35	
Retentions	858	91%	743	68%
Health Benefits	522	70%	687	87%

Washington	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	2,627		1,937	
Entered Employment	699	27%	937	48%
Terminations	382	75%	469	71%
Reductions	68	13%	186	28%
Average Wage	\$9.68		\$9.25	
Retentions	582	74%	687	72%
Health Benefits	95	18%	228	34%

West Virginia	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1		3	
Entered Employments	1	100%	3	100%
Terminations	0	0%	3	100%
Reductions	0	0%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$6.00		\$7.33	
Retentions	1	100%	3	100%
Health Benefits	1	100%	2	67%

Butte	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	115		118	
Entered Employments	18	16%	11	9%
Terminations	0	0%	0	0%
Reductions	12	86%	9	100%
Average Wage	\$7.50		\$10.00	
Retentions	9	75%	13	76%
Health Benefits	0	0%	0	0%

Wisconsin	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1,094		1,510	
Entered Employments	737	67%	628	42%
Terminations	300	86%	200	93%
Reductions	16	5%	3	1%
Average Wage	\$8.95		\$8.98	
Retentions	608	86%	557	79%
Health Benefits	495	73%	469	77%

Fresno	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	552		368	
Entered Employments	288	52%	225	61%
Terminations	24	18%	33	34%
Reductions	130	96%	54	55%
Average Wage	\$7.30		\$7.89	
Retentions	121	52%	158	53%
Health Benefits	187	69%	161	74%

Wyoming is currently the only state program without a refugee resettlement program.

ORR is working closely with Arkansas, Hawaii and Mississippi to improve their data collection and reporting procedures in order to ensure timely and accurate submission of performance goals and outcomes.

California (Aggregate)

Los Angeles	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	3,831		4,024	
Entered Employments	896	23%	1,018	25%
Terminations	237	26%	200	20%
Reductions	195	22%	83	8%
Average Wage	\$8.35		\$8.70	
Retentions	641	65%	639	70%
Health Benefits	40	9%	60	10%

California	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	8,040		8,150	
Entered Employments	3,009	37%	3,008	37%
Terminations	680	31%	479	22%
Reductions	720	32%	447	20%
Average Wage	\$8.77		\$8.92	
Retentions	2,170	70%	2,217	74%
Health Benefits	968	42%	897	39%

Merced	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	225		227	
Entered Employments	51	23%	70	31%
Terminations	12	57%	14	34%
Reductions	8	38%	27	66%
Average Wage	\$7.46		\$8.25	
Retentions	28	55%	28	45%
Health Benefits	17	33%	39	68%

California Counties

Alameda	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	232		164	
Entered Employments	146	63%	113	69%
Terminations	19	68%	15	75%
Reductions	8	29%	5	25%
Average Wage	\$9.90		\$10.55	
Retentions	68	47%	102	89%
Health Benefits	83	60%	91	84%

Orange	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	289		326	
Entered Employments	113	39%	120	37%
Terminations	73	73%	17	20%
Reductions	13	13%	0	0%
Average Wage	\$8.09		\$8.54	
Retentions	98	78%	108	84%
Health Benefits	35	36%	32	36%

Sacramento	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	1,752		1,683	
Entered Employments	943	54%	868	52%
Terminations	461	79%	72	14%
Reductions	97	17%	120	24%
Average Wage	\$8.76		\$9.27	
Retentions	734	84%	784	87%
Health Benefits	446	50%	384	47%

Yolo	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	182		155	
Entered Employments	100	55%	76	49%
Terminations	26	26%	11	15%
Reductions	33	33%	27	38%
Average Wage	\$10.96		\$10.41	
Retentions	69	70%	64	82%
Health Benefits	26	40%	3	8%

San Diego	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	398		406	
Entered Employments	191	48%	169	42%
Terminations	95	50%	54	32%
Reductions	191	100%	93	55%
Average Wage	\$7.90		\$8.22	
Retentions	185	67%	99	74%
Health Benefits	20	19%	13	12%

San Francisco	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	60		44	
Entered Employments	3	5%	25	57%
Terminations	3	100%	4	16%
Reductions	0	0%	5	20%
Average Wage	\$11.25		\$11.73	
Retentions	0	0%	21	88%
Health Benefits	3	100%	0	0%

San Joaquin	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	100		344	
Entered Employments	66	66%	146	42%
Terminations	25	50%	2	4%
Reductions	17	34%	11	20%
Average Wage	\$10.50		\$7.80	
Retentions	50	47%	59	41%
Health Benefits	22	47%	0	0%

Santa Clara	FY 2006		FY 2007	
Caseload	304		295	
Entered Employments	194	64%	167	57%
Terminations	47	51%	57	45%
Reductions	16	17%	13	10%
Average Wage	\$9.71		\$9.68	
Retentions	167	92%	142	85%
Health Benefits	89	56%	111	79%

Discretionary Grants

During FY 2007, ORR continued to fund a wide range of discretionary grants targeting individuals and communities with special needs. Unlike formula social service programs, these funds are awarded competitively and may provide services to refugees who have been in the U.S. for more than 60 months.

Individual Development Account Program

Individual development accounts (IDAs) are matched savings accounts available for the purchase of specific assets. Under the IDA program the matching funds, together with the refugee's own savings, are available for purchasing one (or more) of four savings goals: home purchase; microenterprise capitalization; post-secondary education or training; and purchase of an automobile if necessary for employment or educational purposes. Previous ORR grants allowed matches of up to \$2 for every \$1 deposited by a refugee. Under past grant programs the purchase of a computer in support of a refugee's education or microbusiness was also allowed.

Under the ORR-funded program, grantees provide matched savings accounts to refugees whose annual income is less than 200 percent of the poverty level and whose assets, exclusive of a personal residence and one vehicle, are less than \$10,000. Grantees provide matches of up to \$1 for every \$1 deposited by a refugee in a savings account. The total match amount provided may not exceed \$2,000 for individuals or \$4,000 for households. Upon enrolling in an IDA program, a refugee signs a savings plan agreement. This agreement specifies the savings goal, the match rate, and the amount the refugee will save each month.

The IDA grantees provide basic financial training which is intended to assist refugees in understanding the American financial system. The IDA grantees also provide training focused on the specific savings goals. The specialized training ensures that refugees receive appropriate information on purchasing and managing their asset purchases. For example, grantees provide training on how to purchase a home and how to develop a business plan for a microenterprise.

ORR has funded IDA programs in FY 1999, FY 2000, FY 2002, FY 2005, and FY 2007. All grants from the first three cycles have ended.

In FY 2007, ORR awarded fourteen new IDA grants totaling \$2,818,799 and eight continuation IDA grants totaling \$1,694,390. ORR also awarded one grant to provide technical assistance to IDA grantees.

Account Activity. From the beginning of the program in FY 1999 through the end of FY 2007, over 20,417 participants opened accounts; 917 of these participants entered the program in FY 2005. Participants beginning in FY 2005 had the following asset purchase goals: home, 44 percent; microenterprise, 30 percent; post-secondary education, 19 percent; automobiles, seven percent.

Participants beginning in FY 2005 have a savings goal of \$2,605,500, and had saved \$1,231,353 as of September 29, 2007. Participants who completed the program between 1999 and September 2007 saved over \$28 million, which was matched by \$46.2 million.

Asset Purchases. Since the inception of the program, participants have purchased assets whose value totals \$314.3 million. In FY 2007, 168 participants purchased assets whose value totaled \$9,308,977.

The assets purchased included 9,708 vehicles (to maintain or upgrade employment); 2,168 homes; 1,426 computers; 1,380 post-secondary education courses; and 1,194 microenterprise assets (for business start-up, expansion, or enhancement).

Participant Characteristics. Participants in the IDA programs came to the U.S. from all over the world. Most came from Eastern Europe or the former Soviet Union (38 percent), while Africans (26 percent) were the next largest group, followed by participants from Asia (20 percent), the Middle East (nine percent), and Latin America (four percent).

IDA participant households varied in important ways. Most of the participants (98 percent) lived in urban settings and were male (60 percent). At the time of program entry, 58 percent of the participants were married, 31 percent were single, and ten percent were widowed, separated or divorced.

IDA participant resources also varied. Most were employed, full-time or more (73 percent), part-time (18 percent), or working and in school (seven percent). About 22 percent had monthly incomes of less than \$1,000, 54 percent had between \$1,000 and \$1,999, 18 percent had between \$2,000 and \$2,999, and six percent had \$3,000 or more (for one percent, income was not reported). Of those whose educational level was reported, 35 percent had more than a 12th grade education, 29 percent had 12th grade or equivalent (diploma or GED), and 27 percent had less than 12 years of education.

ORR awarded the following grants in FY 2007:

- Lao Family Community Development, Inc., Oakland, CA, \$200,000
- World Relief DuPage, Wheaton, IL, \$199,998
- ISED Ventures, Des Moines, IA, \$235,000
- Jewish Family & Vocational Services, Inc., Louisville, KY, \$230,000
- International Institute of Metropolitan, St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, \$180,000
- New York Association for New Americans, New York, NY, \$220,000
- Women's Opportunities Resource Center, Philadelphia, PA, \$235,000
- Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Nashville, TN, \$ 194,392.
- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA, \$204,000
- Western Kentucky Refugee Mutual Assistance Society, Inc., Bowling Green, KY, \$150,000
- Economic and Community Development Institute, Columbus, OH, \$230,000
- Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Augusta, ME, \$207,901
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden, Inc., Camden, NJ, \$225,000
- Diocese of Olympia, Seattle, WA, \$205,000
- ECDC Enterprise Development Group, Arlington, VA, \$280,000
- Mountain States Group, Boise, ID, \$201,018
- United Way, Inc., Los Angeles, CA, \$240,000

- Neighborhood Assets, Spokane, WA, \$50,000
- International Rescue Committee-Phoenix, New York, NY, \$230,000
- Alliance for Multicultural Community Service Inc., Houston, TX, \$203,500
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of St. Petersburg, Inc, St. Petersburg, FL, \$200,000
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc., Lowell, MA, \$192,380

Targeted Assistance Discretionary Grants

ORR awarded 17 grants totaling \$4,825,624 to States to implement special employment services not implemented with formula social services or with TAG formula grants.

- Arizona (\$215,000) will address the needs of refugees in Pima County who experience particular difficulty achieving self-sufficiency. The purpose is for refugees to gain employment through social adjustment services, vocational training, ELT, and supportive services.
- Connecticut (\$175,000) to assist low-and pre-literate homebound women to gain skills for employment, through a collaborative effort of a wide spectrum of community-based organizations.
- Florida (\$450,000) for interpretation/translation, community outreach, employment counseling, and case management.
- Idaho (\$150,000) will address the employment needs of refugees in the Twin Falls area. Services will include ELT with special emphasis on low literacy learners, employment services including job upgrades, and support services.
- Illinois (\$250,000) for parenting and domestic violence prevention, ESL classes for adults and for children after school, and electronic assembly training classes.
- Iowa (\$100,000) bilingual/bicultural services to enhance continued high achievement in job placement and welfare reduction in Des Moines and Waterloo.
- Massachusetts (\$335,000) to provide employment services and support to 120 targeted refugees in larger families who are largely underserved through existing refugee specific and mainstream employment services by virtue of their multiple barriers to employment.
- Michigan (\$200,000) proposes to provide employment services for Bosnian and Iraqi refugees who have been in the United States over five years, are underemployed, and reside in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties. Services will include intensive case management, intensive job placement, intensive job retention and intensive job upgrade.
- Minnesota (\$319,000) for community services for the deaf, academic English Language Training (ELT) for medical career advancement, nursing assistant training, ELT exchange programs for youth, and community orientation for Somalis.

- Missouri (\$150,315) for pre-literate refugee women in St. Louis and Kansas City for employment and supportive services.
- Nebraska (\$124,000) will serve approximately 850 refugees in Nebraska who will receive cultural orientation to the world of work; employment specific ESL classes; and case management assistance to secure, retain, and improve employment.
- New York (\$345,844) proposes to facilitate better integration in the workforce of New York State refugees with physical and/or developmental disabilities, primarily through on the job training, targeted job development and support services.
- Pennsylvania (\$175,000) will address special employment needs of refugee women and secondary migrants in two distinct geographical areas – Central and Western Pennsylvania.
- South Dakota (\$105,000), a Wilson/Fish agency, Lutheran Social Services is the only provider in the State. They intend to serve pre-literate women and the elderly (for citizenship services), and do job upgrades for six months for higher-skilled refugees who are working but barely self-sufficient.
- Texas (\$781,465) for specialized training, employment and psychosocial support services targeted to women and particular refugee populations including literacy training for the pre-literate caseload.
- Washington (\$350,000) to support the Refugee Special Employment Needs (RSEN), a partnership that addresses pre-employment, employment and post-employment needs of refugees through job readiness skills training, incentives and job coaching.
- Wisconsin (\$600,000) for employment training, microenterprise development, case management, parenting assistance, tutoring and ESL after school for at-risk youth, mental health assessment, case management, counseling/referral, family violence prevention, and intervention services.

Technical Assistance

ORR supports the work of its grantees through 10 technical assistance cooperative agreements with organizations qualified to provide expertise in fields central to refugee resettlement. ORR's intent through this technical assistance support is to equip grantees with the best help for continuous improvement in programs, in their capacity to serve refugees, and in their impact on refugee lives and economic independence.

In FY 2007, the following technical assistance grants were awarded:

- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., (\$250,000) for an asylee hotline. The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) operated an asylum hotline, which provided outreach and service access to individuals granted asylum. The multilingual operators received hundreds of calls each month from asylees who are uncertain on where to access benefits and services. Unlike refugees who come with a direct link to the voluntary resettlement agencies, asylum seekers have no such connection.
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., (\$200,000) for citizenship and naturalization assistance. CLINIC offered citizenship and naturalization technical assistance through workshops for individuals and organizations that provide citizenship training to refugees.

- Institute for Social and Economic Development (\$274,307) for special initiatives in community resettlement. Under the FY 2007 Special Initiatives cooperative agreement, the Institute for Social and Economic Development (ISED) Solutions, Inc. provided support to the ORR Director's special initiatives in a number of areas, including the Wilson/Fish program, the Preferred Communities program, and the Integration Initiative.
- Institute for Social and Economic Development (\$275,669) for economic development. ISED Solutions, Inc. provided technical assistance to Individual Development Account (IDA), Microenterprise Development (MED), and Refugee Rural Initiative (RRI) grantees. In FY 2007, ISED conducted site visits; conducted conference calls; provided technical assistance through emails and telephone calls; and distributed information through the listervs on best practices and funding opportunities for the Microenterprise Development and Individual Development Account program grantees. For ORR's Refugee Rural Initiative, ISED supported the establishment of local model projects that demonstrated best practices to improve income opportunities for refugee farmers. The project sites were located in San Diego, Fresno, Portland (Oregon), Minneapolis/St. Paul, Denver, Massachusetts, Maine and Iowa.
- International Rescue Committee (\$200,000) for ethnic community self-help organizations. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) provided remote and on-site technical assistance focused on capacity building and refugee integration to grantees of ORR's Ethnic Community Self-Help and Unanticipated Arrivals programs. IRC also managed a password-protected technical assistance website with resources, links, and discussion boards covering topics such as financial and program management, integration, staff development, and leadership development. In addition, IRC conducted quarterly conference calls and national and regional workshops addressing various subjects of interest to ORR-funded ethnic grantees.
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (\$249,996) for employment services. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's RefugeeWorks supported the refugee service network by providing technical assistance on refugee employment needs and issues. RefugeeWorks held four Employment Training Institutes (ETIs) on refugee employment and spoke at numerous state and agency workshops. RefugeeWorks also added resources for service providers, employers, and refugees on their interactive website.
- Mercy Housing, Inc. (\$200,000) for refugee housing. Mercy Housing provided housing technical assistance to states, resettlement agencies, mutual assistance associations (MAAs), and their housing partners. Through site visits, workshops, presentations, and other communications, Mercy Housing's technical assistance focused specifically on secondary migration, training for voluntary agency staff, and community integration. Mercy Housing also assisted ORR in its ongoing Refugee Housing Work Group to investigate best practices in securing affordable housing for refugee individuals and families.
- National Alliance for Vietnamese American Service Agencies (\$200,000) for ethnic community self-help organizations. The National Alliance for Vietnamese American Service Agencies (NAVASA) provided technical assistance to nine Ethnic Community Self-Help Program grantees through their Strategic Positioning Initiative. NAVASA's technical assistance focused on the areas of organizational assessment and capacity building with the goal of improving social services to refugees.

- Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning (\$300,000) for English language training. The Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning provided English language technical assistance to ORR refugee service providers. In addition to traveling to numerous state and agency workshops to train English language practitioners, Spring Institute also conducts “Train the Trainer” sessions for their employment-focused “WorkStyles” English curriculum. Spring Institute has also worked specifically on the relation between English language training and both health literacy and overall integration.
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (\$300,000) for child welfare services. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Bridging Refugee Youth and Children Services (BRYCS) provided technical assistance to support service providers for refugee children, youth, and their families. BRYCS provided one-on-one consultations, training and conference presentations, and furthered developed its website focused specifically on migration and child welfare. BRYCS also serves as a publication clearinghouse; in addition, BRYCS publishes its own manuals, such as the new guide “Raising Children in a New Country: An Illustrated Handbook,” designed to help recently arrived refugee parents in the United States.

Microenterprise Development Program

In FY 2007, ORR awarded 17 microenterprise grants. The total funds awarded to develop and administer microenterprise programs were \$3,680,000.

The microenterprise development projects are intended for recently arriving refugees on public assistance, refugees who possess few personal assets, and refugees who lack a credit history that meets commercial lending standards. The projects are also intended for refugees who have been in the U.S. for several years and desire to supplement salaried income. Microenterprise projects typically include components of training and technical assistance in business skills and business management, credit assistance, and administration of revolving loan funds and loan loss reserve funds.

Since the program’s inception in September 1991 through September 2007, ORR has awarded grants to 68 agencies. The programs currently operate in 13 different states across the country. The agencies are located in both rural and urban settings, and in areas with both high and low concentrations of refugees.

Client Businesses. Since September 1991, 6,237 businesses have been assisted under this program. Of these, 4,119 were new business starts, 766 were expansions of existing businesses, and 1,352 represented strengthening or stabilization of existing businesses. The types of businesses assisted are as diverse as the people who operated them. They include small farming, trucking, retail, food vendors, coffee roasting, bakeries, construction and restaurants.

Loan Funds. Since 1991, businesses served by the ORR microenterprise programs obtained 2,769 loans representing \$15,544,302 in business financing. This represents an average loan amount of \$5,614. Of this amount, ORR has provided \$7,363,086 in loan capital, which leveraged more than \$8,105,000 million from other lending sources, grants and individual development accounts. The default rate has averaged less than 2.5 percent. Lending has increased over the life of the program.

Client Characteristics. Nearly 22,198 refugees have participated in training or technical assistance. At the time of training, 23 percent had been in the U.S. less than two years; 52 percent had been in the U.S. two-five years; and 25 percent had been in the U.S. over five years. About 70 percent were competent in English, while 30 percent had little or no English. Other characteristics of refugee entrepreneurs include: 43 percent of the participants were women and 57 percent were men. Over 61 percent of participants were between 31 and 50 years of age. Married clients equaled 62 percent and singles equaled 21 percent.

Cost Analysis. There are three measures of cost analysis that are used to determine the effectiveness of the microenterprise program: cost per business assisted, cost per job created, and cost per employment outcome. These measures are calculated by dividing the amount of operational funding by the number of businesses assisted, jobs created, or employment outcomes. Excluding loan funds, the total amount of operational funding expended for these projects was \$31,620,525 over the 15-year period. For 6,237 businesses assisted, this represents an average cost-per-business start or expansion of \$5,069.

The total number of jobs created by new and expanding/strengthening businesses (including the business owner) was 5,577 which translate into \$5,670 per job created. Finally, of the businesses assisted, 5,207 are still in operation—an 83.5 percent survival rate.²

ORR awarded the following continuation and new grants in FY 2007:

- International Rescue Committee, Phoenix, AZ, \$240,000
- Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Fresno, CA, \$241,340
- Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment, Los Angeles, CA, \$200,000
- Opening Doors, Inc., Sacramento, CA, \$250,000
- International Rescue Committee, San Diego, CA, \$270,000
- Refugee Women’s Network, Decatur, GA, \$200,000
- Mountain States Group, Inc., Boise, ID, \$190,000
- Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Wiscasset, ME, \$190,000
- International Institute of Metropolitan, St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, \$249,930
- Business Outreach Center Network, Inc., Brooklyn, NY, \$230,000
- New York Association for New Americans, Inc., New York, NY, \$300,000
- Neighborhood Assets, Spokane, WA, \$194,307
- Alliance for Multicultural Services, Houston, TX , \$190,000
- Women’s Economic Self-Sufficiency Team, Albuquerque, NM, \$200,000
- National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies (NAVASA), New Orleans, LA, \$200,000
- Boat People SOS, Inc., Montgomery County, MD, \$150,693
- Jewish Family and Vocational Services, Inc., Louisville, KY, \$190,000

² Job creation data was not collected for 1991 and 1992 grantees. Data for these two periods were created by extrapolating from the data for the 1994-2004 grantees.

Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program

The Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program (RAPP) was implemented as a grant program in FY 2007 after 3 years as a successful demonstration activity under the Refugee Rural Initiative. The RAPP's primary purpose through public and private partnerships is to improve opportunities for refugee families to achieve reasonable levels of income in agriculture.

RAPP provides support and technical assistance for improving production, land access, financing and marketing in rural and urban areas. RAPP has evolved to incorporate the connection of agriculture, food, nutrition and health to an effective resettlement process and the integration of refugees into a community. Through a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services and a technical assistance contract with the Institute for Social and Economic Development technical support and information on resources are provided to 10 grantees as well as a growing number of other refugee serving organizations and communities. This reflects a growing understanding that refugees because of their agrarian backgrounds have an interest in farming or market gardening as well as the consumption of their familiar foods.

RAPP supported activities are consistent with meeting the broader challenges of the impact of diet on health; the demand for locally grown fresh, niche and specialty foods; and the reduction in the numbers of farmers in this country. Information on the 10 RAPP grantees is as follows:

- United Hmong Association, Hickory, NC, \$102,360
- Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants, Boston, MA, \$93,518
- Association of Africans Living in Vermont, Burlington VT, \$94,957
- Mountain States Group, Inc., Boise, ID, \$101,194
- Catholic Charities, Louisville, KY, \$95,684
- Catholic Charities/Catholic Community Services, Kansas City, KS, \$106,999
- International Institute of Boston, Manchester, NH, \$80,072
- Mercy Enterprise Corporation, Portland, OR, \$41,667
- International Rescue Committee, Phoenix, AZ, \$118,750
- International Rescue Committee, San Diego, CA, \$64,799

ORR Standing Announcement

In FY 2007, ORR, seeking to assure that refugees are welcomed in their U.S. communities of resettlement with sufficient services to begin their new lives, continued funding for its standing announcement with the following priority areas: Priority Area 1 (Preferred Communities), Priority Area 2 (Unanticipated Arrivals), and Priority Area 3 (Ethnic Community Self-Help).

Priority Area 1: Preferred Communities

In Priority Area 1, ORR seeks to promote opportunities for refugee self-sufficiency and effective resettlement. To that end, funds are made available for grants to voluntary agencies to increase placements of newly arriving refugees in preferred communities where there is a history of low welfare utilization and a favorable earned income potential relative to the cost of living.

- In FY 2007, ORR awarded continuation grants, totaling \$4,463,215 to national voluntary agencies to enhance entry level services in preferred communities with good employment opportunities needed by newly arriving refugees.
- Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, \$198,943; Preferred Community Sites: Boise, ID; Chicago, IL; Louisville and Lexington, KY; and Houston, TX
- Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, \$190,628; Preferred Community Sites: Atlanta, GA; New Haven, CT; Syracuse, NY; and Knoxville, TN
- Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, \$164,351, Preferred Community Sites: Los Angeles, CA; Chicago, IL; and Chattanooga, TN
- Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc., \$325,000, Preferred Community Sites: Phoenix, AZ and Las Vegas, NV
- Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc., \$367,500, Preferred Community Sites: San Diego, CA; Denver, CO; Chicago, IL; Omaha, NE; and Houston, TX
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, \$320,000, Preferred Community Sites: Springfield, MA; Tucson, AZ; Charlotte and Greensboro, NC; and Pittsburgh, PA
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, \$320,000, Preferred Community Sites: Buffalo, NY; Columbus, OH; San Diego, CA; and Pittsburgh, PA
- International Rescue Committee, \$170,891, Preferred Community Site: Boise, ID
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, \$337,706, Preferred Community Sites: Phoenix, AZ; Denver, CO; Takoma Park, MD; Chicago, IL; Des Moines, IA; Sioux Falls, SD; Dallas/FT. Worth, TX; and Milwaukee, WI
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, \$835,718, Preferred Community Sites: Albuquerque, NM; Camden, NJ; Charlotte, NC; Dayton, OH; Hartford, CT; Kansas City, KS; Phoenix, AZ; Orlando, FL; and Syracuse, NY
- United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, \$319,009, Preferred Community Sites: 25 United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants partner agencies
- United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, \$278,324, Preferred Community Sites: United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants network and state, local and national government agencies

- United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, \$320,000, Preferred Community Sites: Akron, OH; Albany, NY; Bowling Green, KY; Erie, PA; Colchester, VT; and Barre, VT
- World Relief, \$315,145, Preferred Community Sites: Chicago, IL; Ft. Worth, TX; Jacksonville, FL; Nashville, TN; Spokane, WA; Aurora, IL; DuPage, IL; and Treasure Valley, ID

In FY 2007, ORR awarded the following national voluntary agencies supplemental awards totaling \$2,020,000, for refugee arrivals during the 4th quarter:

- Church World Service, \$199,374
- Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, \$110,000
- Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc., \$90,000
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, \$90,000
- International Rescue Committee, \$249,965
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, \$310,500
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, \$558,061
- United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, \$184,500
- World Relief Corporation, \$227,600

In FY 2007, ORR awarded \$1,398,391 to national voluntary agencies to enhance entry level services in preferred communities with good employment opportunities needed by newly arriving refugees:

- Church World Services, \$250,000, Preferred Community Sites: Hagerstown, MD; Lancaster, PA; Grand Rapids, MI; and Amarillo, TX
- Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, \$280,000, Preferred Community Sites: Tucson, AZ; Atlanta, GA; West Springfield, MA; Concord, NH; and Syracuse, NY
- International Rescue Committee, \$130,000, Preferred Community Site: Abilene, TX
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, \$300,000, Preferred Community Sites: Silver Spring and Baltimore, MD; Chicago, IL; Des Moines, IA; Worcester, MA; Minneapolis, MN; Lancaster, PA; and Dallas, TX
- United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, \$320,000, Preferred Community Sites: Bridgeport, CT; Philadelphia, PA; Raleigh, NC; and Twin Falls, ID
- United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, \$220,000 Preferred Community Sites: Nationwide

Priority Area 2: Unanticipated Arrivals

The Unanticipated Arrivals Program is intended to provide resources that bridge the gap between the arrival of refugees and the time when their numbers are included in the population-based formula social service funds. Situations that Unanticipated Arrivals funds are intended to alleviate include those where bilingual staff is needed for new arrivals, where refugee services do not exist, and where available services are not sufficient to meet the needs of the additional refugees.

In the February 28, 2007, closing of the Standing Announcement for Services to Recently Arrived Refugees, ORR awarded 17 grants totaling \$ 3,151,263 to the following applicants:

- Catholic Charities, Louisville, KY, \$209,970
- Catholic Charities Maine, Portland, ME, \$230,000
- Catholic Family Service, Inc., Amarillo, TX, \$200,000
- Commonwealth of MA Office for Refugees and Immigrants, Boston, MA, \$200,000
- Community Refugee and Immigration Services, Columbus, OH, \$200,000
- East African Community of Orange County, Anaheim, CA, \$199,478
- Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Fresno, CA, \$200,000
- International Rescue Committee, New York, NY (Turlock, CA) , \$209,271
- Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Portland, OR, \$115,000
- Lao Family Community of Minnesota, Inc., Saint Paul, MN, \$150,000
- Neighborhood House, Saint Paul, MN, \$210,000
- Saint Paul Public Schools, Saint Paul, MN, \$194,000
- Somali Family Care Network, Inc., Fairfax, VA (Phoenix and Tucson, AZ) , \$208,992
- State of Vermont, Waterbury, VT, \$115,106
- State of Wisconsin, Department of Workforce Development, Madison, WI, \$210,000
- The Ansoh Center for Refugees, Inc., Astoria, NY, \$89,446
- Workforce Resource, Inc., Menomonee, WI, \$210,000

Priority Area 3: Ethnic Community Self-Help Program

ORR supported 51 single and multi-site ethnic community integration projects through competitive awards totaling \$8,481,926. The host organizations provided self-help networks, and various in-house and referral refugee services to enhance refugee integration. In addition, they conducted community outreach, coalition building, self-assessment, strategic planning, resource development and leadership training activities.

- Somali Bantu Association of Tucson, Arizona, Inc., Arizona, \$193,814
- African Community Resource Center, California, \$136,046
- East African Community of Orange County, California, \$196,859
- East Bay Agency for Children, California, \$200,000
- Hmong Women’s Heritage Association, California, \$129,755
- Kurdish Human Rights Watch, Inc., California, \$200,000
- Merced Lao Family Community, Inc., California, \$180,891
- Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado, \$165,000
- ISED Solutions, Washington, D.C., \$121,764
- Mosaica, Inc., Washington, D.C., \$196,659
- Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, Washington, D.C., \$180,000
- Goodwill Industries of North Georgia, Georgia, \$199,914
- Refugee Women’s Network, Georgia, \$190,410
- Pan-African Association, Illinois, \$200,000
- State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Maine, \$168,059
- National Alliance of Vietnamese-American Service Agency, Maryland, \$219,093
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Massachusetts, \$149,258
- Community Teamwork, Inc., Massachusetts, \$153,050
- Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants, Massachusetts, \$200,000
- The Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women, Minnesota, \$200,000
- Confederation Community in Minnesota, \$106,971
- East Side Neighborhood Services, Inc., Minnesota, \$96,085

- Hmong American Family, Inc., Minnesota, \$162,942
- Hmong Youth Education Services, Inc., Minnesota, \$166,619
- Lao Veterans of America in Minnesota, Minnesota, Inc., \$77,575
- Minnesota African Women’s Association, Inc., Minnesota, \$100,000
- Somali International Minorities of America, Minnesota, \$50,000
- Vietnamese Social Services of America, Minnesota, \$139,237
- Women’s Initiative for Self Empowerment, Inc., Minnesota, \$180,000
- Women’s Initiative for Self Empowerment, Inc., Minnesota, \$168,370
- Asian Community and Cultural Center, Nebraska, \$117,580
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, New York, \$200,000
- Sauti Yetu Center for African Women, Inc., New York, \$107, 590
- The Montagnard Human Rights Organization, North Carolina, \$181,391
- US Together, Inc., Ohio \$141,572
- Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Oregon, \$200,000
- Portland State University – Somali Bantu Project, Oregon, \$250,000
- Portland State University – Somali Bantu Conference, Oregon, \$154,291
- Nationalities Service Center, Pennsylvania, \$78,200
- Somali Community Center of Nashville, TN, \$150,000
- Alliance for Multicultural Community Services, Texas, \$176,563
- Somali Bantu Association of San Antonio, TX, \$171,345
- Association of Africans Living in Vermont, Inc., Vermont, \$148,962
- Boat People S.O.S - Atlanta, Virginia, \$174,032
- Boat People S.O.S.- Kentucky, Virginia , \$175,332
- Ethiopian Community Development Council, Virginia, \$200,000
- Somali Family Care Network, Virginia, \$199,130
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Washington, \$200,000

- Ukrainian Community Center of Washington, Washington, \$129,960
- Pan-African Community Association, Wisconsin, \$151,919
- Wisconsin, United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Associations, Wisconsin, \$195,688

Refugee Healthy Marriage Program

In FY 2007, ORR continued its commitment to promoting policies and programs that help strengthen the strong, positive family relationships that refugees have brought with them to the United States. The Refugee Healthy Marriage Program (RHMP) helps provide opportunities for refugees to strengthen their marriages by providing marriage education.

It is believed that refugee couples face unique difficulties because of their flight from persecution and long periods of insecurity. ORR funds marriage education in order to help refugees cope with these difficulties. This group of grantees provides marriage education workshops to refugee couples in order to enhance and promote healthy relationships by providing the skills, tools, knowledge and support necessary to create and sustain healthy marriages. Since the inception of the program, 21,726 refugees have attended family courses or workshops.

In FY 2007, ORR funded the following grants:

- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Inc., \$830,000
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Inc., \$400,000
- United States Committee for Refugees & Immigrants, \$780,000
- Jewish Family & Career Services, \$249,925
- Lao Family Community Development, \$250,000
- Boat People SOS, \$250,000
- The Cambodian Family, \$250,000
- Alliance for Multicultural Community Services, \$250,000
- Jewish Child & Family Services, \$243,440
- Catholic Charities of Hartford, \$250,000
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, \$400,000
- Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, \$247,501

Refugee Health Initiatives

- *Preventive Health*

In FY 2007, ORR provided continuation funding through the Preventive Health Discretionary grant program to 35 states, awarding grants totaling \$4,748,000. Through this program, ORR promotes outreach and access for newly arrived refugees to provide medical screenings. Health assessments help to identify health conditions that may be a threat to public health and that may be an impediment to refugees achieving self-sufficiency.

In some areas, interpretation, follow-up treatment, and informational services were also provided through the preventive health funds. State Refugee Coordinators reported a total of 45,654 medical health screenings completed in FY 2007.

- *Technical Assistance: Refugee Mental Health*

Technical assistance for mental health activities for refugees is available to U.S. resettlement communities under an inter-agency agreement with the Refugee Mental Health Program at the Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Health and Human Services. Under this agreement, one mental health professional provides technical assistance and consultation to Federal and State agencies, voluntary resettlement agencies, community-based organizations, and local communities on the mental/behavioral health and well-being of refugee populations, torture survivors, and victims of human trafficking. Other activities include presentations at refugee-related conferences, facilitation of collaboration among refugee service providers and public and private mental health providers, organizations and systems, and response to emergencies of refugee admissions and other unique refugee-related assignments from ORR.

- *Technical Assistance: Refugee Health Services and Medical Screening*

Under a second agreement, the Office of Humanitarian and Refugee Health Affairs of the Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA), Department of Health and Human Services provides technical assistance in organizing, conducting and financing medical screenings and health assessments, refugee preventive health activities, data management activities surrounding refugee health, medical interpretation, and available prevention and promotion materials in refugee languages. OGHA also provides health information on new refugee populations, staff trainings, caring for refugees with HIV and other special medical needs, and providing and promoting better communication with voluntary agencies, State health coordinators and mutual assistance associations. OGHA liaises with federal and non-governmental partners to promote refugee health and well-being, and provides oversight on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) programming for refugee health.

- *ORR Refugee Health Team*

Through the ORR inter-agency agreements with both SAMHSA and OGHA, ORR has formed a Refugee Health Team to address the broad health and mental health needs of refugees in a seamless, holistic manner. Examples of several health prevention and response activities are listed below:

- OGHA and SAMHSA provide technical assistance to ORR in the development of a pandemic planning response. OGHA is engaging state and local officials involved in pandemic planning on the importance of incorporating refugees and other populations with Limited English Proficiency in their planning process.

- The *Points of Wellness: Partnering for Refugee Health and Well-Being*, an ongoing initiative is designed to help develop and implement health/mental health promotion and disease prevention activities and programs within refugee communities. This initiative includes a toolkit, website, a refugee health listserv and SAMHSA & OGHA technical assistance and training for mutual assistance associations and other refugee provider partners.
- A collaborative effort with the OGHA, CDC, Mercy Housing, Inc. and the Spring Institute to create an awareness campaign on lead poisoning for refugees and refugee case workers.
- A multi-agency effort that includes CDC to treat Hmong and other refugees who were resettled in the U.S. with undetected tuberculosis, as well to educate the broader Hmong community for disease prevention.
- *ORR Refugee Medical Screening Work Group*

In FY 2007, ORR continued its Work Group to develop guidelines to improve programs of medical screening for arriving refugees and other eligible populations. The Work Group membership includes the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration and from HHS: CDC, OGHA, SAMHSA and ORR. State refugee programs are also represented by officials from California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Missouri.

Cuban/Haitian Grants

In FY 2007, ORR continued its Cuban/Haitian refugees and entrants programs to seven grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$17 million. Service for each grantee includes one or more of the following program categories: employment; health and mental health; refugee crime and victimization, and; adult/vocational education.

The following States received grants under this program:

- Arizona Dept. of Economic Security, \$175,000
- Florida Dept. of Children and Families, \$17,925,000
- Massachusetts Office of Refugee and Immigrants, \$175,000
- New Mexico Human Services Department, \$100,000
- New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, \$150,000
- State of Oregon, \$100,000
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission, \$375,000

Refugee School Impact

In FY 2007, ORR awarded 35 grants totaling \$15,000,000 to the State governments and nonprofit groups to assist local school systems impacted by significant numbers of refugee children. These grants provide support for supplementary instruction to refugee students, fostering parent/school partnership and assistance to teachers and other school staff in improving their understanding of refugee children and their families. The following states received grants under this program:

- Arizona Dept. of Economic Security, \$500,000
- California Dept. of Social Services, \$1,700,000
- Colorado Dept of Human Services, \$137,000
- State of Connecticut, \$187,500
- Florida Department of Education, \$2,375,000
- Georgia Department of Human Resources, \$500,000
- Mountain States Group, Inc., \$137,500
- Illinois Department of Human Services, \$500,000
- Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, \$125,000
- Iowa Dept. of Human Services, \$137,500
- Catholic Charities of Kentucky, \$250,000
- Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services, \$137,500
- Mass. Office for Refugees and Immigrants, \$287,500
- Michigan Dept. of Human Services, \$437,500
- Minnesota Dept of Human Services, \$1,031,250
- Department of Social Services of Missouri, \$318,750
- Nebraska Dept of health and Human Services, \$125,000
- State of Nevada, \$137,500
- State of New Hampshire, \$125,000
- New Jersey Division of Family Development, \$137,500
- New Mexico Human Services Dept., \$125,000
- New York State Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance, \$1,250,000
- North Carolina Dept. of Health and Human Services, \$218,750
- North Dakota Dept of Human Services, \$137,500

- Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services, \$225,000
- Oregon Department of Education, \$312,500
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, \$375,000
- Lutheran Social Services of SD, \$181,250
- Tennessee Department of Human Services, \$125,000
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission, \$900,000
- State of Utah, \$218,750
- State of Vermont, \$125,000
- Virginia Dept of Social Services, \$225,000
- State of Washington, \$1,156,250
- Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction, \$137,500

Services to Older Refugees

In FY 2007, ORR continued support for older refugees with a new discretionary grant program. This program brings together refugee service providers and mainstream area agencies on aging to coordinate programs for older refugees. Approximately \$3,500,000 was awarded to 21 States to establish or expand working relationships with State and area agencies on aging to ensure that older refugees are linked to local community mainstream aging programs. Grants were awarded to Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

In addition, ORR continued its working relationship with the Administration on Aging to identify ways in which both agencies could work together more effectively at the State and local levels to improve access to services for older refugees.

Services for Survivors of Torture Program

The Services for Survivors of Torture Program recognizes that many individuals residing in the U.S., including refugees, asylees, immigrants, other displaced persons, and U.S. citizens, have experienced torture by foreign governments. Treatment is provided regardless of immigration status. It has been estimated that over 400,000 torture survivors reside in the U.S.

The purpose of the program is to provide services to torture survivors in order to restore their dignity, identity and well-being. It is also to conduct training for healthcare, psychological, social and legal service providers to provide appropriate services and care to torture survivors.

The program provides torture survivors with the rehabilitation services that enable them to become productive community members. Through grantees working with diverse populations, services to survivors are provided, including diagnosis and treatment for the psychological and physical effects of torture, social and legal services, and research and training.

The program was first authorized under The Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-320; 22 U.S.C. 2152) and was reauthorized in 2005 by Public Law 109-165.

In FY 2007, ORR funded 20 projects in 15 States: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Virginia. These projects are focused on the provision of direct services to persons who have been tortured or to the family members or other close persons who have witnessed the torture.

In addition, ORR funded two cooperative agreements to provide national technical assistance. The Center for Victims of Torture provides technical assistance to the programs providing specialized services to torture survivors. Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services provides technical assistance to mainstream service providers that encounter survivors in their work. The two technical assistance providers also received supplemental grants in FY 2007 to offer specialized resources and trainings to prepare resettlement agencies and torture treatment centers to identify, serve, and assist Iraqi refugees who have suffered torture.

In FY 2007, these projects were in the second year of a three-year project period.

- Center for Victims of Torture (technical assistance to specialized programs nationwide), City of Minneapolis, MN, \$470,000.
- Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services (technical assistance to mainstream providers nationwide), Clearwater, FL, \$335,000.
- Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma, Baltimore, MD, \$395,000.
- Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service, Dearborn, MI, \$475,000.
- Asian Americans for Community Involvement, San Jose, CA, \$380,000.
- Bellevue/NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation/ New York City, NY, \$535,000.
- Boston Medical Center Corporation, Boston, MA, \$475,000.
- Center for Multicultural Human Services, Falls Church, VA, \$415,000.
- Center for Survivors of Torture, Dallas, TX, \$415,000.
- Center for Victims of Torture, Minneapolis, MN, \$535,000.
- City of St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees, St. Louis, MO, \$475,000.
- DeKalb County Board of Health, Atlanta, GA, \$385,000.
- Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, Clearwater, FL, \$475,000.
- Heartland Alliance for Human Needs, Chicago, IL, \$535,000.
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, \$265,000.
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, multi-site, \$380,000.

- Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, Boston, MA, \$375,000.
- Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR, \$400,000.
- Program for Torture Victims, Los Angeles, CA, \$475,000.
- Rocky Mountain Survivors Center, Denver, CO, \$535,000.
- Survivors of Torture International, San Diego, CA, \$475,000.
- TIDES Center, Salt Lake City, UT, \$285,000.

Victims of Trafficking

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 authorizes the “certification” of adult victims to receive certain federally funded benefits and services such as cash assistance, medical care, food stamps, and housing. Victims who are minors receive “letters of eligibility” for the same types of services. In FY 2007, ORR issued 270 certification letters to adults and 33 eligibility letters to minors for a total of 303. ORR has issued a total of 1,379 letters during the first seven years of the program. Thirty percent of victims certified in FY 2007 were male, a significant increase from the six percent male victims certified in FY 2006.

The Trafficking Victim Protection Act (TVPA) designates the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the agency responsible for helping victims of human trafficking become eligible to receive benefits and services so they may rebuild their lives safely in the United States.

The HHS Anti-Trafficking in Persons (ATIP) program in ORR:

- Provides services and case management to victims of trafficking through a network of service providers across the United States (U.S.), as well as certifies non-U.S. citizen victims of human trafficking;
- Administers a national public awareness campaign designed to rescue and restore victims of trafficking;
- Builds capacity at the regional level through anti-trafficking coalitions and a network of discretionary grants and contracts, and;
- Builds capacity nationally through training and technical assistance and operation of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

Service Provision and Case Management to Victims of Trafficking

Certifications and Letters of Eligibility. On March 28, 2001, former HHS Secretary Thompson delegated the authority to conduct certification activities to the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, who in turn re-delegated authority on April 18, 2002, to ORR.

Section 107(b)(1)(E) of the TVPA states that HHS, after consultation with the Attorney General, may certify a victim of a severe form of trafficking who:

- Is willing to assist in every reasonable way in the investigation and prosecution of severe forms of trafficking in persons, and;
- (a) Has made a bona fide application for a visa under section 101(a)(15)(T) of the Immigration and Nationality Act...that has not been denied; or (b) is a person whose continued presence in the United States the Attorney General is ensuring in order to effectuate prosecution of traffickers in persons.

The TVPA authorizes the “certification” of adult victims to receive certain federally-funded or federally-administered benefits and services, such as cash assistance, medical care, food stamps, and housing. Though not required to be certified by HHS, minors who are determined to be victims receive “letters of eligibility” for the same types of services. In FY 2007, ORR issued 270 certification letters to adults and 33 eligibility letters to minors for a total of 303.

These certifications and eligibility letters bring to 1,379 the total number of letters issued during the first seven fiscal years in which the program has operated.

FY 2007 letters were sent to victims or their representatives in 29 states plus the District of Columbia and Saipan. Certified victims came from over 50 countries, spanning the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Europe. Forty-one percent of victims originated in Latin America and the Caribbean, and an additional 41 percent of victims originated in Asia.

It is important that certification not be equated or confused with victim identification. HHS grantees and contractors work with trafficking victims at every stage of the victim identification pipeline, ranging from initial contact with suspected victims who may not be ready to work with law enforcement or trust service providers with their stories, to helping certified victims rebuild their lives with the help of the Federal benefits to which they are entitled, and every stage in between. Language barriers, safety concerns, and trauma present significant barriers to victims coming forward and once they do, they rely on highly trained social service providers, attorneys, and law enforcement agents to help them navigate through the certification process. Still other foreign-born victims may elect to return to their country of origin without seeking any benefits in the United States. HHS provides victims identified by our partners with the services that will best allow them to pursue certification should they choose to cooperate with law enforcement and receive the full benefits available to them under the TVPA.

Per Capita Services and Case Management. ORR has utilized both contracts and discretionary grants to create a network of service organizations available to assist victims of a severe form of human trafficking. In FY 2007, ORR continued a contract with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to provide comprehensive support services to victims of human trafficking. Through this contract, ORR has streamlined support services to help victims gain access to shelter, job training, and health care, and provided a mechanism for victims to receive vital emergency services prior to receiving certification. USCCB provides case management services to pre-certified and certified victims on a per capita reimbursement basis. In FY 2007, 207 pre-certified and 457 certified victims received services through this contract. At the end of FY 2007, USCCB had 93 subcontracts with service providers in 125 locations to provide services to trafficking victims in their communities.

In-Reach Campaign. The HHS Anti-Trafficking in Persons (ATIP) In-Reach Campaign is an educational outreach within the HHS community. Formally launched in April 2007, the HHS ATIP In-Reach Campaign aims to galvanize HHS leadership and program staff to address human trafficking issues in their programs and areas of research expertise; leverage existing HHS funding mechanisms to better serve human trafficking victims; increase international human trafficking victim identification and service provision across HHS; and map, strengthen, and streamline the HHS human trafficking victim service provision pipelines.

The Campaign's work has included quarterly meetings open to HHS staff on issues such as victim identification, street outreach, and victim services. The Campaign also facilitates leadership and program-level ATIP education and training meetings with HHS agencies whose missions compliment that of the ATIP Program. From April to September of 2007, ATIP leadership and staff participated in nearly 20 intra-agency ATIP In-Reach meetings and trainings. During FY 2007, ATIP engaged several of the ACF Regions and collaborated with ACF's Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), Youth Development Division for more in-depth training and technical assistance on human trafficking as part of a field pilot program. The Polaris Project worked with regional technical assistance providers for the Youth Development Division's Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, encompassing the Basic Center, Transitional Living, Maternity Group Homes, and Street Outreach Programs, to incorporate a trafficking lens in the work they do with vulnerable youth.

Services for Minors. In leveraging existing HHS mechanisms, the In-Reach Campaign has targeted services for victims of trafficking who are minors. Unaccompanied minors who are victims of trafficking are eligible for foster care administered through the ORR Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program. This program offers a variety of care levels appropriate to the needs of the victim and enrolls unaccompanied trafficked minors as expeditiously as possible. ORR's Unaccompanied Alien Children's (UAC) program can accept unaccompanied undocumented trafficked minors and provides comparable services through a system of group homes and shelters. Minors in the UAC program that are potential trafficking victims are screened for evidence of trafficking and referred to law enforcement. In FY 2007, the ATIP and UAC programs jointly hired a child trafficking specialist to assist with case management of trafficked children in ORR care and training the staff of UAC group homes and shelters on victim identification and care.

ACF also provides emergency shelter options for minors through its in-reach network. Those options include State Child Protective Services and the 336 Basic Centers and 193 Transitional Living Programs for Older Homeless Youth throughout the country supported by FYSB.

National Public Awareness Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Trafficking

FY 2007 encompassed the fourth year of the HHS public awareness campaign: *Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking*. The goal of the campaign is to help communities identify and serve more victims of trafficking so that every individual forced, coerced, or fraudulently induced into exploitative labor or commercial sex work will have the courage and support to come forward and receive the full protection and benefits offered by the TVPA.

The fourth year of the campaign built upon the previous year's efforts to target those persons or entities that are most likely to come into contact with victims, such as public health officials, local law enforcement officials, social service providers, ethnic organizations, and legal assistance organizations. The campaign also targeted the general public to increase awareness of human trafficking, and HHS departments to leverage and strengthen international trafficking victim service provision pipelines.

In FY 2007, the campaign increased outreach efforts by reaching close to 10,000 persons likely to encounter victims of human trafficking through speaking and exhibit events; distributing approximately 680,000 pieces of original, branded material; referring more than 110 social service organizations to national service provider U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB); publicizing the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, and launching four new Rescue-and-Restore coalitions bringing the total number of coalitions to 21 across the nation.

Original Campaign Materials. HHS distributed a variety of *Rescue and Restore* public awareness materials, including posters, brochures, fact sheets, and cards with tips on identifying victims in eight languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Indonesian, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese and Russian. The materials can be viewed on the HHS website, www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking, and ordered at no cost. In FY 2007, HHS updated its Rescue and Restore materials to reflect the newly re-branded National Human Trafficking Resource Center and United Nations-approved language translation of the term human trafficking.

The Rescue and Restore website address, www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking, was printed on all public awareness materials. In FY 2007, the website logged 141,888 unique visitors with 377,295 page views.

In addition, HHS revised the award-winning Rescue and Restore training DVD in order to update the soundbites and add additional victim insight. The video helps train persons likely to encounter victims of human trafficking on how to recognize cases of human trafficking and learn how to initiate support services for those victims. The video showcases trafficking experts and four victims in an effort to shed light on the horrors of trafficking, and to present the resources available to help victims rebuild their lives.

Media Outreach. The campaign continued pursuing earned media stories and launched new efforts with billboard PSAs across markets in the United States. Media outreach in FY 2007 included pitching and responding to key national media requests, monitoring the news daily and, when appropriate, following up with reporters to encourage additional stories incorporating the HHS perspective, and writing letters to the editor and/or op-eds in response to key stories.

HHS also held four press conferences in Sacramento, CA; Nashville, TN; Columbus, OH; and Raleigh, NC in conjunction with the launches of four new Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Coalitions in those areas. The FY 2007 Rescue and Restore coalition launches garnered 7.5 million media impressions alone.

HHS also worked with Clear Channel and Lamar Advertising on outdoor Public Service Advertising (PSAs) that featured the National Human Trafficking Resource Center phone number. HHS created transit shelter, large billboard, and digital billboard public service announcements that were placed in available spaces from June-September 2007 in New York City, Houston, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Miami, Charlotte, Chicago, Sacramento, Milwaukee, Greensboro/Winston-Salem, Atlanta, Columbus, San Francisco, Orlando, Philadelphia, Nashville, Raleigh/Durham, and Portland. The Daily Effective Circulation (DEC), which estimates the number of people who see the public service ads, was 2,279,830.

Building Anti-Trafficking Capacity at the Regional Level

Building capacity for the identification and serving of victims at the regional level is the heart of the HHS anti-trafficking program. HHS requires that its regional recipients of funding, including intermediary contractors and applicants for regional grants, sub-award 60 percent of funds received in order to create networks and bring more anti-trafficking advocates and service providers into the Rescue and Restore anti-trafficking movement. In this way, HHS builds infrastructure by providing financial assistance to existing programs of direct outreach and services to populations among which victims of human trafficking may be found in order to support and expand these programs' capacity to identify, serve, and seek certification for trafficking victims in their communities. HHS' Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Regional Program reinforces and is strengthened by many other ATIP program activities, including street outreach and regional coalition building.

At the end of FY 2007, HHS formalized the creation of this regional program and issued a request for proposals to build upon the regional work currently performed by intermediaries. Regional grantees will increase the number of victims of trafficking in their communities who are identified, assisted in leaving the circumstances of their exploitation, and connected to a service delivery system that may include the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, the HHS certification process, and the Services to Victims of Human Trafficking contract funded by HHS. Awards for five cooperative agreements will be announced in early 2008.

Intermediaries. In FY 2007, HHS funded four contracts to "intermediary" organizations to foster connections between the Rescue and Restore national campaign and local awareness building and service provision. These intermediaries form the basis of a Rescue and Restore Regional Program, and serve as the focal point for regional public awareness campaign activities and intensification of local outreach to identify victims of human trafficking. Each Rescue and Restore intermediary oversees and builds the

capacity of a local anti-trafficking network, sub-awarding 60 percent of grant funds to grassroots organizations that identify and work with victims. By acting as a focal point for regional anti-trafficking efforts, Rescue and Restore intermediaries encourage a cohesive, collaborative approach in the fight against modern-day slavery.

In FY 2007, intermediaries made contact with over 200 victims or suspected victims, 75 of which started the certification process and 26 of which received certification. Intermediaries reported that 26 of their trafficking clients were involved with open law enforcement investigations. Intermediaries use a Victim Identification Pipeline to track interactions with vulnerable persons, chronicling the slow-building relationships of trust that often result in certification and, as possible, prosecution of a trafficker. It is important to note that intermediaries do not discriminate based on nationality. Therefore, the numbers of suspected and confirmed victims tracked in the pipeline include both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals.

In addition to identifying and serving victims, each of the intermediaries and their subs conduct a number of human trafficking trainings and public awareness activities. In FY 2007, intermediaries conducted 1,045 trainings, reaching an estimated 35,173 persons.

Intermediary Contractors:

- Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition, National City, CA, \$601,159
- Civil Society, Saint Paul, MN, \$348,219
- Immigrants Rights Advocacy Center, Miami, FL, \$666,666
- Practical Strategies, West Bend, WI, \$174,284

Street Outreach Grants. In FY 2007, ORR provided continued funding to 18 organizations to conduct street outreach services to help identify victims of trafficking among populations that they already serve. The grants support direct, person-to-person contact, information sharing, counseling, and other communication between agents of the grant recipient and members of a specified target population. Grantees include public, private for-profit (although HHS funds may not be paid as profit), and private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations. Some of the vulnerable population groups to which the grantees provide outreach are homeless and at-risk youth, girls exploited through the commercial sex industry, migrant farm workers, people in prostitution, and women forced to work in beauty parlors and nail salons. Grantees were eligible for these grants regardless of whether they had previously participated in anti-trafficking efforts.

Because these organizations are already engaged in outreach to specified vulnerable populations, these grantees are able to capitalize on their existing expertise working with these populations and the accompanying trust that has been built. Grantees are evaluated on their ability to connect identified victims to services, and achieve certification by building strong relationships with law enforcement. Suspected victims were identified through mobile feeding programs that target immigrant populations, single women's shelters, known areas of street prostitution, and youth centers, among other locations. Additionally, street outreach grantees provided training on identifying trafficking victims to local law enforcement agencies, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations and health providers.

In FY 2007, street outreach grantees made contact with approximately 1,500 victims or suspected victims, 127 of which started the certification process and 23 of which received certification. Grantees reported that 120 of their trafficking clients were involved with open law enforcement investigations. Like intermediary contractors, street outreach grantees use a Victim Identification Pipeline to track interactions with vulnerable persons that chronicles the slow-building relationships of trust that often

result in certification and, as possible, prosecution of a trafficker. Street outreach grantees do not discriminate based on nationality; therefore the numbers of suspected or confirmed victims tracked in the pipeline include both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals.

Street Outreach Grantees:

- Alternatives for Girls, Detroit, MI, \$25,000
- Breaking Free, St. Paul, MN, \$110,000
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Camden, NJ, \$70,000
- Catholic Charities Community Services, Phoenix, AZ, \$101,462
- Center for Social Advocacy, San Diego, CA, \$27,502
- Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking of California, Los Angeles, CA, \$75,000
- Farmworker Legal Services of New York, Rochester, NY, \$75,537
- Girls Educational and Mentoring Services, New York City, NY \$109,473
- International Rescue Committee, Phoenix, AZ, \$103,779
- Mosaic Family Services, Dallas, TX, \$88,465
- Polaris Project, Newark, NJ, \$57,466
- Positive Options, Referrals and Alternatives, Springfield, IL, \$115,000
- SAGE Project, San Francisco, CA, \$121,979
- Salvation Army, Chicago, IL, \$82,871
- Southeastern Network of Youth and Family Services of Alabama, Birmingham, AL, \$90,000
- Southeastern Network of Youth and Family Services of Florida, Tallahassee, FL, \$46,700
- Tapestri, Inc., Tucker, GA, \$48,772
- Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, TX, \$71,871

Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Coalitions. In FY 2007, HHS worked with anti-trafficking Rescue and Restore coalitions in 21 areas, including HHS' 17 previously founded coalitions in: Atlanta, GA; Houston, TX; Illinois; Las Vegas, NV; Long Island, NY; Los Angeles, CA; Miami, FL; Milwaukee, WI; Minnesota; Newark, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; Phoenix, AZ; Portland, OR; St. Louis, MO; San Francisco, CA; Seattle, WA; and Tampa, FL. The coalitions consist of dedicated social service providers, local government officials, health care professionals, leaders of faith-based and ethnic organizations, and law enforcement personnel. The goal of the coalitions is to increase the number of trafficking victims who are identified, assisted in leaving the circumstances of their servitude, and connected to qualified service agencies and to the HHS certification process so that they may receive the benefits and services for which

they are eligible. Along with identifying and assisting victims, coalition members use the Rescue and Restore campaign messages to educate the general public about human trafficking. In FY 2007, HHS founded four additional coalitions in Sacramento, CA; Nashville, TN; Columbus, OH; and statewide in North Carolina. Each new coalition launch included a press conference and a human trafficking training, and involved collaborations with local and Federal law enforcement in each area.

Building Anti-Trafficking Capacity Nationally

Training and Technical Assistance. Training and technical assistance in FY 2007 was offered to targeted groups such as public health officials, social service providers, and ethnic organizations, and focused on how to help victims of human trafficking and increase understanding of victim identification, service and certification. HHS conducted trainings through speaking engagements, conferences, four half-day training sessions held in the new coalition areas, and launched a series of online, interactive WebEx sessions.

HHS, along with its contractors and coalition members, participated in 44 speaking engagements, reaching an estimated 4,300 persons likely to encounter victims of human trafficking with Rescue and Restore messages and staffed and distributed materials at nine conferences attended by approximately 17,700 persons likely to encounter victims of human trafficking.

HHS provided targeted training and technical assistance throughout FY 2007 to the Rescue and Restore coalitions, street outreach grantees, intermediaries, and National Human Trafficking Resource Center staff through a subcontract with the Polaris Project. HHS hosted monthly peer-to-peer conference calls with the 18 street outreach grantees, provided training at the launch events of the four newest Rescue and Restore coalitions, provided technical support for the 17 pre-existing coalitions, and responded to additional training requests from HHS partners.

In September 2007, HHS launched a series of online, interactive WebEx training sessions designed to go beyond “Trafficking 101” and reach an audience beyond HHS grantees and coalitions. Each training session includes a PowerPoint presentation uploaded to a password-protected website that is accompanied by the presenter’s audio portion via a conference call line. The first of this series featured a training session given by Polaris Project on victim identification and street outreach, and covered best practices, challenges to victim identification, steps for creating a street outreach program, and tools to assist in street outreach and victim identification efforts. HHS answered participants’ questions about the topic via Webchat and conference call line during the designated question and answer period. The September WebEx session had 74 participants from law enforcement, social service, faith-based, shelters, public health, Federal agency, and Rescue and Restore member organizations.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (formerly the Information and Referral Hotline). A key component of the Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Campaign is the operation of a 24/7 toll-free hotline: (888) 373-7888. In FY 2007, the hotline was renamed the National Human Trafficking Resource Center to reflect the increased response capabilities from Lockheed Martin Aspen Systems, including the development of email contact in five languages. In FY 2007, the hotline provided service referrals to potential trafficking victims, educated callers about Rescue and Restore campaign materials, directed non-trafficking related questions to relevant Federal and local agencies, and took reports on possible trafficking cases to forward to the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. The hotline is staffed by bilingual crisis workers of Covenant House, New York, which is a sub-contractor of Lockheed Martin Aspen System Corporation. All calls received in foreign languages other than English and Spanish are referred to the AT&T Language Line. In FY 2007, the hotline took 2,699 calls from the public and media and received 249 email inquiries via the HHS website.

Unaccompanied Alien Children Program

Pursuant to Section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the custody and care of unaccompanied alien children (UAC) transferred from the former Immigration and Naturalization Service to ORR in March 2003. Since then, the number of children in ORR's care has steadily increased. With an operating budget of \$95,318,135 in 2007, ORR funded approximately 1,700 beds and placed 8,212 children in its various shelter facilities.

A Continuum of Care. In FY 2007, ORR continued focus on developing a full continuum of care for UAC, adding a variety of care options, such as over 25 shelter facilities, group homes and transitional foster care providers, three staff-secure facilities, two secure facilities with innovative programming, and residential treatment centers for children with psychiatric and mental health needs.

When the former Immigration and Naturalization Service transferred its program to ORR in early 2003, approximately one-third of the UAC in its care were housed in secure county or local juvenile detention centers. In 2004, as an alternative to the court-administered juvenile detention centers, ORR developed staff-secure (medium secure) beds to house unaccompanied alien children with serious behavioral concerns or with non-violent, non-assaultive criminal histories. ORR focused on ensuring only youth with violent or repeated juvenile offenses were placed in a secure detention setting. In FY 2007, only six percent of all unaccompanied alien children in ORR-funded care were in secure or staff-secure facilities. More specifically, secure placements decreased by 13 percent from FY 2006.

In sum, in FY 2007, 82 percent of UAC were placed in shelters, 11 percent in transitional and short term foster care, four percent in staff-secure facilities, three percent in secure detention facilities, and the remainder in long term foster care, therapeutic care, or residential treatment centers.

In FY 2007, ORR funded an emergency reception center in Harlingen, TX, close to the Texas-Mexico border, to address the dramatic influx of youth crossing the border who are then apprehended by border patrol agents of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This center, operated by the non-profit organization Baptist Child and Family Services, allowed DHS agents to timely transport migrant youth from border patrol stations to a residential institution where the children could be immediately medically screened, fed, bathed, and assessed for additional services. The reception center aims to care for newly-arrived UAC for up to two weeks, and then ORR carries out the transportation (through its facility grantees) to transfer them to another ORR-funded shelter facility or foster care program for continuing care and services, including family reunification services.

Due to the temporary stay of UAC at the Baptist reception center near the Texas border, transfer placements of UAC increased over 100 percent from FY 2006.

Enhanced Services. In FY 2007, ORR focused on enhancing services to UAC, with a focus on addressing mental health issues. A small number of youth with serious and persistent mental health symptoms and emotional disorders required the intensive supervision, treatment, and structure of a residential treatment center. A total of 17 UAC were served in residential treatment centers in FY 2007.

In addition, during FY 2007, ORR-funded facilities and programs administered a series of mental health assessments to all UAC in ORR-funded care. These assessment forms provide a standardized method of collecting information about each minor in order to identify acute medical and mental health needs, potential reunification options, and the need for specialized services. ORR continues to enhance the clinical services and mental health resources available to UAC.

In addition, through agreements with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), in FY 2007 ORR placed a total of 101 youth into ORR-funded long-term foster care. Foster care serves primarily UAC who have been in shelter care for prolonged periods of time, are of young age, or have demonstrated that their needs would be best served in a less structured environment. In addition, there were 26 children placed into the ORR-funded unaccompanied refugee minors foster care program, which serves Haitian and Cuban entrants, asylees, and victims of a severe form of trafficking. The increase in foster care placements led to the expansion of the ORR-funded network of long term foster care to include new sites – Rochester, NY; San Jose, CA; and a group home for pregnant and parenting teens in Phoenix, AZ.

Release and Reunification. Through cooperative agreements with USCCB and LIRS, ORR coordinates a family reunification program for UAC in its custody. USCCB and LIRS Field Coordinators work as ORR liaisons in the field, review family reunification requests and make preliminary recommendations to ORR as to whether the child's potential sponsor is a viable, appropriate reunification option. They regularly meet with children, identify alternate placements, intervene on crisis situations, and assist ORR in developing and improving procedures.

In its goal to ensure a safe and prompt release of UAC to relatives or other eligible sponsors living in the United States, ORR developed and implements background check procedures on all sponsors. All UAC sponsors must complete a fingerprint background check, which is accomplished through an inter-agency agreement with HHS' Program Support Center and through a grant with the Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services. ORR now utilizes 22 digital fingerprint machines at various sites across the country which greatly improves the delivery of prompt and verifiable fingerprint checks on sponsors. In addition to fingerprint checks for criminal history, ORR completes immigration checks and a criminal history public record check on all sponsors. ORR's field specialists review the release recommendations from the field coordinators and shelter case managers, and consult with the Department of Homeland Security/ICE to ensure that a prompt and safe reunification takes place.

Home Suitability Assessments. ORR also completes home suitability assessments on select families to whom the children are being released through agreements with USCCB and LIRS, two voluntary agencies with a nationwide network of affiliate social service agencies. Previously, under the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, home assessments were limited to Chinese and Indian families due to smuggling concerns. ORR continues to require home assessments on every Chinese and Indian child before releasing to family members, but has expanded home assessments to potential sponsors of any nationality. In these cases, questions may arise on the family members' ability to care for the minor's specific needs, on the child's ability to adapt to a home environment, and for safety concerns overall. In FY 2007, ORR completed a total of 315 home suitability assessments, including 90-day follow-up services for all minors whose sponsors participated in a home assessment. This reflects a 66 percent increase in these services from FY 2006.

A Field Presence. In FY 2007, ORR improved its field presence by hiring another Federal Field Specialist to work in California, with frequent visits to ORR-funded facilities in Oregon and Washington State, and also hired a Federal Field Specialist Supervisor. ORR currently has federal field specialists in Chicago, Harlingen/Brownsville, El Paso, Miami, San Antonio, Los Angeles, and Phoenix, who perform inherently federal functions and coordinate efforts between the Department of Homeland Security, the Executive Office for Immigration Review, ORR and other agencies and stakeholders in the program.

Minors in Care FY 2004 - 2007				
Month	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
OCT	506	780	1,139	1,163
NOV	488	770	984	1,141
DEC	504	690	868	1,136
JAN	474	594	789	1,026
FEB	579	626	929	1,114
MAR	614	756	955	1,198
APR	663	801	1,060	1,317
MAY	760	988	1,149	1,359
JUN	780	1,014	1,155	1,412
JUL	819	1,039	1,018	1,584
AUG	867	1,122	1,020	1,626
SEP	888	1,246	1,153	1,529

Tracking and Management System. In FY 2007, ORR continued to develop its web-based Tracking and Management System (TMS) which will ultimately track children from initial placement by ORR to release or return to the home country. The system currently encompasses family reunification review process and captures performance measurement data. During FY 2007, TMS users took advantage of valuable new functionalities. Adding the ability to track and document the transfer process as well as significant incident reporting enabled all levels of users to increase efficiency, accuracy and timeliness for program actions. Further development will include more aspects of individualized case management for children in care.

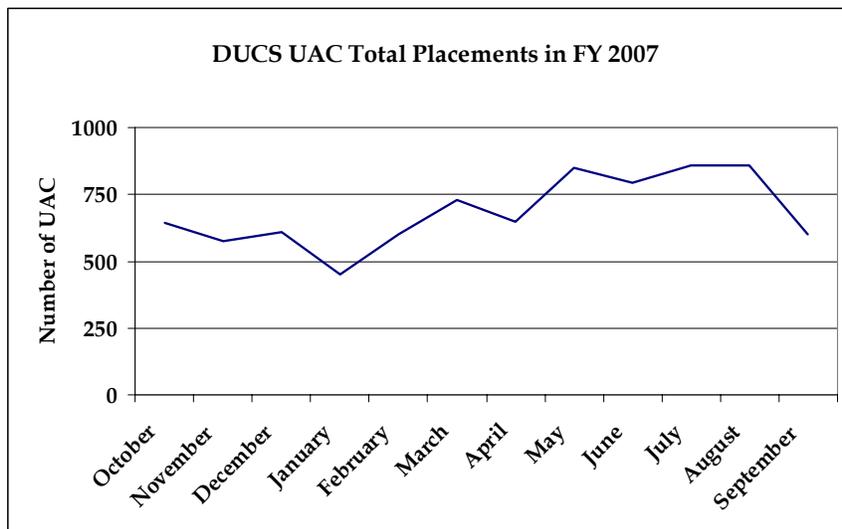
Medical Services. In late FY 2007, ORR's inter-agency agreement with the Department of Immigration Health Services (DIHS) was terminated as DIHS agreed to serve only adult immigrant detainees in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security. As a result, ORR hired a registered nurse who currently reviews all medical treatment requests and authorizes or denies them. The medical providers who serve UAC in ORR custody are then reimbursed through an inter-agency agreement with the Veterans Administration.

Pro Bono and Child Protection Advocates. In FY 2007, ORR continued its pro bono outreach pilot program with the Vera Institute for Justice (New York, NY). In FY 2005, Vera Institute subcontracted with 10 legal service providers in geographic areas where there are ORR-funded care facilities and programs to recruit, mentor and retain pro bono attorneys to serve UAC. All pilot sites have special software (Program Management Application) to track attorney representation, case dispositions, and other information. At the end of the three-year pilot, Vera Institute will provide ORR with a comprehensive report and recommendations. In FY 2007, the 10 legal service provider sites collected a uniform set of statistics using either Vera's Program Management Application or the Access-based Vera UAC project database, with the result that more accurate and consistent data is now being collected.

In addition, ORR continued the Immigrant Children’s Advocacy Project (ICAP), a *child protection advocate* pilot project based in Chicago (the legal clinic at the University of Chicago Law School) to serve as a model for a nationwide program. In FY 2007, ICAP had ten bilingual law students who served as Child Advocates and worked on research projects. ICAP also has developed a solid base of lay volunteer Child Advocates, and received weekly requests for assignment of Advocates from the ORR-funded shelter in Chicago and from the attorneys at the National Immigrant Justice Center (Chicago). Moreover, in FY 2007, the immigration judge who manages and hears the cases of the UAC in ORR’s custody recognized the Child Advocates’ presence in the courtroom. ICAP is also developing a best practices model for unaccompanied immigrant children in order to expand the project in Chicago.

ORR has continued collaborative efforts with the U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR). The Office of the Chief Immigration Judge has met often with ORR on immigration court procedures involving UAC. Moreover, the EOIR Pro Bono Program works closely with ORR on coordinating pro bono outreach with the Vera Institute of Justice.

Number of UAC Case Admissions (2007) (by Facility Type)			
Facility Type	Total Placements		% Difference FY06 to FY07
	FY06	FY07	
Shelter	6,636	6,728	1%
Transitional Foster Care	1,042	920	-12%
Staff-Secure	241	358	49%
Secure	133	116	-13%
DUCS Funded Foster Care	86	92	7%
Residential Treatment	15	10	-33%
Therapeutic	7	0	-100%
Total	8,160	8,224	1%



U.S. Repatriation Program

The United States (U.S.) Repatriation Program was established by Title XI, Section 1113 of the Social Security Act (Assistance for U.S. Citizens Returned from Foreign Countries) to provide temporary assistance to U.S. citizens and their dependents who have been identified by the Department of State (DOS) as having returned, or been brought from a foreign country to the U.S. because of destitution, illness, war, threat of war, or a similar crisis and without available resources.

Eligible U.S. citizens are referred by DOS, which requests assistance from the U.S. Repatriation Program for individual, group and national emergency evacuations. DOS also certifies that citizens and their dependents are eligible for temporary assistance and is responsible for bringing them to U.S. soil. Upon arrival in the U.S., services for repatriates are the responsibility of the Secretary of HHS. The Secretary has delegated these responsibilities to HHS/ACF/ORR. ORR holds a cooperative agreement with International Social Services-USA Branch, to assist in the coordination of services.

Temporary assistance is defined as money payments, medical care, temporary billeting, transportation, and other goods and services necessary for the health or welfare of individuals (including guidance, counseling, and other welfare services), furnished to U.S. citizens and their dependents who are without available resources in the U.S. upon their arrival from abroad and for such period after their arrival, not exceeding 90 days as may be provided in regulations of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Certain temporary assistance may be furnished beyond the 90-day period in the case of any citizen or dependent upon a finding by the HHS Secretary that the circumstances involved necessitate or justify the furnishing of such assistance beyond such period in that particular case (42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1313). All temporary assistance provided under the Program and allocable to individual recipients is in the form of a loan repayable to the Federal Government. The Program Support Center (PSC), HHS contractor, administers debt collection for these repayments.

The Program contains four different activities. Two of these are characterized by ongoing caseloads with individual repatriations under Section 1113 of the Social Security Act and the assistance provided to mentally ill repatriates found under 24 U.S.C. 321. The other two activities are contingency components regarding emergency repatriation responsibility assigned under Executive Order (E.O.) 12656 (as amended). The other activity is group repatriations which, by the extension of the E.O. precedent, HHS often has the responsibility to provide services under Section 1113 authority. Operationally, these activities involve different kinds of preparation, resources and execution. However, the core program policies and administrative procedures are essentially the same for each.

Program Statistics. A total of 250 Repatriation cases were opened in the ISS-USA repatriation database. This includes repatriation services to 317 individuals. Of the 317 people served, 220 were adults, 78 were children and 19 were unaccompanied children. In all, 31 percent of all individuals served through the U.S. Repatriation program in FY 2007 were children. The average age of adults was 45 years with a range of 18 to 88. The average age of children was 10 years with a range of one to 17. Of the 233 completed cases, 152 were resettlement cases, 69 were fare share and 12 were both fare share and resettlement. Seventeen cases were opened, but later cancelled (approximately 10 percent).³

³ Cases that only require onward travel assistance. This onward travel assistance is booked and paid by DOS. HHS reimburses DOS for the domestic portion of the travel assistance loan. Monies collected by DOS are returned to PSC for appropriate financial processing.

Number of Individuals Served (2006-2007)	
Adults	220
Children	78
Unaccompanied Children	19
TOTAL	317

Repatriates arrived from a total of 61 countries. They were resettled in a total of 38 states (including Puerto Rico). The most common departure countries included: Mexico, Thailand, Lebanon, United Kingdom, China, Germany, Israel, Philippines, Australia and South Korea. The most common states of final destination included: California, Florida, New York, Texas, Michigan, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Nevada and Maryland.

Case Planning. On average it took 21 days from the date the case was opened until arrival in the U.S. with a range of zero to 158 days. During this waiting period, case planning and coordination occurred among involved agencies (e.g. ORR, DOS, ISS, States of final destination, etc.).

Number of Cases (2007)		
	FY 2005-2006	FY 2006-2007
Emergency Evacuation	330	0
Repatriation	166	152
Fare Share and Repatriation	8	12
Fare Share	257	69
Cancelled Cases	32	17
Total	793	250

Inquiries. In addition to the cases, there were 42 inquiries, 13 by the Department of State about repatriates, eight by individuals about repatriations, and 21 by Department of State for assistance with other international social work matters.

Reasons for Repatriation: The primary reason for the repatriation was lack of resources. More than half of the people who are returning due to mental illness also experienced a lack of resources. Of those cases that were repatriated, almost 25 percent involved mental illness. Of the 40 cases involving mental illness, nine had a certificate of mental illness. All the repatriates returning due to civil unrest were returning from Lebanon. Because of calm weather, ISS-USA did not repatriate a single person due to natural disaster. Some repatriates returned for medical reasons in addition to destitution.

Primary Services. Although many repatriates received a range of services, the caseworkers usually recorded the *primary* services provided for each case. These services included: local escorts (18 percent), shelter (18 percent), food (12 percent), and medical assistance (12 percent).

Repatriation Costs. The average cost per case was \$326.10. This is significantly down from \$534 in FY 2006. The average cost for resettlement assistance was \$434.02, the average cost for fare share was \$142.15 and the average cost for administrative services was \$349.18. These costs varied widely with the highest cost being \$7,546.50 and the lowest being \$10.00 per state in the listed three categories. Again, this is a significant decrease from FY 2006 where the range was \$40,612 to \$38.

The number one cost for repatriates was for cash assistance (\$20,484), followed by medical costs, (\$17,431) and escort costs (\$9000). In FY 2006, the highest cost was for medical assistance. The Repatriation Program was successfully able to control expenses in FY 2007 through excellent administration, case management, and follow-up. Specifically, medical providers were informed that they needed to bill at the third-party rate, and states advocated for the repatriates to receive benefits as quickly as possible ensuring the third-party rate for medical care was used.

In FY 2007, there were no waivers granted. There was no information about temporary service extensions as this information is not currently recorded in the database. There were 122 cases referred to PSC for collection: 69 Fare Share, 12 Resettlement and Fare Share, and 41 resettlement cases.

II. Refugees in the United States

This section characterizes the refugee, Amerasian, and entrant population (hereafter, referred to as refugees unless noted otherwise) in the U.S., focusing primarily on those who have entered since 1983.

Nationality of U.S. Refugee Population

Southeast Asians remain the largest refugee group among recent arrivals.⁴ Thirty-two percent of the 2,173,196 refugees who have arrived in the U.S. since the ORR refugee database was created in 1983 has fled from nations of Southeast Asia (refer to Table 1, Appendix A).⁵ Prior to 1983, the proportion was much higher, as evidenced by supplementary admission data supplied by the Department of State. According to Department of State Refugee Processing Center data, the proportion of refugees who arrived since 1975 that fled from Asia is 47 percent (refer to Table II-1, this section).

Vietnamese continue to be the majority refugee group from Southeast Asia, although the ethnic composition of the entering population has become more diverse over time. About 135,000 Southeast Asians fled to America at the time of the collapse of the Saigon government in 1975. Over the next four years, large numbers of boat people escaped Southeast Asia and were admitted to the U.S. The majority of these arrivals were Vietnamese. The Vietnamese share has declined gradually, especially since persons from Cambodia and Laos began to arrive in larger numbers in 1980.

For the period FY 1983 through FY 2007, Vietnamese refugees made up 68 percent of refugee arrivals from Southeast Asia, while 19 percent were from Laos, 10 percent were from Cambodia, two percent from Burma, and one percent arrived from Thailand. FY 2007 saw a particular growth in the number and proportion of refugees arriving from Burma (9,776, up from 1,323 in FY 2006). More than 60 percent of Burmese arrivals since 1983 arrived in FY 2007.

More recently, refugees from outside of Southeast Asia have arrived in larger numbers. Between FY 1988 and FY 2007, refugees arriving from the former Soviet Union have surpassed refugees arriving from Vietnam every year except FY 1991. More recently, since FY 1995, refugees from the former Soviet Union and Vietnam were surpassed by refugees and entrants arriving from Cuba. Finally, since FY 1998, refugees from the former Yugoslavia eclipsed all other refugee groups until FY 2002, when entrants from Cuba and refugee arrivals from Africa began to dominate arrivals. In FY 2007, refugees from Africa comprised 29 percent of total refugee arrivals and arrivals from Cuba (refugees and entrants) comprised 25 percent.

Since ORR began keeping records of refugee arrivals in 1983, refugees from five countries have represented 74 percent of all arrivals: the former Soviet Union (24 percent), Vietnam (22 percent), Cuba (14 percent), the former Yugoslavia (8 percent), and Laos (6 percent).

Geographic Location of Refugees

From FY 1983 through FY 2007, California received the largest number of arrivals (430,446, or 20 percent). New York had 249,920 (12 percent); Florida with its huge entrant base recorded 207,439 refugees and entrants, or 10 percent; followed by Texas with 102,672 (5 percent); and Washington with 90,448 or 4 percent). Altogether, these five States received 50 percent of all refugee and entrant arrivals since 1983.

⁴ Southeast Asian refugees include refugees with the countries of origin of Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam.

⁵ Refugee arrivals from Table 1 or Appendix A include entrants from Cuba.

Southeast Asian refugees have settled in every State of the U.S. (refer to Table 2, Appendix A). More Southeast Asians initially resettled in California than any other State between FY 1983 and FY 2007 (34 percent).

California, New York, and Florida have resettled the greatest number of refugees to date (refer to Table 2, Appendix A). California received the most refugees from FY 1983 through FY 1994; since FY 1995, Florida has resettled the largest number of refugees every year but FY 1997, when New York resettled the most refugees.

Secondary Migration

The Reception and Placement program ensures that refugees arrive in communities with sufficient resources to meet their immediate needs and a caseworker to assist them with resettlement and orientation. Refugees need not stay in the community of initial resettlement, and many leave to build a new life elsewhere. A number of explanations for secondary migration by refugees have been suggested: better employment opportunities, the pull of an established ethnic community, more generous welfare benefits, better training opportunities, reunification with relatives, or a more congenial climate.

The Refugee Assistance Amendments of 1982 amended the Refugee Act of 1980 (section 412(a)(3)) directing ORR to compile and maintain data on the secondary migration of refugees within the United States. In response to this directive, ORR has developed a database for determining secondary migration from electronic files submitted by States. Each name submitted is checked against other States and against the most recent summary of arrivals. Arrivals that do not have refugee status or whose arrival did not occur in the 36-month period prior to the beginning of the fiscal year were deleted from the rolls.

Analysis of the summary totals indicates that much of the secondary migration of refugees takes place during their first few years after arrival and that the refugee population becomes relatively stabilized in its geographic distribution after an initial adjustment period. The matrix of all possible pairs of in- and out-migration between States can be summarized into total in- and out-migration figures reported for each State. Examination of the detailed State-by-State matrix showed several migration patterns: a strong movement in and out of California; a strong movement into Florida, Minnesota, Ohio, and Washington; a strong movement out of New York and Texas; and some population exchange between contiguous or geographically close States.

Almost every State experienced both gains and losses through secondary migration in FY 2007. Eighteen States gained additional refugees through secondary migration. The largest net in-migrations were recorded for Minnesota (1,373), Washington (960), and Ohio (543). Texas (1,128), Maine (692), Illinois (627), and Georgia (491) experienced the largest net out-migrations.

Economic Adjustment

Economic self-sufficiency is as important to refugees as adapting to their new homeland's social rhythms. Towards that end, the Refugee Act of 1980 and the Refugee Assistance Amendments enacted in 1982 and 1986 stress the achievement of employment and economic self-sufficiency by refugees as soon as possible after their arrival in the United States. This involves a balance among three elements: (1) the employment potential of refugees, including their education, skills, English language competence, and health; (2) their need for financial resources, food, housing, or childcare; and (3) the economic environment in which they settle, including the availability of jobs, housing, and other local resources.

Past refugee surveys have found that the economic adjustment of refugees to the U.S. has been a successful and generally rapid process. However, similar to 2006, the 2007 process of refugee economic adjustment appears to have met with some difficulty, most likely due to changes in the composition of the arriving refugee populations, in particular the increase in the proportion of refugees with lower levels of education and literacy. Nevertheless, the employment information retrieved from this year’s refugee population survey tells a complex story about the economic success of refugees in the five-year population, compared to the broader U.S. population. Survey respondents achieved a level of economic achievement only marginally lower than the population of the U.S., as evidenced by their employment rates and labor force participation rates, which may indicate that integration into the mainstream of the U.S. economy is proceeding steadily. However, unemployment rates for refugees in the sample are significantly higher than those of the general population, indicating that economic adjustment continues to be challenging for refugee populations.

Gauges of Economic Adjustment

In 2008, ORR completed its 41st survey of a national sample of refugee populations (Refugees, Amerasians, and Entrants) selected from the population of all refugees who arrived between May 1, 2002 and April 30, 2007. The survey collected basic demographic information, such as age and country of origin, level of education, English language training, job training, labor force participation, work experience and barriers to employment, for each adult member of the household. Other data were collected by family unit, including housing, income, and welfare utilization data.

To evaluate the economic progress of refugees, ORR relied on several measures of employment activity employed by economists. The first group of measures relates to employment status in the week before the survey and includes the employment-to-population ratio (or EPR), the labor force participation rate (LFP), and the unemployment rate. In addition, data on work experience over the past year and number of hours worked per week were analyzed, as well as reasons for not working. Data are also presented on the length of time it took refugees to gain their first job since arrival in the U.S.

Table II-1: Summary of Refugee Admissions for FY 1975-FY 2007						
Fiscal Year	Africa	East Asia	East. Europe	Soviet Union	Latin Amer.	N. East Asia
1975	0	135,000	1,947	6,211	3,000	0
1976	0	15,000	1,756	7,450	3,000	0
1977	0	7,000	1,755	8,191	3,000	0
1978	0	20,574	2,245	10,688	3,000	0
1979	0	76,521	3,393	24,449	7,000	0
1980	955	163,799	5,025	28,444	6,662	2,231
1981	2,119	131,139	6,704	13,444	2,017	3,829

Fiscal Year	Africa	East Asia	East. Europe	Soviet Union	Latin Amer.	N. East Asia
1982	3,412	73,755	11,109	2,760	580	6,480
1983	2,645	39,245	11,867	1,342	691	5,428
1984	2,749	51,978	10,096	721	150	4,699
1985	1,951	49,962	9,233	623	151	5,784
1986	1,322	45,482	8,503	799	131	5,909
1987	1,990	40,099	8,396	3,699	323	10,021
1988	1,593	35,371	7,510	20,411	2,497	8,368
1989	1,902	45,722	8,752	39,602	2,604	6,938
1990	3,453	51,598	6,094	50,628	2,305	4,979
1991	4,420	53,522	6,837	39,226	2,253	5,342
1992	5,470	51,899	2,915	61,397	3,065	6,903
1993	6,967	49,817	2,582	48,773	4,071	6,987
1994	5,860	43,564	7,707	43,854	6,156	5,840
1995	4,827	36,987	10,070	35,951	7,629	4,510
1996	7,604	19,321	12,145	29,816	3,550	3,967
1997	6,065	8,594	21,401	27,331	2,996	4,101
1998	6,887	10,854	30,842	23,557	1,627	3,313
1999	13,043	10,206	24,497	17,410	2,110	4,098
2000	17,561	4,561	22,561	15,103	3,232	10,129
2001	19,021	3,725	15,777	15,748	2,973	12,060
2002	2,548	3,525	5,439	9,963	1,933	3,702

Fiscal Year	Africa	East Asia	East. Europe	Soviet Union	Latin Amer.	N. East Asia
2003	10,717	1,724	2,525	8,744	452	4,260
2004	29,125	8,079	489	8,765	3,556	2,854
2005	20,749	12,071	11,316	-	6,700	2,977
2006	18,182	5,659	10,456	-	3,264	3,718
2007	17,482	15,643	4,561	-	2,976	7,619
1975-2007 Grand Total	220,619	1,321,996	296,505	605,100	95,653	157,047

Note: This chart does not include an additional 8,214 refugees admitted between FY 1988 and FY 1993 under the Private Sector Initiative (PSI) or the 14,161 Kosovar refugees admitted in FY 1999. Numbers listed above for Latin America exclude Cuban and Haitian entrants. Beginning with FY 2005, the Department of State reports refugee totals from the republics of the former Soviet Union as part of the Eastern European category.

Source: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S Department of State. Totals do not correlate directly with ORR database.

Employment Status

Table II-2 presents the Employment-to-Population Ratio (EPR) or employment rate in October 2007 for refugees 16 and older in the five-year population. The survey found that the overall EPR for all survey respondents who came to the U.S. between 2002 and 2007 was 56.8 percent (69.2 percent for males and 50.2 percent for females). As a point of reference, the employment rate for the U.S. population was 63 percent in 2007.⁶ The refugee respondent employment rate increases with length of stay in the U.S. As indicated in Table II-2, the employment rate was low (42.2 percent) for recent arrivals (2007 arrivals), but much higher (62.4 percent) for well-established refugee respondents (2002 arrivals).

The labor force participation rates for survey respondents also compared favorably to those of the general population, averaging 64 percent compared to general population rate of 66 percent. On the other hand, the unemployment rate of refugees was notably higher than that of the general population, averaging 11.2 percent in the 2007 survey, compared to 4.6 percent in the general U.S. population. This average is heavily weighted by the particularly high unemployment rates of the respondents that arrived in 2007 (which is almost double the unemployment rate of respondents in their first year after arrival in the 2006 survey, 22.8 percent).

Economic conditions in the U.S. as a whole influence the ability of refugees to find employment, and these conditions have varied in the past decade. Table II-3 describes the history of U.S. and refugee participation in the labor force for surveys conducted since FY 1993, the year that the Annual Survey was expanded to include refugees from all regions of the world. During this time, the national employment rate varied little, with the current U.S. employment rate (63 percent) almost equal to the 1996 rate and the peak rate

⁶ The **Employment-to-Population Ratio (EPR)**, also called the employment rate, is the ratio of the number of individuals age 16 or over who are employed (full- or part-time) to the total number of individuals in the population who are age 16 or over, expressed as a percentage.

(64.4 percent) recorded in 2000. The refugee employment rate, on the other hand, has not tracked the U.S. rate. In the 1993 survey, refugee employment (32.5 percent) was barely more than half the U.S. rate (62 percent). Over the next six years, the reported refugee rate soared 34 percentage points, while the U.S. rate climbed only two percentage points to 64 percent. In the 1999 survey, the refugee employment rate exceeded the U.S. rate by three percentage points.

**TABLE II-2: Employment Status of Refugees by Year of Arrival and Sex:
2007 Survey**

Year of Arrival	Employment Rate (EPR)			Labor Force Participation Rate			Unemployment Rate		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
2007	42.2 %	49.9 %	31.7 %	69.7 %	73.6 %	63.9%	39.5 %	32.9 %	50.4 %
2006	58.4	64.5	52.9	61.5	66.6	56.8	4.9	3.1	6.9
2005	55.4	64.6	46.0	64.2	73.1	55.3	13.8	11.6	16.7
2004	55.3	64.2	47.3	61.2	70.4	52.8	9.6	8.9	10.5
2003	62.4	68.7	56.9	66.0	71.9	61.0	5.6	4.4	6.7
2002	62.4	65.6	59.1	66.9	69.0	64.7	6.7	4.9	8.7
Average Rate	56.8	69.2	50.2	64.0	70.5	57.6	11.2	9.8	12.9
U.S. Rates	63.0	70.1	56.6	66.0	73.2	59.3	4.6	4.7	4.5

Note: As of December 2007. Not seasonally adjusted. Data refer to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, entrants, and refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the years 2002-2007.

After 1999, however, the economy began to soften. The overall U.S. rate has remained at 63.0 percent. The refugee rate, on the other hand, has been much more volatile, advancing eight points from 2003 (55.2 percent) to 2004 (62.6 percent) and regressing five points from 62.6 percent in 2004 to 58.0 percent in 2005. The reported 2007 refugee employment rate was slightly lower (56.8 percent) than in 2006, falling behind the national rate by seven points.

Table II-3 also contains data on the labor force participation rate (LFP) for refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population. This rate is closely related to the employment rate, except it includes individuals looking for work as well as those currently employed. In October 2007, the overall LFP for the five-year refugee sample population was 64 percent, two points lower than the overall U.S. rates. Refugee males in the

survey (70.5 percent) sought or found work at a higher rate than refugee females (57.6 percent).⁷ The 2007 refugee labor force participation rate (64.0 percent) remained steady since 2005, but dropped five points since 2004 (69 percent). During this time, the overall U.S. participation rate was virtually unchanged (66.0 percent). However, while the unemployment rate of the U.S. population decreased about one percent from 2004 (5.5 percent) to 2007 (4.6 percent), the unemployment rate among the refugee respondents increased almost five percentage points (from 6.7 percent to 11.2 percent).

Nevertheless, as with the employment rate and independent of economic conditions, the labor force participation rate for refugees appears to generally increase with time spent in the U.S., with the 66.9 percent of refugees who arrived in 2002 participating in the labor force, compared with 61.5 percent of refugees who arrived in 2006 (anomalously, refugee respondents who arrived in 2007 had a higher labor force participation rate than the other years, 69.7 percent, even though their unemployment rate was quite high). This year's survey revealed a 13 percent difference in labor force participation between men and women among all refugees in the five-year sample population (70.5 percent versus 57.6 percent). This tracks with the overall gender difference in labor force participation rates for the U.S. population, 14 points.

⁷ The labor force consists of adults age 16 or over looking for work as well as those with jobs. The **labor force participation rate** is the ratio of the total number of persons in the labor force divided by the total number of persons in the population who are age 16 or over, expressed as a percentage.

Table II-3: Employment of Refugees by Survey Year and Sex (2007)
(Based on Refugees Age 16 and Older)

Year Survey Administered	Employment Rate (EPR)			Labor Force Participation Rate			Unemployment Rate		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
2007 Survey	56.8%	63.7%	50.2%	64.0%	70.5%	57.6%	11.2%	9.8%	12.9%
U.S. Rate	63.0	69.8	56.6	66.0	73.2	59.3	4.6	4.7	4.5
2006 Survey	58.4	69.2	48.1	64.0	73.8	54.6	8.7	6.3	11.9
U.S. Rate	63.1	70.1	56.6	66.2	73.5	59.3	4.6	4.6	4.6
2005 Survey	58.0	68.1	48.3	64.7	74.5	55.4	6.8	6.3	7.1
U.S. Rate	62.7	69.6	56.2	66.0	73.3	59.3	5.1	5.1	5.1
2004 Survey	62.6	70.8	52.5	69.3	77.1	59.9	6.7	6.2	7.4
U.S. Rate	62.3	69.2	56.0	66.0	73.3	59.2	5.5	5.4	5.6
2003 Survey	55.2	64.0	45.3	61.0	69.1	51.8	5.7	5.1	6.4
U.S. Rate	62.3	68.9	56.1	65.7	72.8	59.2	6.0	6.3	5.7
2002 Survey	60.8	65.6	55.2	67.1	72.3	61.3	6.4	6.8	6.1
U.S. Rate	62.7	69.7	56.3	67.8	74.8	61.3	5.8	5.9	5.6
2001 Survey	62.0	67.7	56.3	66.6	72.7	60.5	6.9	6.9	7.0
U.S. Rate	63.7	70.9	57.0	67.6	74.9	60.9	4.7	4.8	4.7
2000 Survey	60.8	72.6	62.7	70.1	74.9	65.1	3.3	3.0	3.7
U.S. Rate	64.4	71.9	57.5	67.2	76.6	60.9	4.0	3.9	4.1
1999 Survey	66.8	72.3	61.1	68.9	74.4	63.3	3.1	2.8	3.5
U.S. Rate	64.3	71.6	57.4	67.1	76.7	60.7	4.2	4.1	4.3
1998 Survey	56.0	62.7	49.4	59.1	65.9	52.3	5.2	4.9	5.6
U.S. Rate	64.1	71.6	57.1	67.1	76.8	60.4	4.5	4.4	4.6
1997 Survey	53.9	62.9	45.1	58.3	67.1	49.5	7.5	6.3	9.0
U.S. Rate	63.8	71.3	56.8	67.1	77.0	60.5	4.9	4.9	5.0
1996 Survey	51.1	58.8	43.3	57.5	65.7	49.2	11.2	10.6	12.0
U.S. Rate	63.2	70.9	56.0	66.8	76.8	59.9	5.4	5.4	5.4
1995 Survey	42.3	49.5	35.1	49.8	57.4	42.1	15.1	14.0	16.6
U.S. Rate	62.9	70.8	55.6	66.6	76.7	59.4	5.6	5.6	5.6
1994 Survey	35.5	41.2	29.8	43.6	50.7	36.5	18.8	18.9	18.6
U.S. Rate	62.5	70.4	55.3	66.6	76.8	59.3	6.1	6.2	6.0
1993 Survey	32.5	37.3	27.7	35.4	41.2	29.7	8.4	9.5	6.9
U.S. Rate	61.7	70.0	54.1	66.3	77.3	58.5	6.9	7.2	6.6

Note: As of December of each year indicated. Not seasonally adjusted. Data refer to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees of all nationalities who were interviewed as a part of the survey for each year indicated. U.S. rates are from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

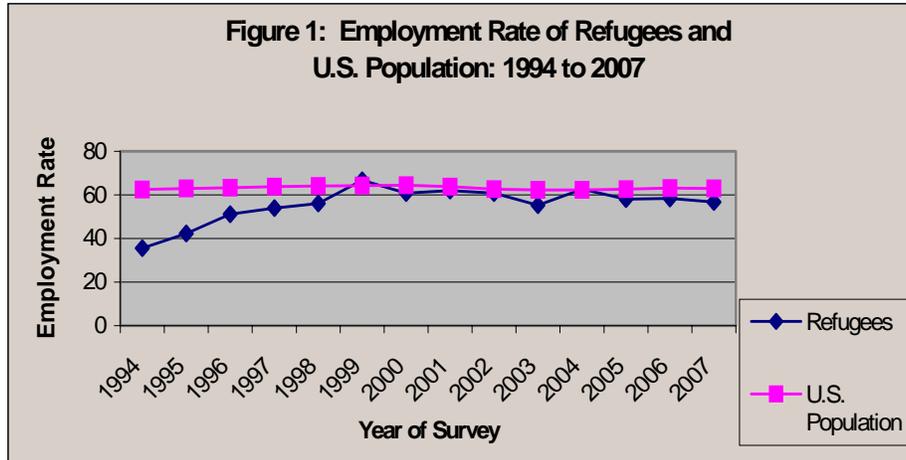


Table II-4 reveals significant differences between the six refugee groups in terms of their EPR, labor force participation rate, and unemployment rate. The EPR for the six refugee groups ranged from a high of 74.5 percent for survey respondents from Latin America to a low of 47.2 percent for survey respondents from Africa.⁸

Refugee respondents from Latin America sustained the highest employment rate in 2007 (74.5 percent), followed by those from Eastern Europe (72.1 percent), Middle East (55.7 percent), the former Soviet Union (50.8 percent), Southeast Asia (48.9 percent), and Africa (47.2 percent). Both Africa and Latin America refugees reported employment rates of 67 percent in 2004, but their employment rates have since gone in the opposite directions, with Africa tumbling to 47.2 percent and Latin America rising to 75.4 percent. The largest gender difference in employment rate was found among the African (41.6 percent for females versus 53.2 percent for males) and Southeast Asian refugees (37.8 percent for females vs. 60 percent for males) while the smallest difference was among male and female refugees from Eastern Europe (73 percent for females vs. 71.2 percent for males). For Eastern European refugees, in fact, a greater proportion of females were employed than males.

The reported labor force participation rate (LPR) of the survey sample followed a similar pattern as the EPR, but was generally lower overall than the analogous participation rates in 2006. The LFP was fairly high for refugee respondents from Eastern Europe (73.7 percent) and Latin America (80.8 percent). (The LFP for those survey respondents from Eastern Europe actually dropped from 81 percent in 2006). Those from Southeast Asia (54.8 percent) and Africa (56.2 percent) were at the lower end while those from the Middle East (60.9 percent) and the former Soviet Union (58.1 percent) positioned in between. The highest disparity between male and female participation rates was found for former Soviet Union families.

⁸ The six refugee groups are derived from the following countries or regions: Africa (Cameroon, Burundi, Djibouti, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, and Zaire), Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, and the former Yugoslavia), Latin America (Cuba, Haiti, Colombia and Ecuador), the Middle East (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Libya), the former Soviet Union (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan), and Southeast Asia (Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam (including Amerasians)).

Overall, the unemployment rate of refugee respondents in the five-year population was higher than the recorded rate for the U.S. as a whole (11.2 percent vs. 4.6 percent). The rate for refugee males (9.8 percent) was higher than the recorded rate for all males in the U.S. (4.7 percent), but the unemployment rate for refugee females (12.9 percent) was considerably higher than that of all U.S. females (4.5 percent).

In this year’s survey, the unemployment rate was highest for refugee respondents from Africa (15.9 percent), the former Soviet Union (12.5 percent), followed by Southeast Asia (10.7 percent), Middle East (8.6 percent), Latin America (7.9 percent), and Eastern Europe (2.1 percent). While the unemployment rates were almost equal among the male and female refugees from Eastern Europe (2.3 percent for males vs. 2.0 percent for females), refugees from the Middle East (8.9 percent vs. 8.3 percent), and refugees from Latin American (8.3 percent vs. 7.4 percent), the gap between males and females was greater for those from the former Soviet Union (11.0 percent vs. 14.7 percent), refugees from Africa (12.4 percent vs. 19.7 percent), and Southeast Asia (7.5 percent vs. 15.4 percent). This gender gap was one of the factors that contributed to the relatively high overall reported unemployment rates in these groups.

TABLE II-4: Employment Status of Selected Refugee Groups by Sex: 2007 Refugee Survey

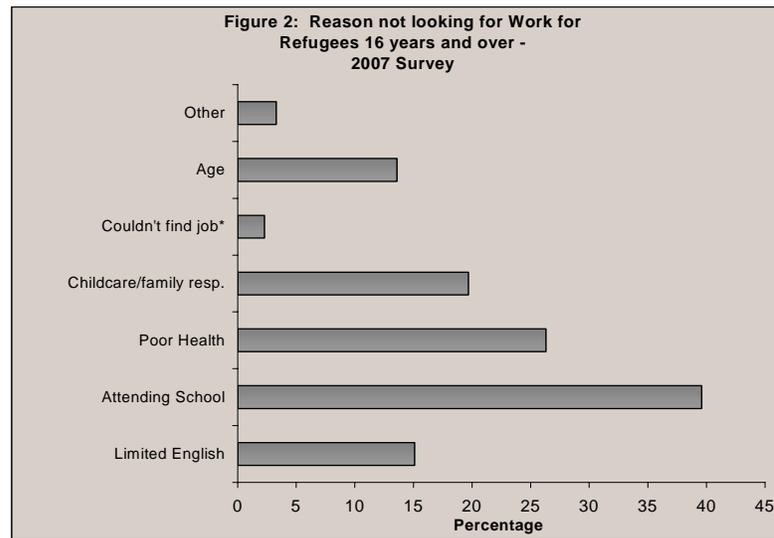
Employment Measure	Africa	Eastern Europe	Latin America	Middle East	S.E. Asia	Former Soviet Union	All
Employment Rate (EPR)	47.2%	72.1%	74.5%	55.7%	48.9%	50.8%	56.8%
-Males	53.2	71.2	78.6	59.3	60.0	61.4	63.7
-Females	41.6	73.0	70.1	52.8	37.8	40.5	50.2
Worked at any point since arrival	54.5	77.5	83.1	61.8	53.5	62.3	64.8
-Males	60.1	76.9	84.9	63.5	62.2	72.3	70.4
-Females	49.2	78.1	81.2	60.4	44.7	52.5	59.3
Labor Force Participation Rate	56.2	73.7	80.8	60.9	54.8	58.1	64.0
-Males	60.8	72.8	85.8	65.1	64.9	69.1	70.5
-Females	51.9	74.4	75.7	57.6	44.7	47.5	57.6
Unemployment Rate	15.9	2.1	7.9	8.6	10.7	12.5	11.2
-Males	12.4	2.3	8.3	8.9	7.5	11.0	9.8
-Females	19.7	2.0	7.4	8.3	15.4	14.7	12.9

Note: As of December 2007. Not seasonally adjusted. Data refer to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the years 2002-2007.

Reasons for Not Looking for Work

The survey also asked refugees age 16 and over who were not employed why they were not looking for employment (refer to Figure 2). Attending school accounted for the largest proportion (39.6 percent), with an associated median age of 17 years. Poor health accounted for the second largest proportion (26.3 percent), with an associated median age of 54. Child Care/Other Family Responsibilities accounted for another 19.7 percent, with an associated median age of 31.

Furthermore, of those citing Child Care/Other Family Responsibilities, 76 percent were under the age of 40, and 98 percent were female. Limited English accounted for 15.1 percent of those in the survey who reported not looking for work, with an associated median age of 54. About 2.3 percent of refugees surveyed reported not finding a job, with an associated median age of 37.



Note: Limited to refugees who did not work in previous year and are not looking for work at the time of the survey. Note: "Couldn't find job" represents response categories "Believes no work available" and "couldn't find job."

Work Experience in the Previous Year

A gauge of economic adjustment that shows a longer time frame than *employment status* (which only relates to employment during the week prior to the survey) is work experience, which measures not only the number of weeks worked in the past year, but the usual number of hours worked in a week.

As with employment status, the proportion of refugees with some work experience in the past year tends to increase with length of time in U.S. Table II-5 shows that less than half (45.8 percent) of the survey respondents who arrived in 2007 had worked in the year before the survey, compared with 61.7 percent of those who arrived in 2006. Refugee respondents who arrived in 2002-2003 recorded somewhat high rates of employment in the year prior to the survey, 68.3 percent and 69.1 percent.

Refugees who had worked in the year prior to the survey averaged 40.9 weeks of employment during that period (refer to Table II-5). This is consistent with findings from the previous surveys. Workers reported an average of 42 weeks of work in the 2006 survey and 43 weeks in the 2005 survey. The most recent (2007) arrivals averaged 14.1 weeks of work during the previous 12 months. In contrast, the 2006 arrivals reported an average of 34.0 weeks and the 2002 arrivals reported an average of 46.1 weeks.

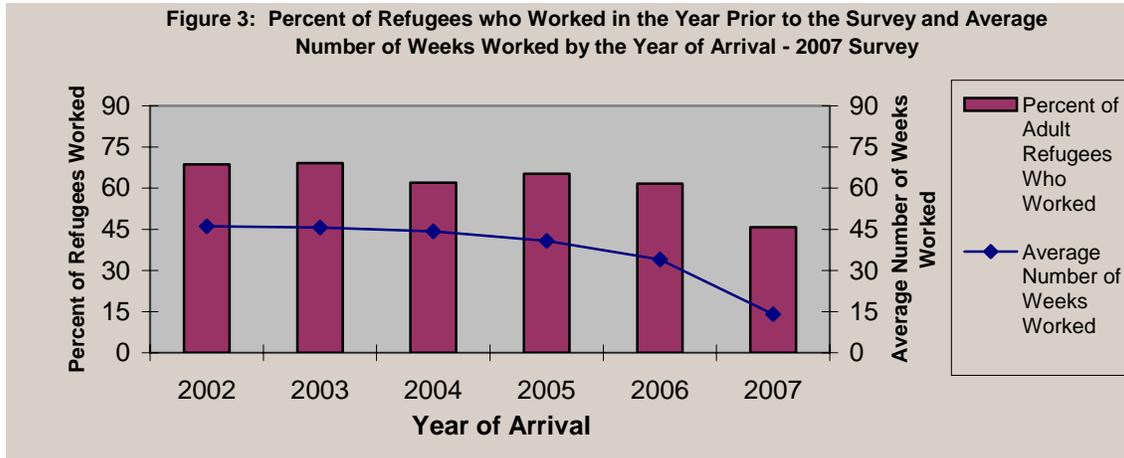
Table II-5: Work Experience of Adult Refugees in the 2007 Survey By Year of Arrival

	Number	Percent Distribution
Total Refugees 16 years and older	5,223	100.0
Worked*	3,290	63.0
50-52 weeks	1,691	32.4
Full-time	2,437	74.1**
Average weeks worked	40.9	
2007 arrivals	446	100.0
Worked	204	45.8
50-52 weeks	10	2.3
Full-time	136	66.5**
Average weeks worked	14.1	
2006 arrivals	986	100.0
Worked	609	61.7
50-52 weeks	149	15.1
Full-time	431	70.8**
Average weeks worked	34.0	
2005 arrivals	870	100.0
Worked	567	65.2
50-52 weeks	311	35.7
Full-time	444	78.3**
Average weeks worked	40.8	
2004 arrivals	1,435	100.0
Worked	890	62.0
50-52 weeks	551	38.4
Full-time	684	76.8**
Average weeks worked	44.2	
2003 arrivals	837	100.0
Worked	578	69.1
50-52 weeks	385	46.0
Full-time	431	74.5**
Average weeks worked	45.6	
2002 arrivals	647	100.0
Worked	442	68.3
50-52 weeks	284	43.8
Full-time	313	70.6**
Average weeks worked	46.1	

*Refugees who worked in the year prior to the survey.

**Among refugees who worked in the previous year.

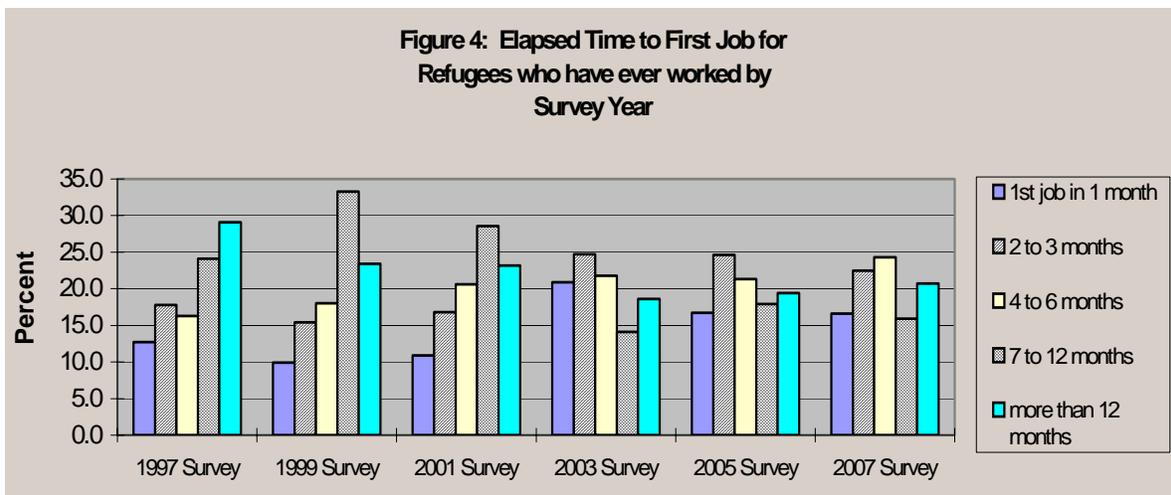
***As of December, 2007.



Elapsed Time to First Job

How soon do refugees find work after coming to the U.S.? The 2007 survey indicates that of those respondents who have worked at all since coming to the U.S. (63.0 percent of refugees 16 years old and over in the survey), 16.6 percent found work within one month of arrival, another 22.5 percent within the first three months, and another 24.3 percent within six months. Twenty-one percent found their first job more than 12 months after arrival (refer to Figure 4).

This represents a moderate pace of adjustment to the American job market and part of an ongoing improvement over the past decade. In the 1997 survey, for example, only 46.8 percent of job placements occurred in the first six months after arrival, compared with 63.4 percent in the 2007 sample. The percentage taking more than a year to find first employment has similarly declined over the past decade. In the 2007 survey, only 20.7 percent of respondents had not found their first job within 12 months of arrival. This compares with the much longer time needed in 1997, when 29.1 percent of job placement occurred after the first twelve months.



Factors Affecting Employment

Achieving economic self-sufficiency depends on the employment prospects of adult refugees, which hinges on a mixture of factors including transferable skills, family size and composition (e.g., number of dependents to support), job opportunities, and the resources available in the communities in which refugees resettle. The occupational and educational skills that refugees bring with them to the U.S. also influence their prospects for self-sufficiency, as can cultural factors.

In the 1993 survey, 24 percent of refugees in the five-year population had not earned a degree, even from primary school, at the time of arrival. In the 2006 survey, the proportion without a primary school degree had dropped slightly to 21.1 percent (Table II-6). In this year's survey, the average number of years of education for all arrivals was approximately nine. The average years of education among ethnic groups ranged from a high of 12.2 for the Latin American population to a low of 6.3 for Southeast Asian population. Among refugees from the former Soviet Union and Latin America, only 3.3 and 4.3 percent respectively of the adult refugees in the survey sample had failed to complete primary grades.

The educational achievement of two ethnic groups was noticeably weaker than average in this survey year. Forty-one and a half percent of refugees from Southeast Asia in the five-year survey population had less than a primary school education at the time of arrival, while 38.8 percent of African refugees had similar levels of education. The very low educational achievement of the Southeast Asian refugee group was driven by the Hmong group from Laos who came to the U.S. between May 2004 and April 2005. On average, the educational background of Hmong survey respondents consisted of only about 2.1 years of education, compared with 9.1 years for all other refugee groups. Nearly three quarters (73 percent) of Hmong adults surveyed had not finished primary school compared to 21 percent of the non-Hmong refugees in the survey. Only 8.2 percent of the Hmong survey respondents reported educational achievement higher than primary school compared to 58.6 percent among non-Hmong refugee survey respondents. These data reflect the extremely difficult conditions and very poor educational opportunities available to this group due to their confinement in refugee camps for a long period of time.

Forty-five percent of refugees in the five-year sample population had completed a secondary or technical school degree or higher. Seventy-two percent of refugee respondents from Latin America had completed a secondary or technical school degree or higher, compared with 63.7 percent of those from the former Soviet Union, 46.6 percent of those from the Middle East, and 38.9 percent of those from Eastern Europe. Refugees from Africa (22.2 percent) and East Asia (17.5 percent) were least likely to have completed a secondary or technical school degree or higher.

The 1993 survey revealed that 19 percent of refugee respondents had earned a college or university degree (including a medical degree) prior to arrival in the U.S. By the time of the 2007 survey, this proportion had slipped to 8.2 percent. Refugees from Latin America claimed the largest proportion of refugees with advanced degrees (17.3 percent). Twenty-four percent of refugees surveyed in 2007 continued their education toward a degree after arrival in the U.S.

It should be noted that even though the survey asks about years of schooling and the highest degree obtained prior to coming to the U.S., the correlation between years of schooling and degrees or certifications among different countries is not necessarily the same. Consequently, some degree of caution is necessary when interpreting education statistics.

**TABLE II-6: Education and English Proficiency Characteristics of Selected Refugee Groups
2007 Survey**

Education and Language Proficiency	Africa	Eastern Europe	Latin America	Middle East	East Asia	Former Soviet Union	All
Average Years of Education before U.S.	6.6	9.4	12.2	9.6	6.3	10.3	9.1
Highest Degree before U.S.							
None	38.8%	16.6%	4.3%	15.1%	41.5%	3.3%	21.2%
Primary School	24.7	30.7	13.4	21.7	18.1	21.4	20.2
Training in Refugee Camp	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	1.5	0.4	0.3
Technical School	2.0	3.9	16.4	2.4	0.0	17.4	8.7
Secondary School (or High School)	17.5	30.4	38.1	32.6	15.0	35.4	27.4
University Degree (Other than Medical)	2.7	4.6	14.9	10.5	2.3	7.5	7.4
Medical Degree	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.8
Other	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1	0.2	2.7	0.6
Attended School/University (since U.S.)	33.8	25.7	9.6	47.5	20.4	23.5	24.1
Attendance School/University (since U.S.) for degree/certificate							
High School	22.1	13.5	5.2	17.6	10.8	13.8	14.1
Associates Degree	7.1	5.0	0.4	9.1	1.1	5.2	4.2
Bachelor's Degree	3.8	2.7	1.2	17.5	2.1	0.9	3.0
Master's/Doctorate	0.1	1.2	0.1	2.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
Professional Degree	0.4	0.4	1.4	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.2
Degree Received	1.3	3.5	0.9	5.4	0.0	2.6	1.6
At Time of Arrival							
Percent Speaking no English	35.5	68.8	70.3	47.1	65.4	76.4	57.7
Percent Not Speaking English Well	29.8	13.2	16.3	29.4	18.7	11.4	20.9
Percent Speaking English Well or Fluently	24.3	4.6	5.0	8.5	2.6	2.7	11.0
At Time of Survey							
Percent Speaking no English	7.0	10.1	35.3	6.0	38.6	10.6	19.2
Percent Not Speaking English Well	22.7	39.1	36.9	17.7	38.9	50.2	33.8
Percent Speaking English Well or Fluently	68.9	50.1	27.2	75.2	19.7	38.0	45.7
Note: Data refer to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population in the Annual Survey of Refugees, consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the years 2002-2007. These figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees. Professional degree refers to a law degree or medical degree.							

The 2007 survey shows that many refugees had made solid progress in learning English. Fifty-seven percent of the refugees in the 2007 survey reported speaking no English when they arrived in the U.S. (Table II-6). At the time of arrival, majorities from Latin America (70.3 percent), the former Soviet Union (76.4 percent), Southeast Asia (65.4 percent), and Eastern Europe (68.8 percent) spoke no English. Forty-seven percent of refugee respondents from the Middle East spoke no English at the time of arrival. On the other hand, of the African refugees, only 35.5 percent spoke no English at the time of arrival. This relative English proficiency among African refugees stems from the recent increased flow of refugees from English-speaking African nations (such as Liberia).

English fluency improved considerably by the time of the survey interview, with only 19.2 percent of all refugees speaking no English. Seventy-five percent of the Middle East refugees spoke fluently by the time of the interview, followed closely by refugees from Africa (68.9 percent) and Eastern Europe (50.1 percent). Overall, about 45.7 percent of respondents spoke English fluently at the time of the survey.

Some refugees, however, had failed to make significant progress in this important skill. By the time of the interview, 38.6 percent of refugee respondents from East Asia still spoke no English, followed by Latin America (35.3), the former Soviet Union (10.6 percent), Eastern Europe (10.1), Africa (7 percent), and the Middle East (6 percent). Latin American refugees may have continued as monolingual speakers because a large portion of Cuban refugees and entrants reside in south Florida, where English fluency is not always required for employment.

Further analysis revealed that the low fluency of the Southeast Asian refugee respondents may have been driven in part by the low fluency of the Hmong tribesmen from Laos who arrived in great numbers during the survey year. Only 7.5 percent of Hmong refugees spoke English fluently at the time of arrival in the U.S. compared with 11 percent of non-Hmong refugees. Upon arrival, 82.5 percent of the Hmong refugees spoke no English at all compared with 57.7 percent of non-Hmong refugees.

The ability to speak English is one of the most important factors influencing the economic self-sufficiency of refugees (refer to Table II-7). Slightly less than half (45.7 percent) of all refugees indicated that they spoke English well or fluently (at the time of the 2007 survey). Another 33.8 percent indicated that they did not speak English well, while 19.2 percent reported that they spoke no English at all.

There was a significant difference in the employment rate among refugees with different levels of English fluency. Those speaking English well or fluently at the time of the survey had an EPR of 62.5 percent while those speaking no English had an EPR of only 26.9 percent. Historically, most refugees improve their English proficiency over time. Those who do not are the least likely to be employed.

During the past 12 months, 26.1 percent of all adult refugees attended English Language Training (ELT) outside of high school (Table II-8). The attendance rates for the different refugee groups ranged from 5.4 percent (Eastern Europe) to 39.9 percent (East Asia). For the same period, the proportion of refugee respondents who have attended job-training classes (5.5 percent) lags far behind ELT (26.1 percent). Almost eight percent of Latin American refugee respondents attended job training since arrival, while none of the other refugee groups attended job training at a rate higher than six percent.

Table II-7: English Proficiency and Associated EPR By Year of Arrival – 2007 Survey			
Year of Arrival	Percent Speaking No English (EPR)	Percent Not Speaking English Well (EPR)	Percent Speaking English Well or Fluently (EPR)
At Time of Arrival			
2007	55.6 (38.7)	33.4 (46.1)	9.9 (47.5)
2006	65.7 (62.4)	22.1 (39.0)	8.0(84.6)
2005	58.0 (59.1)	16.9 (51.3)	11.3(55.6)
2004	55.3 (51.3)	19.5 (68.4)	12.3 (73.0)
2003	52.8 (61.4)	18.3 (70.5)	16.7 (70.3)
2002	58.3(66.5)	22.2 (67.5)	6.0 (54.7)
Total Sample	57.7 (57.3)	20.9 (57.3)	11.0 (67.8)
At Time of Survey			
2007	28.8(26.9)	41.3 (38.2)	29.8 (62.5)
2006	25.4 (70.6)	35.3 (57.2)	38.8 (52.4)
2005	16.9 (49.5)	36.1 (59.7)	44.3 (54.9)
2004	20.9 (32.5)	30.5 (60.4)	47.4 (62.6)
2003	11.3 (47.4)	29.1 (65.6)	58.6 (63.9)
2002	12.7 (50.3)	36.7 (68.1)	48.4 (62.5)
Total Sample	19.2 (46.7)	33.8 (59.1)	45.7 (60.0)
Note: As of December 2007. Not seasonally adjusted. Data refers to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the years 2002-2007. These figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees.			

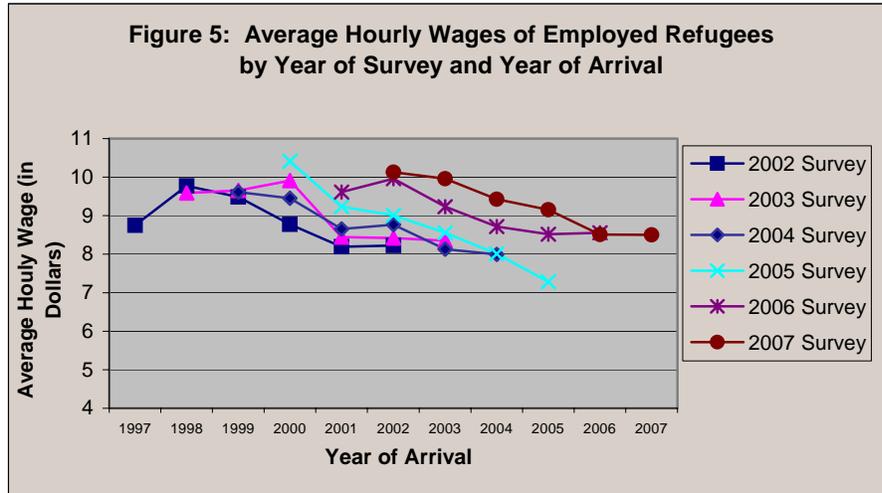
TABLE II-8 – Service Utilization by Selected Refugee Groups and for Year of Arrival – 2007 Survey

Type of Service Utilization	Africa	Eastern Europe	Latin America	Middle East	East Asia	Former Soviet Union	All
ELT since arrival Inside High School	18.6%	8.1%	5.1%	5.5%	7.3%	15.1%	11.9%
ELT since arrival Outside of High School	25.7	5.4	24.8	13.6	39.9	27.0	26.1
Job training since arrival	5.5	1.2	7.6	2.4	5.1	4.2	5.5
Currently attending ELT Inside High School	18.6	8.1	5.1	5.5	7.3	15.1	11.9
Currently attending ELT Outside of High School	14.4	3.5	8.7	9.1	19.0	13.5	12.6
Type of Service Utilization by Year of Arrival	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	All
ELT since arrival Inside High School	9.0%	12.6%	10.9%	14.9%	15.4%	4.3%	11.9%
ELT since arrival Outside of High School	12.4	14.3	26.8	22.7	34.7	53.6	26.1
Job training since arrival	3.8	5.0	3.8	6.5	8.9	5.2	5.5
Currently attending ELT Inside High School	9.0	12.6	10.9	14.9	15.4	4.3	11.9
Currently attending ELT Outside of High School	5.1	8.6	13.5	10.7	15.0	26.4	12.6
Note: Data refer to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees on all nationalities who arrived in the years 2002-2007. In order that English language training (ELT) not is confused with English high school instruction, statistics for both populations are given.							

Earnings and Utilization of Public Assistance

The earnings of employed refugees generally rise with length of residence in the U.S. (refer to Table II-9). The average hourly wage was \$8.50 for the 2007 arrivals in the survey and \$10.13 for the 2001 arrivals (a 19 percent gain). The overall hourly wage of employed refugees in the five-year survey population was \$9.30. This represents a three percent drop in real (inflation-adjusted) wages from the overall average rate in the 2005 survey (\$8.80; \$9.59 adjusted) and a 15.5 percent drop from the 2002 survey year, where respondents reported an adjusted overall hourly wage of \$9.37 (\$11.00 adjusted for inflation).⁹

⁹ The average hourly pay for all full-time workers in the U.S. in 2003 was \$18.09.



**TABLE II-9: Hourly Wages, Home Ownership, and Self-Sufficiency by Year of Arrival
2007 Survey**

Year of Arrival	Hourly Wages of Employed - Current Job	Own Home or Apartment	Rent Home or Apartment	Public Assistance Only	Both Public Assistance and Earnings	Earnings Only
2007	\$8.50	31.3%	64.2%	15.7%	47.9%	21.2%
2006	8.51	14.3%	84.7%	7.9%	33.4%	57.3%
2005	9.15	3.5	94.8	7.5	14.1	77.5
2004	9.43	11.1	86.7	14.0	20.4	62.7
2003	9.96	18.7	81.2	8.4	13.0	74.6
2002	10.13	29.7	68.6	8.2	14.3	72.8
Total Sample	9.30	15.5	82.9	10.1	21.8	64.5

Note: Data refers to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the years 2002-2007. These figures refer to self-reported characteristics of refugees.

Another way of looking at these earnings data is to follow refugees who arrived in the same year over a period of time. For example, the average hourly wage for 2002 arrivals was \$9.01 in the 2002 survey, \$8.45 in the 2003 survey, \$8.77 in the 2004 survey, \$9.00 in the 2005 survey, \$9.96 in the 2006 survey, and \$10.13 in the 2007 survey (none of these figures adjusted for inflation). The initial high hourly rate in the 2002 survey was largely due to the fact that the number of 2002 arrivals sampled in that year was extremely small including only those that arrived between January 1 and April 30, 2002; and the fact that 2002 arrivals were mostly from the former Soviet Union with a relatively high level of education. That being considered, the data clearly indicated that the average hourly wage for the 2002 arrivals increased steadily over time, from \$8.45 in the 2003 survey to \$10.06 in the 2007 survey.

There appears to be a positive relationship between English proficiency and average hourly wage at the time of the survey. From the 2007 survey, the overall hourly wage of employed refugees who spoke English well or fluently at the time of the survey was an average of \$9.40, compared to \$9.36 for refugees who did not speak English well, and \$8.80 for refugees who did not speak English at all. Upon closer examination, refugees who spoke English well or fluently at the time of the survey accounted for 51 percent of the refugees who were paid over \$7.50 per hour, compared to 36 percent of refugees who did not speak English well, and 13 percent of refugees who did not speak English at all.

Table II-10 details the economic self-sufficiency of the five-year sample population. According to the 2007 survey, 64.5 percent of all refugee households in the U.S. achieved economic self-sufficiency, relying only on earnings for their needs. This is an increase from 2006, when 62 percent of respondents were self-sufficient, but is slightly lower than the self-sufficiency rates reported in 2004 (71 percent) and 2005 (68.5 percent). An additional 21.8 percent had achieved partial independence, with household income a mix of earnings and public assistance.

For another 10.1 percent of refugee households, however, cash income in 2007 consisted entirely of public assistance. The 2007 survey findings regarding the Public Assistance Only category reflect an increase from the 2005 survey (9.0 percent), but a slight decrease from the rate in the 2006 survey (10.7 percent). Hourly wages, homeownership, and self-sufficiency for the most recent seven surveys are contained in Table II-10. While there are year-to-year fluctuations because of the different mix of refugee demographics and skill levels, economic self-sufficiency tends to increase with the length of residence in the U.S., most noticeably within the first two years (Table II-9).

Overall, 15.5 percent of refugees interviewed in the 2007 survey reported homeownership, down slightly from 17.3 percent in 2006. Homeownership appears to increase with the length of stay in the United States with the exception of the 2007 arrivals; nearly one third (31 percent) of the refugees who entered the United States in 2007 reported homeownership (Table II-9). This anomalous result may be attributable to the fact that, among those 2007 arrivals reporting homeownership, over three quarters (77 percent) came from Latin America. Many of these might have come to join their relatives who had settled here earlier.

Table II-11 details several types of household characteristics by income. Households receiving only public assistance average three members and no wage earners, while those with a mix of earnings and assistance income average 4.7 members and 1.5 wage earners. Households that receive no public assistance generally contained 1.7 wage-earners. It is noteworthy that the Public Assistance Only category had the smallest percentage of households with children. There appears to be a negative correlation between the number of households with children and the number of households utilizing public assistance only. This negative correlation may be due to the high proportion of Public Assistance Only households that consist of aged refugees receiving Supplemental Security Income.

English language proficiency was lowest in welfare dependent households in the survey. Only 11.0 percent of these households contained one or more persons fluent in English. In contrast, about 19.1 percent of households with a mix of earnings and assistance reported at least one fluent English speaker. Thirty percent of households that lived on their earnings only reported at least one fluent English speaker. Again, the relationship between English language proficiency and income seems to suggest that refugees are more likely to be self-sufficient when they are proficient in English.

TABLE II-10: Average Hourly Wages, Home Ownership, and Public Assistance by Survey Year

Year of Survey	Average Hourly Wages of Employed	Own Home or Apartment	Rent Home or Apartment	Public Assistance Only	Both Public Assistance and Earnings	Earnings Only
2007 Survey	\$9.30	15.5%	82.9%	10.1%	21.8%	64.5%
2006 Survey	9.12	17.3	78.0	10.7	23.1	62.0
2005 Survey	8.8	20.2	78.4	9.0	17.9	68.5
2004 Survey	8.9	17.4	79.4	7.4	18.2	71.0
2003 Survey	9.2	18.7	79.0	9.3	19.6	61.6
2002 Survey	9.4	13.4	85.7	8.7	18.7	68.8

Note: As of December 2007, December 2006, October 2005, October 2004, October 2003, and October 2002. Earnings figures are not adjusted for inflation. Data refer to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees of all nationalities who were interviewed as a part of the 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, and 2002 surveys.

Table II-11: Characteristics of Households by Type of Income – 2007 Survey

Refugee Households with:

Household Characteristics	Public Assistance Only	Both Public Assistance and Earnings	Earnings Only	Total Sample
Average Household Size	3.17	4.73	4.25	4.12
Average Number of wage earners per household*	0.0	1.53	1.68	1.41
Percent of households with at least one member:				
Under the age of 6	13.6%	31.5%	31.2%	29.3%
Under the age of 16	42.5	66.3	65.0	62.4
Fluent English Speaker **	11.0	19.1	29.7	24.8

*Data refer to refugee households of refugees who arrived in the years 2002-2007. Refugee households with neither earnings nor assistance are excluded.
 ** English fluency at time of the survey.

Medical Coverage

Overall, 24.6 percent of adult refugees in the 2007 survey lacked medical coverage of any kind throughout the year preceding the survey (Table II-12). Lack of medical coverage varied widely among the six refugee groups, with 6.6 percent of Eastern European refugee respondents reporting no medical coverage at any point in the past 12 months and 40.0 percent of the respondents from Latin America reporting no medical coverage during the same period of time.

The 2007 survey revealed that only 18.5 percent of refugee families had obtained medical coverage through an employer, a drop from the rate found in the 2006 survey (21.1 percent). This continues a trend which has seen employment-related coverage decrease dramatically by more than two-thirds over the past six years, from a high of 68.8 percent in the 2002 survey (Table II-13). Refugees in the 2007 survey from Eastern Europe were the most likely to have medical coverage through employment (59.9 percent), followed by Latin American refugees (18.6 percent), African refugees (17.9 percent), and refugees from the former Soviet Union (17.8 percent).

These findings are consistent with the associated EPR for each refugee group excluding Latin America, which had a relatively high EPR (74.5 percent) and a low percentage of refugees who received insurance coverage through their employer (18.6 percent). This suggests that although refugees from Latin America are employed, they may not be eligible or have not been extended medical benefits through their employer. Medical coverage through Medicaid or RMA continues to increase. Public medical coverage of refugees increased from 33 to 44 percent between 2001 and 2006, with a slight drop to 39.1 percent in the 2007 survey. This finding is consistent with the EPR for 2007 which showed a decreased employment rate of 56.8 percent versus 63 percent in the 2004 survey.

Medical coverage through Medicaid or RMA varied widely between refugee groups. Coverage was highest for Africa (51.7 percent), the Middle East (46.8 percent), former Soviet Union (40.9 percent), and East Asia (36.4 percent), and lowest for Latin America (23.6 percent) and Eastern Europe (26.3 percent). In general, medical coverage through employment appeared to increase with time in the U.S., and medical coverage through government aid programs declines with time in the U.S. This is illustrated by the 2007 survey (see Table II-12).

While 2007 arrivals reported a very high utilization rate for Medicaid and RMA in their first year (53.8 percent), this rate declined for refugees who arrived in previous years (except for 2006, where refugee respondents had a Medicaid or RMA utilization rate of 57.2 percent), with utilization declining to 26.6 percent for 2002 arrivals. Only 4.7 percent of 2007 arrivals reported medical coverage through an employer in the 2006 survey. This rate rose steadily with the length of stay in the U.S., but did not exceed one-third for any cohort, even for 2002 arrivals.

Thirteen percent of the most recent (2007) arrivals reported no coverage of any type during the past year, due to their eligibility for the Medicaid and Refugee Medical Assistance programs which cover almost all refugees during the early months after arrival. This was still an increase from nine percent of recent arrivals in the 2006 survey. Eligibility for needs-based medical programs is not available for long, however, and the number of individuals not covered quickly rises as refugees exhaust their eligibility and begin employment, often without medical benefits. In the 2007 survey, the number of refugees without coverage exceeded one quarter for groups arriving in 2005 and earlier years.

TABLE II-12: Source of Medical Coverage for Selected Refugee Groups and for Year of Arrival – 2007 Survey

Source of Medical Coverage	Africa	Eastern Europe	Latin America	Middle East	East Asia	Former Soviet Union	All
No Medical Coverage in any of past 12 months	17.0%	6.6%	40.0%	29.7%	20.8%	19.5%	24.6%
Medical Coverage through employer	17.9	59.9	18.6	16.4	11.7	17.8	18.5
Medicaid or RMA	51.7	26.3	23.6	46.8	36.4	40.9	39.1
Source of Medical Coverage by Year of Arrival	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	All
No Medical Coverage in any of the past 12 months	29.0%	31.5%	26.5%	28.8%	14.7%	13.3%	24.6%
Medical Coverage through Employer	32.5	28.1	18.8	14.5	10.6	4.7	18.5
Medicaid or RMA	26.6	27.5	32.2	43.2	57.2	53.8	39.1

Note: As of December 2007. Data refer to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the years 2002-2007.

TABLE II-13: Source of Medical Coverage for Selected Refugee Groups by Year of Survey

Year of Survey	Africa	Eastern Europe	Latin America	Middle East	East Asia	Former Soviet Union	All
No Medical Coverage in any of past 12 months							
2007 Survey	17.0%	6.6%	40.0%	29.7%	20.8%	19.5%	24.6%
2006 Survey	16.9	7.3	33.5	15.6	18.9	13.2	20.4
2005 Survey	16.6	12.8	35.0	18.2	19.5	16.4	21.5
2004 Survey	11.8	17.3	40.4	21.3	9.9	3.8	17.9
2003 Survey	12.6	10.8	32.0	0.0	33.3	5.4	16.1
2002 Survey	15.5	13.4	38.8	24.7	0.0	11.7	17.4
Medical Coverage through Employer							
2007 Survey	17.9%	59.9%	18.6%	16.4%	11.7%	17.8%	18.5%
2006 Survey	22.7	33.3	22.4	14.2	12.3	20.4	21.1
2005 Survey	23.2	50.1	20.8	10.1	16.0	17.2	21.5
2004 Survey	46.5	56.6	15.1	18.1	43.7	13.5	33.1
2003 Survey	42.2	56.4	27.7	2.4	8.7	14.7	29.9
2002 Survey	68.0	60.8	40.6	74.7	97.6	88.0	68.8
Medicaid or RMA							
2007 Survey	51.7%	26.3%	23.6%	46.8%	36.4%	40.9%	39.1%
2006 Survey	49.4	21.1	26.9	47.9	52.1	63.4	44.0
2005 Survey	46.5	13.8	27.3	41.4	56.7	46.3	39.3
2004 Survey	25.8	17.4	19.2	48.7	44.7	53.3	31.3
2003 Survey	23.8	21.1	19.2	88.9	28.6	63.4	36.3
2002 Survey	31.2	19.5	26.1	60.8	11.2	61.4	34.6

Note: As of December 2007, October 2006, October 2005, October 2004, October 2003, and October 2002. Not seasonally adjusted. Data refer to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees of all nationalities who were interviewed as a part of the 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, and 2002 surveys.

Refugee Welfare Utilization

As in previous years, welfare utilization varied considerably among refugee groups. Table II-14 presents welfare utilization data on the households of the six refugee groups formed from the survey respondents.

Non-cash assistance was generally higher than cash assistance, probably because Medicaid, food stamp, and housing assistance programs, though available to cash assistance households, are also available more broadly to households without children. Nearly half (49.3 percent) of the refugee households reported receiving food stamps in the previous 12 months, and 51.5 percent accessed Medicaid or RMA. Food stamp utilization was lowest among the Eastern European respondents (18.4 percent) but varied quite a bit among the groups, with the highest utilization rates for Southeast Asian refugees (60.9 percent), Former Soviet Union (58.1 percent), and African refugees (57.5 percent).

In the 2007 survey, 25.0 percent of refugee households reported that they receive housing assistance, up significantly from the previous surveys, which averaged ten percent excluding 2003, when the rate was 15 percent. Housing assistance for refugee groups showed similar diversity as with other measures—as low as 4.5 percent for Latin Americans and as high as 56.8 percent for refugees from the Middle East (up dramatically for this group from the 2006 survey, when the rate was 21 percent). Other groups of respondents averaged use of housing assistance of between 25 and 40 percent.

Table II-14 also reveals that 31.9 percent of refugee households surveyed in 2007 had received some kind of cash assistance in at least one of the previous 12 months. This is an increase of seven percent from the 2005 survey, and approximately 10 percent from 2002 to 2004. Overall, receipt of any cash assistance was highest for refugee respondents from Southeast Asia (59.4 percent) and the Middle East (47.8 percent) and lowest for Latin America (22.1 percent), Eastern Europe (28.2 percent), and Africa (29 percent).¹⁰

About five percent of all refugee households had received TANF in the 12 months prior to the survey, which was identical to the rate reported in the 2005 and 2006 surveys. Utilization of TANF ranged from a high of 31 percent for refugees from Southeast Asia to a low of 0.7 percent for Latin America. Utilization was 1.2 percent for Eastern Europe and 1.6 percent for the Former Soviet Union.¹¹ Nearly fourteen percent of sampled households received RCA in 2007, seven percentage points higher than in 2005.

Over fifteen percent of the refugee households surveyed had at least one household member who had received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in the 12 months prior to the survey, which is similar to that of 2006 and seven points lower than 1998, probably due to the decrease in arrivals from the former Soviet Union. Utilization of SSI varies largely in relation to the number of refugees over age 65, and refugee families from the former Soviet Union have historically included aged and retired household members who are eligible for SSI.

¹⁰ Caution must be exercised when reviewing refugee declarations of welfare utilization. These are self-reported data and the questions asked are subject to wide variation in interpretation by the respondent. The surveys are conducted in the refugee's native language, and certain technical terms which distinguish types of income do not translate well into foreign languages. Refugees readily admit to receiving "welfare" or "assistance", but they are frequently confused about the correct category. Past surveys have found that refugee households are very accurate in reporting Supplemental Security Income (SSI) because their claims are handled by the Social Security Administration. However, RCA, TANF, and GA cases are all handled by the local county welfare office and are not clearly distinguished from each other by the refugee family. Over the years, we have noted that many refugees claim RCA many years after arrival even though the program is confined to the first eight months in the U.S., claim receipt of TANF even though they have no children, or claim receipt of general relief even though they reside in States that do not provide such assistance, such as Florida or Texas.

¹¹ **The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** program was created by Congress in 1996 to provide cash assistance to needy families with children, replacing the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program.

Refugee households surveyed in 2007 from the Middle East (40.9 percent) and Southeast Asia (37.3 percent) were found to utilize SSI most often. In the 2007 survey, six percent of the refugees who came from the former Soviet Union in the past five years were aged 65 or over, compared with two percent of the refugees from Latin America, and three percent of the refugees from Eastern Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. The median age for the six refugee groups (16 years of age and older) ranged from a low of 27 years for Africa to 37 years for Latin America.

General Assistance (GA, also called General Relief or Home Relief in some States) is a form of cash assistance funded entirely with State or local funds. It generally provides assistance to single persons, childless couples, and families with children that are not eligible for TANF. In general, reported use of this type of assistance was very low. The 2007 survey reported that only about two percent of refugee households received some form of GA during the past twelve months. Refugees from the Middle East showed the highest utilization rate (6.0 percent) followed by Africa (3.8 percent) and Eastern Europe (3.7 percent). Refugees from Southeast Asia did not utilize this type of assistance at all (0.3 percent).

The relationship between employment (Table II-4) and receipt of welfare (cash assistance, Table II-14) varied across refugee groups. Refugees from Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Africa showed relatively low welfare utilization and a high EPR (22 vs. 75 percent, 28 vs. 72 percent, and 29 vs. 47 percent, respectively).

Tables II-4 and II-14, when read together, illustrate that refugees from the former Soviet Union showed a relatively moderate cash assistance utilization rate (36.8 percent) and a higher employment rate (50.8 percent). Refugees from the Middle East showed a relatively high welfare utilization rate (47.8 percent) and a somewhat comparable EPR (55.7 percent). Latin American respondents had quite a high EPR (74.5 percent) and a corresponding lower cash assistance utilization rate (22.1 percent).

Type of Public Assistance	Africa	Eastern Europe	Latin America	Middle East	South East Asia	Former Soviet Union	All
Cash Assistance							
Any Type of Cash Assistance	29.0%	28.2%	22.1%	47.8%	59.4%	36.2%	31.9%
AFDC/TANF	2.8	1.2	0.7	6.0	31.0	1.6	4.8
RCA	11.3	2.5	19.2	16.1	5.7	13.4	13.7
SSI	13.2	23.3	2.2	40.9	37.3	23.4	15.3
General Assistance	3.8	3.7	0.3	6.0	0.9	1.3	2.0
Non-cash Assistance							
Medicaid or RMA	60.8	34.4	34.0	66.6	72.9	52.9	51.5
Food Stamps	57.5	18.4	37.1	34.8	60.9	58.1	49.3
Housing	38.4	27.7	4.5	56.8	33.1	25.1	25.0

Note: Data refers to refugee households in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees of all nationalities who arrived in the years 2002-2007. Medicaid and RMA data refer to adult refugees age 16 and over. All other data refer to refugee households and not individuals. Many households receive more than one type of assistance.

TABLE II-15: Public Assistance Utilization of Selected Refugee Groups by Year of Survey

Year Survey Administered	Africa	Eastern Europe	Latin America	Middle East	South East Asia	Former Soviet Union	All
<i>Any Type of Cash Assistance</i>							
2007 Survey	29.0%	28.2%	22.1%	47.8%	59.4%	36.2%	31.9%
2006 Survey	24.4	19.1	26.9	50.1	53.1	46.7	33.7
2005 Survey	22.1	18.9	16.0	44.1	34.7	41.8	26.8
2004 Survey	25.5	16.8	8.4	48.7	26.5	44.1	25.6
2003 Survey	24.3	21.5	21.9	9.5	49.0	50.1	28.9
2002 Survey	22.5	16.6	14.9	27.1	60.0	55.4	27.4
<i>Medicaid or RMA</i>							
2007 Survey	60.8%	34.4%	34.0%	66.6%	72.9%	52.9%	51.5%
2006 Survey	49.4	21.1	26.9	47.9	52.1	63.4	44.0
2005 Survey	46.5	13.8	27.3	41.4	56.7	46.3	39.3
2004 Survey	25.8	17.4	19.2	48.7	44.7	53.3	31.3
2003 Survey	23.8	21.1	19.2	88.9	28.6	63.4	36.3
2002 Survey	31.2	19.5	26.1	60.8	11.2	61.4	34.6
<i>Food Stamps</i>							
2007 Survey	57.5%	18.4%	37.1%	34.8%	60.9%	58.1%	49.3%
2006 Survey	55.7	14.7	48.3	56.0	78.5	61.1%	54.9
2005 Survey	60.7	25.4	45.2	53.5	65.6	58.8	52.7
2004 Survey	39.6	19.4	32.9	51.0	56.2	61.0	40.6
2003 Survey	45.4	27.8	37.6	32.5	73.2	62.0	46.4
2002 Survey	35.6	22.5	28.6	47.5	17.8	54.0	33.5
<i>Public Housing</i>							
2007 Survey	38.4%	27.7%	4.5%	56.8%	33.1%	25.1%	25.0%
2006 Survey	24.9	25.0	10.8	20.6	25.2	25.3	20.5
2005 Survey	15.7	2.2	6.6	12.9	12.6	16.3	11.4
2004 Survey	26.6	1.9	5.9	16.6	5.5	11.9	12.3
2003 Survey	24.8	6.8	3.8	2.4	51.6	27.5	14.9
2002 Survey	23.5	7.3	6.4	1.3	0.0	22.7	11.7

Note: Data refer to refugee households in the five-year sample population consisting of Amerasians, Entrants, and Refugees of all nationalities who were interviewed as a part of the 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, and 2002 surveys. Medicaid and RMA data refer to adult refugees age 16 and over. All other data refer to refugee households and not individuals. Many households received more than one type of assistance.

Employment and Welfare Utilization Rates by State

The 2007 survey also reported welfare utilization and employment rate by State of residence. Table II-16 shows the EPR and utilization rates for various types of welfare for the top ten States with the largest number of refugees, as well as the nation as a whole. Table II-16 presents data on the number of individual refugees who resettled in each of the ten states, the EPR of refugees in the survey sample, and the reported welfare utilization by surveyed households. The EPR was generally high where welfare utilization was low and vice versa. Specifically, in States with a high refugee employment rate like Florida (75.8 percent), Texas (65.5 percent), and North Carolina (62.5 percent), welfare utilization among refugee households was low, at 19.9, 29.8, and 14.2 percent, respectively.

However, some States showed a high EPR and a high rate of welfare utilization. California (44.2 percent), had not only a relatively high EPR, but also relatively high welfare utilization rate – 65.3 percent.

California, Minnesota, and Oregon showed the highest proportion of TANF utilization (12.9, 21.6, and 11.6 percent, respectively). Oregon (29.3 percent), California (19.9 percent), and Texas (15.6 percent) showed the highest rate of RCA utilization.

California, followed by Minnesota and Washington, showed the highest rate of SSI utilization (41, 37.3, and 25.4 percent, respectively). Reported use of General Assistance was low, with New York having the highest rate (7.9 percent).

TABLE II-16: Employment-to-Population Ratio (EPR) and Welfare Dependency for Top Ten States – 2007 Survey

Percent of Individuals (vs. Households) on Welfare							
State	Arrivals* Individuals	EPR Individuals	AFDC/TANF Households	RCA Households	SSI Households	GA Households	Total** Households
Florida	(1,588)	75.8 %	0.5 %	17.1 %	2.3 %	0.4 %	19.9 %
California	(684)	44.2	12.9	19.9	41.0	6.4	65.3
Minnesota	(675)	25.9	21.6	14.6	37.3	5.1	64.2
Washington	(491)	47.2	1.5	9.7	25.4	1.2	34.1
Texas	(433)	65.5	0.0	15.6	10.5	3.6	29.8
New York	(381)	48.2	5.1	9.8	17.2	7.9	28.9
North Carolina	(314)	62.5	0.0	4.8	7.7	1.7	14.2
Pennsylvania	(252)	55.7	0.0	3.5	22.9	1.0	25.9
Oregon	(249)	42.2	11.6	29.3	12.3	0	53.2
Arizona	(236)	56.3	0.0	2.3	10.9	0.0	10.9
Other States	(2,545)	56.4	5.0	11.4	14.6	1.2	29.3
All States	(7,881)	56.8	4.8	13.7	15.3	2.0	31.9

*The State arrival figures are weighted sample total of individuals for the 2007 survey.
 **The column totals represent percent of individual households who received any combination of AFDC, RCA, SSI and/or GA.

Note: As of December 2007. Not seasonally adjusted. Welfare utilization refers to receipt of public assistance in at least one of the past twelve months. The listed utilization rate for each type of public assistance is in terms of individual households in which one or more persons (including minor children received such aid in the five-year sample population residing in that State. **Because some refugees have difficulty distinguishing between GA and AFDC/TANF, some GA utilization may reflect AFDC/TANF utilization.** For data on welfare utilization by household, see Table 14. Due to the small number of households in each state, except for the top three, estimates about the use of public assistance are subject to a considerable sampling error.

Conclusion

In summary, findings from ORR's 2007 survey indicate (as in previous years) that refugees face difficulties attaining self-sufficiency following arrival in the United States. In previous years, ORR reported that the data appeared to describe a process where refugees readily accepted entry level employment and moved relatively quickly toward economic self-sufficiency in their new country. Data also showed continued progress of most refugee households toward self-sufficiency, tied to factors such as education, English proficiency, and such characteristics as age at time of arrival and family support. Until 2005, surveys seemed to describe a consistent process of advancement, slow at first, and halting for some, but sustained, nevertheless, toward integration with the American mainstream.

While the 2007 survey data indicate that this type of integration and success continues to a great extent, particularly in the face of the enormous barriers to work faced by many refugee populations, the survey also reflects these populations' struggles. As in the 2006 survey, general labor force participation was relatively low and welfare utilization was relatively high (particularly among certain groups). The 2007 survey indicates that the educational achievement of the five-year population prior to arrival in the U.S. is substantially lower than that reported in surveys prior to 2006. Fewer refugees in the survey had finished high school upon arrival, and fewer still had finished a college degree. A shrinking proportion of arriving refugees in the survey spoke English fluently upon arrival and a higher proportion spoke no English at all. This has translated into lower labor force participation, as measured by the employment rate, which has retreated from 62 percent in the 2004 survey to 56.8 percent in the 2007 survey (a continued drop from 58 percent in the 2006 survey).

Moreover, the jobs that refugees find have lower wages than seen in previous surveys. This year the average wage of the refugees surveyed (\$9.30) declined about three percent from the 2005 survey average wage after considering the effects of inflation (and is more than a 15 percent drop from the 2002 average wage adjusted for inflation). Also of concern is the decline in employer-related health benefits: five years ago, two-thirds of respondents could claim such coverage; today, only one-fifth can make that claim.

Even with all the barriers and obstacles detailed above, refugees are entering the work force at a fairly high rate and still have employment and labor force participation rates not dramatically lower than the general U.S. population. The employment rate of the current five-year population has retreated to 56.8 percent this year, it had never reached a level that high until the 1999 survey. Refugee food stamp utilization is high, but there is no evidence of sustained welfare dependency developing among arriving refugee groups. The longer refugees in the survey sample were in the U.S., the lower their use of public assistance. Each survey since the inception of the program has documented that refugee family economic adjustment improves the longer a family lives in the U.S., and we expect this trend to continue in the future.

Technical Note: The ORR Annual Survey, with interviews conducted by DB Consulting Group, Inc. in the fall of 2007, is the 41st in a series conducted since 1975. Until 1993, the survey was limited to Southeast Asian refugees. A random sample was selected from the ORR Refugee Arrivals Data System. ORR's contractor, DB Consulting Group, Inc. contacted the family by a letter in English and a second letter in the refugee's native language. If the person sampled was a child, an adult living in the same household was interviewed. Interviews were conducted by telephone in the refugee's native language. The questionnaire and interview procedures were essentially the same between the 1981 survey and the 1992 survey, except that beginning in 1985 the sample was expanded to a five-year population consisting of refugees from Southeast Asia who had arrived over the most recent five years.

In 1993, the survey was expanded beyond the Southeast Asian refugee population to include refugee, Amerasian, and entrant arrivals from all regions of the world. Each year a random sample of new arrivals is identified and interviewed. In addition, refugees who had been included in the previous year's survey--but had not resided in the U.S. for more than five years--are again contacted and interviewed for the new survey. Thus, the survey continuously tracks the progress of a randomly selected sample of refugees over their initial five years in this country. This permits comparison of refugees arriving in different years, as well as provides information on the relative influence of experiential and environmental factors on refugee progress toward self-sufficiency across five years.

For the 2007 survey, a total of 1,205 households were successfully contacted and interviewed (an overall response rate of 36.6 percent). Refugees included in the 2007 survey sample who had not yet resided in the U.S. for five years were contacted again for re-interview along with a new sample of refugees, Amerasians, and entrants who had arrived between May 1, 2006 and April 30, 2007. Of the 2,423 re-interview households (those that had been surveyed in prior surveys) in the 2007 sample, 989 were contacted and interviewed, and 102 were contacted but refused to be interviewed. The remaining 1,332 re-interview households could not be traced in time to be interviewed. Of the 872 new sample households, 216 were contacted and interviewed, another eight were contacted, but refused to cooperate, and the remaining 648 could not be traced in time to be interviewed even after the replacement households were used. The resulting responses were then weighted according to year of entry and ethnic category.

Of the 1,332 re-interview households that could not be traced in time to be interviewed, 1,050 had wrong or disconnected phone numbers. Three sampled persons were deceased and nine had moved back to their native countries. The corresponding households were thus treated as out of scope and excluded from the denominator in calculating the response rate. Of the 648 new interview households that could not be traced in time to be interviewed, 36 households had wrong or disconnected phone numbers. No telephone numbers could be found for the remaining households due to limited background even after the replacement households were used.

III. Hmong Resettlement in the United States

In FY 2004, a group of approximately 15,000 Lao Hmong, who had been living in Thailand at the temple Wat Tham Krabok were approved for resettlement in the U.S. This was the final stage of their journey that began nearly 30 years ago in Laos during the U.S. war in Indochina. During the war, thousands of Hmong, a distinct highland ethnic group, fought for the U.S. and led efforts to conquer communists in Laos. Most of the Hmong refugees at Wat Tham Krabok had ties to the U.S. military and fled from Laos in the late 1970's and early 1980's, settling in various camps in Thailand. Most of these refugees were eligible for resettlement to the U.S. in the 1970's and 1980's, but many did not want to resettle, hopeful that they would soon be able to return to Laos.

In the early 1990's, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Thai government told the refugees that they had to choose between resettlement to a third country, or be returned to Laos. Many Hmong chose to remain in Thailand under the protection of a Buddhist monk at Wat Tham Krabok. It was his death in 1999 that ultimately led to the decision to resettle the remaining Hmong in the U.S.

These refugees have generally been placed in well-established Hmong communities. These communities had been formed by the first Hmong refugees who arrived in the U.S. in 1975. By 1995, more than 100,000 Hmong had been resettled in the U.S. It is estimated that over 186,000 Hmong live in the U.S., with sizable communities residing in California, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.

The total number of Hmong at the "Wat" was approximately 15,000. All have family in the U.S., especially in the well established Hmong communities in St. Paul, Minnesota; Fresno and the Central Valley counties and Sacramento, California; and a number of cities throughout Wisconsin. The newly arriving Hmong consisted of families with an average of three children. Approximately 30 percent were between 18 and 65, 30 percent between 6 and 18, and another 30 percent were 5 and under. Less than 4 percent of the population was over 65.

Economic Adjustment

In 2006, ORR completed its first annual survey of a random sample of Hmong who arrived in the U.S. between May 1, 2004 and April 30, 2006. The survey was continued in 2007 and collected basic demographic information such as age, education, English language fluency, job training, labor force participation, work experience, and barriers to employment of each adult member of the household of the selected person. The survey also collected household income, housing, and welfare utilization data.

To evaluate the economic progress of this subset of refugees, ORR used several measures of employment effort frequently used by economists. The first group of measures relates to employment status in the week before the survey and includes the employment-to-population ratio (EPR), the labor force participation rate, and the unemployment rate. In addition, data on work experience over the past year and typical number of hours worked per week were analyzed, as well as reasons for not working. Data also are presented on the length of time from arrival in the U.S. to first employment and self-sufficiency.

Employment Status

Table III-1 presents the reported employment rate (EPR) as of December 2007 for Hmong refugee survey respondents age 16 and over.¹² The survey found that the overall EPR for the Hmong in the 2007 sample was 29 percent (37.8 percent for males and 19.9 percent for females). The Hmong surveyed as a whole had a much lower employment rate than overall refugees surveyed in 2007 (56.8 percent). The employment rates of both males (37.8 percent) and females (19.9 percent) of the Hmong population were considerably behind their counterpart rates in the overall refugee population (63.7 percent for male and 50.2 percent for female).¹³ Within the Hmong survey cohort, the gap between male and female employment rate (18 percent) was higher than that of the overall refugee population (13.5 percent). The reported Hmong EPR for the 2007 survey did represent a slight improvement from the rates reported in the 2006 survey, but the relatively low rate compared to the overall refugee population indicates that the path to self-sufficiency may have been more difficult for these refugees than for other refugees.

As a point of further reference, the employment rate for the non-refugee U.S. population was 63.0 percent in 2006, 69.8 percent for males and 56.6 percent for females. Hmong males in the survey were exceeded by their counterparts in the U.S. general population by 32 percentage points, while the females in the survey were exceeded by their U.S. female cohorts by 37 percent. There was also a much larger gap between the employment of female and male Hmong survey respondents (18 percent) compared to that of the general U.S. population (less than 13 percent). Considering that this is a newly arrived non-English speaking population with extremely weak educational background, few family members awaiting them in their designated communities, few transferable skills and almost no work history, this particularly low employment rate is understandable.

Table III-1 also contains data on labor force participation (LFP) rate for refugees age 16 and over. This rate is closely related to the employment rate, except it includes individuals looking for work as well as those currently employed. In December 2007, the overall labor force participation rate for the Hmong cohort (32.8 percent) was close to their employment rate (29 percent). This overall LFP rate is 31 points lower than that of the overall refugee population (64 percent) and 33 points behind the non-refugee U.S. population (66 percent). This relatively low LFP indicates that a substantial portion of Hmong arrivals are not only not working but also not looking for work.¹⁴

¹² All statistics presented in this section are from a sample of 187 Hmong interviewed in the 2007 survey, who were part of a group of 605 Hmong refugees sampled from the ORR Refugee Arrivals Data System in 2006 (see Hmong Survey Technical Note). The discussion of the economic adjustment of this population is therefore based on a small number of individuals and may not be generalizable to the whole population of Hmong refugees resettled between May 1, 2004 and April 30, 2006 (even after statistical adjustment to account for selection bias in the response rate).

¹³ The **Employment-to-Population Ratio (EPR)**, also called the **employment rate**, is the ratio of the number of individuals age 16 or over who are employed (full- or part-time) to the total number of individuals in the population who are age 16 or over, expressed as a percentage.

¹⁴ The **labor force** consists of adults age 16 or over looking for work as well as those with jobs. The **labor force participation rate** is the ratio of the total number of persons in the labor force divided by the total number of persons in the population who are age 16 or over, expressed as a percentage.

The unemployment rate continues this pattern. The overall unemployment rate for the Hmong respondent group was 11.8 percent in this year’s survey, which was more than 3 percentage points lower than in the 2006 survey and comparable to the unemployment rate of the overall refugee population. It was seven percent higher than that of the U.S. non-refugee population (4.6 percent). Similarly, there was also a significant gender difference: the males in the Hmong group had an unemployment rate of 15.1 percent, which was 11 percent higher than that reported by the females (4.4 percent). The very small Hmong female unemployment rate may be explained by the very low labor force participation rate of those in the 2007 survey; this population appears not to be actively looking for work at a high rate, so their reported unemployment rate is low.

The overall pattern appears to be that the Hmong group surveyed, especially the females in this group, was joining the work force at a far lower rate than other refugees or the U.S. population as a whole.

Table III-1: Employment Status of Hmong Refugees – 2007 Survey									
	Employment Rate (EPR)			Labor Force Participation Rate			Unemployment Rate		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
Hmong	29.0%	37.8%	19.9%	32.8%	44.6%	20.8%	11.8%	15.1%	4.4%
Overall Refugee Population	56.8	63.7	50.2	64.0	70.5	57.6	11.2	9.8	12.9
U.S. Rate	63.0	69.8	56.6	66.0	73.2	59.3	4.6	4.7	4.5
<p>Note: As of December of each year indicated. Not seasonally adjusted. Data refers to refugees 16 and over in the five-year sample population. U.S. rates are from the U.S. Department of Labor and Statistics.</p>									

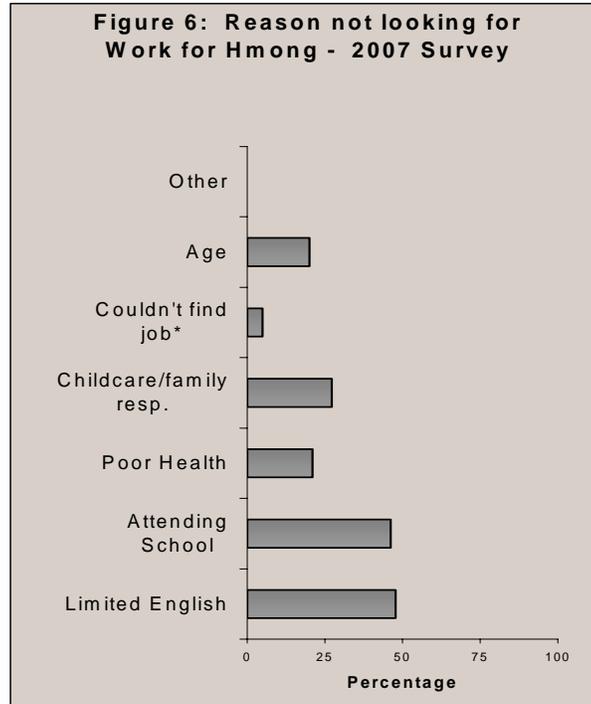
Table III-2 shows that 31.4 percent of the Hmong cohort had worked at some point in the previous year, more than three-quarters (76.1 percent) of which had a full-time job. About 16.2 percent of the adult Hmong in the 2007 survey claimed to have worked at least 50 weeks during the previous year, an increase from about 12 percent in the 2006 survey. The average number of weeks they worked was 39.5 weeks, a significant increase of 6 weeks from the 2006 survey. Table III-3 further demonstrates the large gender gap in the Hmong cohort across the four employment measures such as EPR, LFP, and employment at any point since coming to the U.S., and unemployment rate.

Table III-2: Work Experience of Adult Hmong		
	2006 Survey	2007 Survey
Worked*	29.9%	31.4%
50-52 weeks	11.8%	16.2%
Full-time	**65.7%	**76.1%
Average weeks worked	33.5	39.5
* Refugees who worked in the previous year.		
** Among refugees who worked in the previous year.		

TABLE III-3: Employment Status of Selected Hmong by Gender 2007 Survey		
Employment Measure	2006 Survey	2007 Survey
Employment Rate (EPR)	26.8%	29.0%
-Males	36.7	37.8
-Females	16.1	19.9
Worked at any point since arrival	29.9	32.1
-Males	39.8	41.9
-Females	19.2	22.2
Labor Force Participation Rate	31.7	32.8
-Males	41.9	44.6
-Females	20.6	20.8
Unemployment Rate	15.4	11.8
-Males	12.3	15.1
-Females	22.0	4.4
Note: As of December 2007. Not seasonally adjusted. Data refers to Hmong 16 and over.		

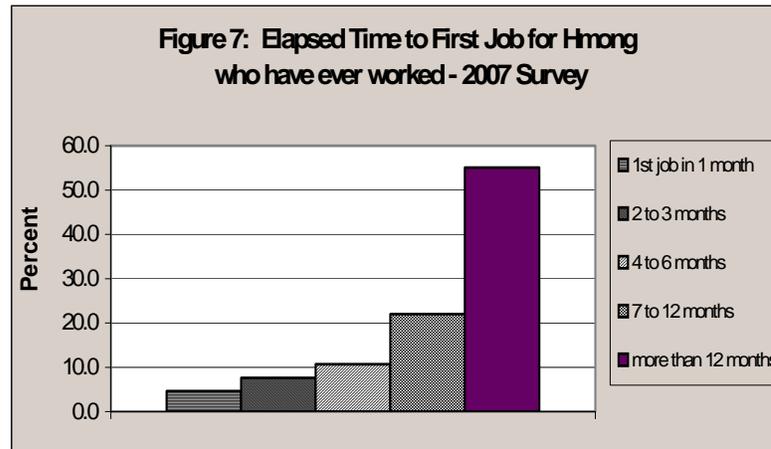
Reasons for Not Looking for Work

The 2007 survey also asked the Hmong refugee respondents aged 16 and older who were not employed why they were not looking for employment. Limited English accounted for the largest proportion (47.8 percent), followed very closely by attending school (46.2 percent), childcare/family responsibility (27.2 percent). Poor health and age accounted for about 21 and 20.1 percent, respectively.



Elapsed Time to First Job

How soon do Hmong refugees find work after coming to the U.S.? The 2007 survey indicates that of those who have worked at all since coming to the U.S., (30 percent of the Hmong refugees 16 years of age or older), 4.6 found work within one month of arrival, an additional 7.6 percent after two to three months, 10.7 percent within four to six months, (so that 22 percent of Hmong respondents found jobs within 6 months of arrival), while another 22 percent took seven to 12 months and 55.1 percent took more than a year (refer to Figure 7). This is a large increase over the proportion who took more than a year to find work in the 2006 survey (43 percent), which may be reflective either of lower Hmong labor force participation or a generally more challenging job search environment.



Factors Affecting Employment

Among the adult Hmong refugees in the survey, the average number of years of education before coming to the U.S. was only 2.1 years (refer to Table III-4). Three-quarters (73.2 percent) of the Hmong respondents never had any formal education before coming to the U.S. Only a fraction (6.4 percent) of them indicated that they had a secondary school education, and another 5.5 percent of the group reported that they had a primary school education. The Hmong group in the survey appeared to consist of people who had few educational opportunities prior to their arrival in the U.S.¹⁵

The 2007 survey (Table III-4) shows that 31.4 percent of the Hmong respondents had attended some kind of school in the U.S. since arrival (a drop from 52 percent in the 2006 survey), and 26.4 percent of them reported attending for a degree or certificate (an increase from the reported rate of 13 percent in the 2006 survey). Among those who were seeking a degree or certificate, one percent reported having received it by the time of the interview.

The 2007 survey reveals that 82.5 percent of the Hmong refugees sampled were not able to speak English at all when they arrived in the U.S. (refer to Table III-4), but this was reduced about half, to 40.1 percent, by the time of the survey interview. In the meantime, the proportion of those who could speak some English (not well) at the time of their arrival in the U.S. increased from 7.1 percent to 43.1 percent by the time of the survey. Similarly, the proportion of those who could speak English well or fluently also went up from almost none (0.4 percent) upon arrival in the U.S. to 14.5 percent by the time of the survey. This was a dramatic increase over the proportion who spoke English well or fluently in the 2006 sample, two percent.

The ability to speak English appears to be one of the most important factors influencing the economic self-sufficiency of refugees (refer to Table III-5). The survey found that the Hmong respondents who spoke no English continued to lag behind those who could speak some English on measures of economic self-sufficiency. The employment gap between them grew over time. The employment rate of respondents who spoke no English at the time of arrival was 31.5 percent, compared to 25.7 percent among those who spoke some English, a gap of only about 6 percent. By the time of the survey interview, this gap climbed

¹⁵ It should be noted that even though the survey asks about years of schooling and the highest degree obtained prior to coming to the U.S., the correlation between years of schooling and degrees or certifications among different countries is not necessarily the same. Consequently, some degree of caution is necessary when interpreting education statistics.

to nearly 22 percent (21.1 percent EPR for those who spoke no English versus 42.8 percent for those who could speak some English). Those who spoke English well at the time of the survey had an unemployment rate of only 14.2 percent (the number of respondents who spoke English well at time of arrival is too small to allow accurate comparison).

Historically, most refugees improve their English language proficiency over time, and those who do not are the least likely to be employed. During the 12 months prior to the survey, nearly half (34.4 percent) of the adult Hmong refugees in the sample attended English Language Training (ELT) outside of high school. Close to one-fifth (19.6 percent) attended ELT inside a high school. For the same period, the proportion of refugees who have attended job-training classes (4.5 percent) lagged far behind those in ELT. About 40 percent of the adult Hmong refugees were currently attending language instruction at the time of the survey, either through high school curriculum (19.6 percent) or through other types of language class (19.1 percent) at the time of the survey.

TABLE III-4: Education and English Proficiency Characteristics of Hmong – 2007 Survey	
Average Years of Education before U.S.	2.13
Highest Degree before U.S.	
None	73.2 %
Primary School	5.5
Technical School	0.7
Secondary School (or High School)	6.4
University Degree (Other than Medical)	0.9
Medical Degree	0.2
Other	0.0
Attended School/University (since U.S.)	31.4%
Attendance School/University (since U.S.) for degree/certificate	26.4%
High School	26.0%
Associates Degree	0.2
Bachelor's Degree	0.0
Master's/Doctorate	0.0
Professional Degree	0.0
Other	0.2
Degree Received	1.1
English At Time of Arrival	
Percent Speaking no English	82.5%
Percent Not Speaking English Well	7.1
Percent Speaking English Well or Fluently	0.4
English At Time of Survey	
Percent Speaking no English	40.1
Percent Not Speaking English Well	43.1
Percent Speaking English Well or Fluently	14.5
Note: Data refer to Hmong 16 and older. These figures refer to self-reported characteristics. Professional degree refers to a law degree or medical degree.	

Table III-5: English Proficiency and Associated EPR 2007 Survey		
Percent Speaking No English (EPR)	Percent Not Speaking English Well (EPR)	Percent Speaking English Well or Fluently (EPR)
At the time of arrival		
82.5 (31.5)	7.1 (25.7)	0.4 (0.0)
At the time of survey		
40.1 (21.1)	43.1(42.8)	14.5 (14.2)

TABLE III-6: Language Service Utilization by Hmong 2007 Survey	
Type of Service Utilization	Percent
ELT since arrival Inside High School	19.6%
ELT since arrival Outside of High School	34.4
Job training since arrival	4.5
Currently attending ELT Inside High School	19.6
Currently attending ELT Outside of High School	19.1
Note: Data refer to Hmong. In order that English language training (ELT) is not confused with English high school instruction, statistics for both populations are given.	

Earnings and Utilization of Public Assistance

Table III-7 details the economic self-sufficiency of Hmong refugees in 2007. According to the 2007 survey, the average hourly wage of Hmong refugees was \$8.89, approximately equal to the 2006 survey average of \$8.45, adjusted for inflation (\$8.90), but lower than the 2007 average for all refugees surveyed, \$9.30. About 30 percent of Hmong households surveyed had achieved economic self-sufficiency, a drop from 42 percent in 2006, and an additional 37.7 percent had achieved partial independence, with household income a mix of earnings and public assistance (a dramatic jump from the 2006 average of 12 percent). However, nearly a third (31.6 percent) of the Hmong households surveyed were sustained entirely by public assistance, an increase from the 2006 reported average of 17 percent.

TABLE III-7: Average Hourly Wages, Home Ownership, and Public Assistance Receipt of Hmong Respondents – 2007 Survey	
Hourly Wages of Employed-Current Job	\$8.89
Own Home or Apartment	3.9%
Rent Home or Apartment	89.5
Public Assistance Only	31.6
Both Public Assistance and Earnings	37.7
Earnings Only	30.1
Note: As of December 2007. Earnings figures are not adjusted for inflation. Data refer to refugees 16 and over in the two-year sample population of Hmongs who were interviewed as a part of the 2007 survey.	

Table III-8 presents several household characteristics by type of income. Households in the 2007 survey sustained by only public assistance average nearly seven members with no wage earners. Households that have a mix of earnings and public assistance income average approximately seven members and one wage earner. Households that were independent of public assistance also average seven members with one wage earner. The self-sufficient and partially self-sufficient households in the survey tended to be younger on average, as they had the highest rates both in the categories of having at least one member under the age of 16 (93.5 percent and 94.8 percent, respectively) and having at least one member under the age of 6 (68.4 percent and 72.2 percent, respectively).

Table III-8: Characteristics of Hmong Households by Type of Income – 2007 Survey				
Hmong Households with:				
Household Characteristics	Public Assistance Only	Both Public Assistance and Earnings	Earnings Only	Total Sample
Average Household Size	6.48	7.17	6.78	6.83
Average Number of wage earners per household*	0.0	1.2	1.18	0.81
Percent of households with at least one member:				
Under the age of 6	37.6%	72.2%	68.4%	60.3%
Under the age of 16	87.1	94.8	93.5	91.9
Fluent English Speaker	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Medical Coverage

A majority (75.5 percent) of the adult Hmong refugees received medical coverage in the year prior to the survey. However, only 3.2 percent of them received medical coverage from either their own employers or employers of their family members. Most of the Hmong refugees surveyed (72.3 percent) were under the coverage of Medicaid or RMA during the 12 months preceding the survey. Only 5.5 percent reported no medical coverage of any kind throughout the year (refer to Table III-9).

Table III-9: Source of Medical Coverage for Hmong Refugees 2007 Survey	
Source of Medical Coverage	Percent
No Medical Coverage in Any of Past 12 Months	5.5 %
Medical Coverage Through Employer	3.2%
Medicaid or RMA	72.3%
Note: As of December 2007. Data refer to refugees 16 and over	

Welfare Utilization¹⁶

Table III-10 presents cash and non-cash welfare utilization data on Hmong refugees. Nearly seventy percent of the Hmong households received cash assistance in the 12 months prior to the survey (a huge jump from 29 percent in the 2006 survey). TANF was the major source of cash assistance (54 percent), followed by SSI (40.1 percent). None of the Hmong households surveyed reported receiving any RCA. A large majority of Hmong households received different types of non-cash assistance in the previous year such as Medicaid or RMA (92 percent), food stamps (88 percent), and public housing (37.6 percent).

TABLE III-10: Public Assistance Utilization of Hmong Refugees 2007 Survey	
Type of Public Assistance	Percent
Cash Assistance	
Any Type of Cash Assistance	69.3%
AFDC/TANF	54.0
RCA	0
SSI	40.1
General Assistance	0.7
Non-cash Assistance	
Medicaid or RMA	92.1
Food Stamps	88.0
Public Housing	37.6
<p>Note: Medicaid and RMA data refer to adult Hmong age 16 and older. All other data refer to the Hmong households and not individuals. The percentages may not add up to 100 as one household could receive assistance from more than one source.</p>	

¹⁶ Caution must be exercised when reviewing refugee declarations of welfare utilization. These are self-reported data and the questions asked are subject to wide variation in interpretation by the respondent. The surveys are conducted in the refugee’s native language, and certain technical terms which distinguish types of income do not translate well into foreign languages. Refugees readily admit to receiving “welfare” or “assistance”, but they are frequently confused about the correct category. Past surveys have found that refugee households are very accurate in reporting Supplemental Security Income (SSI) because their claims are handled by the Social Security Administration. However, RCA, TANF, and GA cases are all handled by the local county welfare office and are not clearly distinguished from each other by the refugee family. Over the years, we have noted that many refugees claim RCA many years after arrival even though the program is confined to the first eight months in the U.S., claim receipt of TANF even though they have no children, or claim receipt of general relief even though they reside in States that do not provide such assistance, such as Florida or Texas.

Employment and Welfare Utilization Rates by State

The 2007 survey also reported welfare utilization and employment rate by State of residence. Table III-11 shows the reported EPR and utilization rates for various types of welfare in the States where most of the Hmong refugees resettled, as well as the nation as a whole. Over four-fifths (94.7 percent) of Hmong refugees were concentrated in three states, Minnesota (38 percent), Wisconsin (32 percent), and California (24.7 percent).

In the general population, the welfare utilization tends to be low where the EPR is high and vice versa. A similar pattern was manifested among Hmong refugees in the 2006 Survey. Among the top three States, Wisconsin had the highest EPR (42.2 percent) and lowest welfare utilization rate (44.8 percent) for the Hmong refugees. It was followed by Minnesota (24.2 percent EPR vs. 80 percent welfare utilization – a jump from 29 percent in the 2006 survey) and California (19.9 percent EPR vs. 93.3 percent welfare utilization – a jump from 39 percent in the 2006 survey). TANF (54 percent) and SSI (40.1 percent) were the main sources of cash assistance for the Hmong refugees across all the States.

TABLE III-11: Hmong Refugees Employment-to-Population Ratio (EPR) and Welfare Dependency for Top Three States

State	Arrivals* Individuals	EPR Individuals	AFDC/TANF Households	RCA Households	SSI Households	GA Households	Total**
Minnesota	(1,562)	24.2%	68.6%	0.0%	43.9%	0.0%	80.0%
Wisconsin	(1,310)	42.2	15.2	0.0	38.8	0.0	44.8
California	(1,015)	19.9	93.3	0.0	40.5	0.0	93.3
Other States	(236)	25.0	44.3	0.0	21.3	11.5	55.7
All States	(4,123)	29.0	54.0	0.0	40.1	0.7	69.3

*The State arrival figures are weighted total of individuals in the sample adjusted for non-responses.
 **The column totals represent percent of households that received any combination of AFDC, RCA, SSI and/or GA.

Note: As of December 2007. Not seasonally adjusted. Welfare utilization refers to receipt of public assistance in at least one of the past twelve months. The listed utilization rate for each type of public assistance is the ratio of the number of households (including minor children) receiving such aid to the total number of households in the sample population residing in that state. **Because some refugees have difficulty distinguishing between GA and AFDC/TANF, some GA utilization may reflect AFDC/TANF utilization.**

Conclusion

Overall, the findings from ORR's 2007 survey indicate that the newly resettled Hmong refugees faced significant problems upon arrival in the U.S., especially the female members of this group. The cash assistance utilization rate for this group has increased since the 2006 survey (from 29 percent to 69.3 percent), and use of Medicaid/RMA and housing assistance is also very high. The employment rate and labor force participation rate of the Hmong survey respondents was low, while the rate of unemployment was high. Data indicate that many female Hmong respondents are not participating in the labor force. English proficiency of respondents in this group was lower than that of the general refugee population, as was participation in English language training. There are some positive signs, however; an increasing proportion of the 2007 sample was attending school in pursuit of a degree compared to the 2006 sample, and English language proficiency among those in the 2007 sample was considerably higher than in the 2006 sample. Based on the reported efforts of this population so far, the tentative progress of the Hmong respondents in the 2007 survey sample toward economic self-sufficiency is likely to continue.

Hmong Survey Technical Note: The Hmong Survey, with interviews conducted by DB Consulting Group, Inc. in the fall of 2006, is a subset of the Annual Survey of Refugees conducted by ORR since 1975. Although respondents who are Hmong have traditionally been included into the Annual Survey of Refugees, this is the second time that a single population has been surveyed to track their adjustment to resettlement in the U.S.

In 2006, a one-time random sampling of Hmong who arrived between May 1, 2004 and April 30, 2006 was selected from the ORR Refugee Arrivals Data System. ORR's contractor, DB Consulting Group, then contacted the family by a letter in English and a second letter in the refugee's native language. If the person sampled was a child, an adult living in the same household was interviewed. Interviews were conducted by telephone in the refugee's native language. The questionnaire and interview procedures used with this population were the same as the ones employed in the Annual Survey of Refugees.

The original sample of Hmong N=605. For the 2006 survey, 116 of the 605 of the Hmong in the sample were contacted and interviewed (a response rate of 19.2 percent.) of the remaining 489 cases, one moved abroad, 10 refused to be interviewed and the remaining 477 could not be traced in time to be interviewed.

For the 2007 survey, 187 of the 605 of the Hmong in the 2006 sample were contacted and interviewed (a response rate of 30.9 percent.) Of the remaining 418 cases, 15 refused to be interviewed and the remaining 403 cases could not be traced in time to be interviewed.

Appendix A

Tables

Table 1
Arrivals by Country of Origin
FY 1983 - 2007 a/

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	FY 83 - 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 83 - 07
AFGHANISTAN	29,090	1,448	927	809	639	418	33,331
ALBANIA	3,660	-	-	-	1	-	3,661
ANGOLA	331	21	21	21	8	6	408
BULGARIA	1,974	-	-	-	-	-	1,974
BURMA	2,271	202	1,055	1,447	1,323	9,776	16,074
BURUNDI	663	15	273	217	469	4,525	6,162
CAMBODIA	71,462	7	3	9	9	16	71,506
COLOMBIA	8	145	569	318	113	53	1,206
CONGO	49	49	73	43	63	197	474
CUBA b/	50,524	301	2,960	6,359	3,142	2,923	66,209
CUBA (Entrant) c/	165,043	10,287	26,304	15,806	22,079	17,298	256,817
CZECH REPUBLIC	7,537	-	-	-	-	-	7,537
DEM.REP.CONGO	2,572	240	565	416	397	841	5,031
ERITREA	310	24	118	321	525	945	2,243
ETHIOPIA	31,897	1,707	2,708	1,675	1,262	1,043	40,292
HAITI d/	6,817	-	17	8	-	-	6,842
HAITI (Entrant) e/	20,336	1,547	981	819	531	147	24,361
HUNGARY	5,124	-	-	-	-	-	5,124
IRAN	57,895	2,452	1,784	1,848	2,785	5,474	72,238
IRAQ	41,400	296	65	186	189	1,605	43,741
KENYA	79	251	527	282	55	8	1,202
LAOS	113,491	13	5,995	8,487	815	98	128,899
LIBERIA	13,203	2,940	7,111	4,221	2,366	1,576	31,417
LIBYA	362	-	-	-	-	2	364
MAURITANIA	212	-	-	3	82	62	359
NICARAGUA	1,536	-	-	-	-	-	1,536
NIGERIA	1,200	54	34	13	19	23	1,343
POLAND	28,803	1	2	-	-	-	28,806
ROMANIA	34,662	-	3	2	2	-	34,669
RWANDA	1,078	50	177	184	110	210	1,809
SIERRA LEONE	4,297	1,374	1,066	878	448	163	8,226
SOMALIA	40,300	1,728	12,814	10,106	10,330	6,958	82,236
SUDAN	18,639	2,092	3,479	2,197	1,845	698	28,950
THAILAND	131	2	10	28	304	4,059	4,534
TOGO	989	44	38	74	17	40	1,202
UGANDA	386	5	11	10	14	37	463
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS f/	478,065	8,734	8,791	11,272	10,453	4,583	521,898
VIETNAM	461,470	1,466	1,007	2,084	3,131	1,551	470,709
YUGOSLAVIA (Former) g/	165,819	2,524	486	143	28	2	169,002
OTHER/UNKNOWN h/	2,637	167	182	152	335	389	3,862
Table Total	1,866,322	40,186	80,156	70,438	63,889	65,726	2,186,717

a/ The numbers in this table have been adjusted since the FY 2005 Annual Report due to verification of data in the Refugee Arrivals Data System

b/ Includes Cubans with humanitarian parolee status prior to FY 1992

c/ Includes Cubans with humanitarian parolee status since 1992 or Havana parolee status since 1995

d/ Includes Haitians with humanitarian parolee status prior to FY 1992

e/ Includes Haitians with humanitarian parolee status since 1992

f/ Includes refugees from the former republics of the Soviet Union

g/ Includes refugees from the former republics of Yugoslavia

h/ Includes countries with fewer than 300 cumulative arrivals, as well as cases with an unknown country of origin

Table 2
Arrivals by Country of Origin
and State of Initial Resettlement
FY 1983 - 2007 a/

STATE	AFGHAN.	ALBANIA	ANGOLA	BULGARIA	BURMA	BURUNDI	CAMBODIA	COLOMBIA	CONGO	CUBA	CUBA (Entrant)	CZECH REPUBLIC	DEM.REP.CONGO
ALABAMA	50		6		7	43	291			228	182	5	17
ALASKA	7	2			1		4			4	2	2	
AMER. SAMOA													
ARIZONA	1,462	27	67	176	598	537	661	90	36	1,331	2,236	40	317
ARKANSAS	3	3			3	5	31			5	31	8	
CALIFORNIA	9,825	177	13	515	838	122	18,629	74	8	1,619	2,002	1,715	241
COLORADO	528	14		21	343	101	685	44	2	219	30	131	126
CONNECTICUT	295	185	8	45	156	77	1,173	23	31	380	434	120	66
DELAWARE	62			3	2					18	5		
DIST. OF COL.	378	4	30	20	22		371	6		71	29	37	134
FLORIDA	702	260	23	113	527	148	1,142	231	4	42,715	215,520	219	101
GEORGIA	1,322	11	9	4	468	403	1,799	51	9	492	813	75	268
GUAM													
HAWAII	31			1	47		75				1	13	
IDAHO	503	32		57	123	205	273	33	9	101	14	293	126
ILLINOIS	647	201	25	91	557	325	3,008	46	36	828	788	323	176
INDIANA	225	5		9	2,086		227	5		83	52	37	56
IOWA	120	3			109	131	582		5	20	10	13	133
KANSAS	158				69	24	452			11	42	12	12
KENTUCKY	117	3		3	308	132	454	32	26	789	4,474		306
LOUISIANA	196		7		42	28	561		1	476	682	16	59
MAINE	359	7		72	10	14	739		3	65	3	26	92
MARYLAND	564	95	19	39	394	53	1,111	8	34	546	226	145	186
MASSACHUSETTS	526	246		13	145	158	5,710	20	3	154	256	963	72
MICHIGAN	383	485	11	59	383	259	206		13	550	2,313	111	52
MINNESOTA	197	3	5	8	1,054	12	2,659			51	43	49	75
MISSISSIPPI	12						15			2	53	11	
MISSOURI	1,016	103	18	65	102	128	789	56	25	1,008	122	216	123
MONTANA	5				2		5				4	7	
NEBRASKA	412	4			197	68	167		17	192	55	68	14
NEVADA	203	16	9	7	27	28	127	5	18	1,649	4,095	14	21
NEW HAMP.	107	40				151	340			2	4	93	55
NEW JERSEY	722	219	7	41	229	33	310	64		3,790	3,725	238	54
NEW MEXICO	127				3	34	278	5		1,466	2,367	13	20
NEW YORK	4,283	1,134	20	342	2,164	347	3,160	44	29	1,304	4,718	781	327
N. CAROLINA	149	2	6	5	971	95	1,566	42	9	680	264	41	72
NORTH DAKOTA	66	1	1	2		84	144	9		159	1	105	11
OHIO	165	26		8	345	131	1,705	11	4	43	90	115	47
OKLAHOMA	67				92	1	489			13	31	10	
OREGON	318	6	11	10	209	63	976		1	110	1,811	32	47
PENNSYLVANIA	492	73	44	49	271	134	3,155	8	3	543	1,479	204	65
PUERTO RICO								1		238	572		
RHODE ISLAND	2	55		1	9	48	1,305			6	17		8
S. CAROLINA	37			6	68		107	1		5	54		
SOUTH DAKOTA	113			15		54	34			58	4	69	68
TENNESSEE	360	2			234	353	1,317	13	12	628	393	38	134
TEXAS	1,690	51	47	39	1,695	974	5,337	232	85	2,400	5,327	242	814
UTAH	248			11	258	191	1,781	5	1	383	13	310	116
VERMONT	31	34		27	1	67	223		22	8		306	88
VIRGIN ISLANDS													
VIRGINIA	3,177	39	18	19	349	247	2,238	17	28	342	1,258	38	221
WASHINGTON	706	55		66	268	135	4,858	38		410	101	196	73
WEST VIRGINIA	11	3		5	1		16				1	8	
WISCONSIN	117	35	4	7	287	19	212			7	39	26	38
WYOMING	35											3	
UNKNOWN							10			7	31		
Table Total	33,331	3,661	408	1,974	16,074	6,162	71,507	1,214	474	66,209	256,817	7,537	5,031

Table 2
Arrivals by Country of Origin
and State of Initial Resettlement
FY 1983 - 2007 a/

STATE	ERITREA	ETHIOPIA	HAITI	HAITI (Entrant)	HUNGARY	IRAN	IRAQ b/	KENYA	LAOS	LIBERIA	LIBYA	MAURITANIA	NICARAG.	NIGERIA
ALABAMA	4	72	85	24	3	55	60		271	50				
ALASKA						53	5		118					
AMERICAN SAMOA														
ARIZONA	105	943	81	33	66	1,115	2,352	73	417	1,092	16	23	55	73
ARKANSAS		7		1	5	22	32		460					
CALIFORNIA	159	7,404	125	211	799	43,811	5,777	51	55,661	901	52	4	269	13
COLORADO	99	954	75	12	36	453	434	68	1,472	258		34	16	21
CONNECTICUT	30	191	195	112	442	388	302	12	995	272			27	16
DELAWARE	2	11	3	30	2	30			7	120				
DIST. OF COL.	25	1,340	58	2	134	238	762	1	420	112	15		19	20
FLORIDA	47	838	1,462	20,705	230	942	798	1	833	624	33	32	648	5
GEORGIA	194	2,675	34	72	111	1,203	1,355	27	1,168	1,126	5	32	7	188
GUAM						5								
HAWAII		3			2	11	3		581					
IDAHO	21	45	116		23	201	320	61	238	79				4
ILLINOIS	149	1,611	81	71	137	1,636	3,476	27	2,256	924	16	11	21	124
INDIANA	28	151	33	2	22	146	207	1	194	255		16		
IOWA	13	208	20		54	55	221	1	1,854	374		1		86
KANSAS	22	53	10	2		167	122		902	46				11
KENTUCKY	3	100	44	18		126	769	57	272	321	12	5		
LOUISIANA	3	58	37	61	1	94	122		723	206			54	23
MAINE	4	146			18	224	15		25	13				2
MARYLAND	68	1,824	209	98	76	1,862	369	23	373	1,348		32	31	17
MASSACHUSETTS	55	693	422	718	79	546	584	3	1,600	997		1	15	6
MICHIGAN	15	487	289	49	72	446	8,259	68	2,174	517	14	3		1
MINNESOTA	57	4,935	55	2	67	207	179	41	18,550	3,271				39
MISSISSIPPI		13	12	21	2	18	1		16	2				
MISSOURI	84	1,089	384	10	147	505	1,453	54	659	471	17	19	3	154
MONTANA		9				1			243	1			4	
NEBRASKA	3	31	6		10	93	1,022		299	59	25	10		32
NEVADA	145	545		21	15	604	76	1	158	68	17		28	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	4	26			11	68	200	23	85	270			1	53
NEW JERSEY	32	460	732	517	172	598	243		168	1,891	2		59	12
NEW MEXICO	2	12			3	138	175		220	52			35	
NEW YORK	71	1,705	836	1,148	715	6,431	1,365	156	1,285	4,303	28	77	41	87
NORTH CAROLINA	40	241	33	16	36	334	68		1,266	651			21	
NORTH DAKOTA	1	116	97	3	45	69	666	1	37	223				15
OHIO	52	875	9	40	187	318	520	2	1,442	498	7		12	6
OKLAHOMA	15	44		1	1	264	48		472	90				
OREGON	4	579	62	98	25	360	295		1,468	136	9			1
PENNSYLVANIA	58	884	360	124	253	376	1,347		1,158	4,156	1		7	
PUERTO RICO				2										
RHODE ISLAND	23	42	2	18	239	22	15		1,392	1,559				1
SOUTH CAROLINA	1	10			8	81	76		102	33				
SOUTH DAKOTA	69	737			83	55	150		65	129	8			12
TENNESSEE	12	495	225	22	15	761	2,432	43	1,480	414	14		23	52
TEXAS	267	4,057	225	34	117	3,648	3,612	210	3,790	2,010	42	49	88	177
UTAH	32	94			7	712	713	131	572	233				36
VERMONT		10			19	17	83	29	19	8				4
VIRGIN ISLANDS				4										
VIRGINIA	108	1,201	178	49	59	1,352	1,278	11	898	874	9	4	20	48
WASHINGTON	116	2,195	247		551	1,256	1,316	15	3,867	232	22	6	21	2
WEST VIRGINIA	1	1			6	11			19	8				
WISCONSIN		70			11	104	61	11	16,140	140			10	2
WYOMING		2			5	3			14					
UNKNOWN				10	3	3	3		1				1	
Table Total	2,243	40,292	6,842	24,361	5,124	72,238	43,741	1,202	128,899	31,417	364	359	1,536	1,343

Table 2
Arrivals by Country of Origin
and State of Initial Resettlement
FY 1983 - 2007 a/

STATE	POLAND	ROMANIA	RWANDA	SIERRA LEONE	SOMALIA	SUDAN	THAILAND	TOGO	UGANDA	U.S.S.R. c/	VIETNAM	YUGOSLAV. d/	Grand Total
ALABAMA	40	36	7	5	55	88		8	1	371	2,364	378	4,806
ALASKA	28	32								393	243	89	983
AMER. SAMOA		1											1
ARIZONA	255	1,198	49	233	2,944	1,827	215	119	19	2,878	8,704	7,717	40,357
ARKANSAS	107	10		2						40	1,089	31	1,895
CALIFORNIA	3,589	8,590	50	302	7,210	1,187	325	37	69	102,610	162,519	8,316	446,335
COLORADO	212	113	60	40	1,068	599	142			6,491	5,509	2,293	22,743
CONNECTICUT	1,122	738	44	90	707	273	127	22	2	5,110	3,314	3,701	21,310
DELAWARE	16	12		31	1	3				221	121	66	771
DIST. OF COL.	191	81	12	115	762	222		7	44	142	6,045	646	12,611
FLORIDA	724	1,084	40	141	384	672	96	65	14	7,591	12,341	11,141	323,410
GEORGIA	151	374	90	294	5,903	1,216	143	57	11	5,786	18,120	7,842	54,033
GUAM											56		61
HAWAII	6	2								24	3,281		4,087
IDAHO	320	389	20	5	352	171	52	29		1,903	1,097	3,324	10,552
ILLINOIS	3,566	4,543	105	209	1,980	873	207	86	5	23,827	9,233	15,605	78,050
INDIANA	188	126	13	37	419	116	265		5	2,021	1,466	1,962	10,491
IOWA	175	120	28	85	518	1,569	51	30	3	516	6,240	6,715	20,116
KANSAS	36	32	4	5	313	188	24	1	19	1,126	6,413	288	10,566
KENTUCKY	29	66	24	45	1,181	377	174	36	2	1,980	3,736	5,428	21,484
LOUISIANA	83	23	9	7	294	234	5	23		96	8,010	966	13,211
MAINE	383	95	18	1	695	635	1	30	14	502	553	542	5,321
MARYLAND	676	366	43	1,400	1,323	424	6	10	7	10,579	6,272	1,088	32,093
MASSACHUSETTS	779	191	35	259	2,799	500	33	18	5	23,744	14,832	3,241	60,514
MICHIGAN	2,033	2,136	42	99	1,403	827	25	19		7,132	6,320	8,405	45,755
MINNESOTA	284	236	10	334	15,484	924	298	69	6	8,400	7,403	2,588	67,656
MISSISSIPPI	9	7			34	101				34	1,089	37	1,490
MISSOURI	626	553	39	109	2,194	649	35	10	16	4,079	7,788	10,550	35,577
MONTANA	14	7					1			547	90	38	978
NEBRASKA	188	36	3	16	259	1,089	93	9	2	1,301	4,424	1,075	11,297
NEVADA	159	44	16	14	306	200	6	1	7	80	1,259	1,526	11,540
NEW HAMPSHIRE	31	501	78	52	505	558		34		594	1,232	2,027	7,199
NEW JERSEY	1,624	746	23	597	151	203	84		17	11,914	7,084	2,815	39,653
NEW MEXICO	46	34	1	15	60	34		5		119	1,930	185	7,416
NEW YORK	5,444	5,532	164	1,280	3,528	1,556	580	83	47	167,074	18,488	14,462	255,503
NORTH CAROLINA	215	116	44	132	1,107	477	316	5	15	2,688	9,730	2,624	24,129
NORTH DAKOTA	112	138	19	37	778	574		12	11	413	932	2,034	6,954
OHIO	228	980	101	294	5,414	246	108		3	13,821	3,416	3,626	34,926
OKLAHOMA	103	60		7	72	37	19			467	4,825	152	7,396
OREGON	101	1,375	9	7	1,130	77	51	23	13	17,923	7,933	1,596	36,889
PENNSYLVANIA	1,407	969	93	431	1,050	798	107	9	33	23,687	12,316	5,038	61,293
PUERTO RICO											7		820
RHODE ISLAND	89	35	21	3	76			4		1,999	361	53	7,413
SOUTH CAROLINA	12	20		12	145	15	18			686	941	122	2,571
SOUTH DAKOTA	160	168	27	6	512	971			5	832	409	907	5,768
TENNESSEE	159	156	107	62	2,469	1,587	60	22	9	1,600	4,838	2,246	22,870
TEXAS	1,313	1,235	247	516	5,529	3,760	464	180	24	5,063	45,796	9,507	111,277
UTAH	361	66	20	50	1,543	1,009	141	28	2	1,906	3,864	3,998	18,930
VERMONT	31	182	17		305	117		25		488	1,060	1,773	5,001
VIRGIN ISLANDS													4
VIRGINIA	220	157	32	741	4,981	1,154	74	69	9	3,406	12,460	3,573	41,057
WASHINGTON	933	902	32	68	3,685	715	80	13	24	44,548	21,872	4,695	94,404
WEST VIRGINIA	19	9			1					14	233	37	404
WISCONSIN	198	40	13	38	607	98	108			3,087	995	1,934	24,472
WYOMING	7									52	35		156
UNKNOWN	4	7								15	21		116
Table Total	28,806	34,669	1,809	8,226	82,236	28,950	4,534	1,202	463	521,898	470,709	169,002	2,186,715

Table 3
Arrivals by Country of Origin
and State of Initial Resettlement
FY 2007 a/

STATE	AFGHAN.	BURMA	BURUNDI	COLOMBIA	CONGO	CUBA	CUBA (Entrant)	DEM.REP. CONGO	ERITREA	ETHIOPIA	HAITI (Entrant)	IRAN
ALABAMA		7	40			13	3	6	4	1		6
ALASKA							1					
ARIZONA	22	381	337		8	99	183	52	72	23		108
ARKANSAS		2				4	3					
CALIFORNIA	38	424	80	2	4	38	38	35	31	59		3,738
COLORADO	7	192	79		2	6	2	28	37	34		23
CONNECTICUT	8	133	55		8	21	0	24	12	1		21
DELAWARE		2					0					1
DIST. OF COL.							1		4	11		
FLORIDA	8	402	84	10	4	1,818	14,953	11	17	26	142	37
GEORGIA	16	401	222	13	2	36	97	25	82	44		75
HAWAII		1					0					
IDAHO	34	103	194		8	2	0	68	15	9		53
ILLINOIS	2	434	252	5	22	51	25	45	66	25		113
INDIANA		1,066				6	0		2			
IOWA	7	80	88				0	11	4	22		
KANSAS		50	16				0	8	11	1		9
KENTUCKY	6	230	84		2	83	350	65	2	13		1
LOUISIANA		14	28			33	27	14				
MAINE		1					0	5		2		6
MARYLAND	4	307	5				0	9	25	19		75
MASSACHUSETTS	4	110	125	3	3	8	10	3	20	7	3	5
MICHIGAN	12	277	205		6	33	102	5	2	3		9
MINNESOTA	6	448					2	10	12	380		
MISSISSIPPI							5					
MISSOURI	27	93	119		13	30	7	12	55	9		23
MONTANA		2					0					
NEBRASKA		157	56		7	7	0		3	9		
NEVADA	6	12	20		8	78	280	4	67	16		71
NEW HAMP.			115				0	23	1	3		1
NEW JERSEY		163	30			113	159	9	24	1	1	8
NEW MEXICO		3	25			31	48	20	2			11
NEW YORK	35	1,100	239	1	19	42	167	59	28	17	1	80
N. CAROLINA		544	81	1	7	37	21	11	28	3		37
N. DAKOTA			69				0			2		
OHIO	15	199	105			4	1	10	25	79		22
OKLAHOMA	2	69					5		15			4
OREGON	10	90	53			19	100	1		19		25
PENNSYLVANIA	22	170	130		3	31	117	1	26	6		4
PUERTO RICO						5	6					
RHODE ISLAND			18				0	8	22	2		
S. CAROLINA		55					0		1			1
S. DAKOTA			40				0	15	49	23		
TENNESSEE	19	158	308	3	7	30	13	10	1	17		61
TEXAS	54	1,163	685	8	41	178	428	188	89	59		537
UTAH		202	170			34	3		17	15		103
VERMONT			43		10		0	7		3		
VIRGINIA	33	208	194		13	10	136	21	33	18		101
WASHINGTON	13	181	117	7		23	2	8	41	61		105
WISCONSIN	8	142	14				3	10		1		
Grand Total	418	9,776	4,525	53	197	2,923	17,298	841	945	1,043	147	5,474

a/ The numbers in this table have been adjusted since the FY 2005 Annual Report due to verification of data in the Refugee Arrivals Data System

b/ Includes Iraqi Kurds granted asylum status

c/ Includes refugees from the republics of the former Soviet Union, including Russia

Table 3
Arrivals by Country of Origin
and State of Initial Resettlement
FY 2007 a/

STATE	IRAQ b/	LAOS	LIBERIA	MALAY.	MAURIT.	RWANDA	SIERRA LEONE	SOMALIA	SUDAN	THAILAND	U.S.S.R. c/	VIETNAM	Grand Total
ALABAMA								30	6		12	10	138
ALASKA											30		31
ARIZONA	157		49	2		12	9	279	62	198	73	20	2,175
ARKANSAS													9
CALIFORNIA	402	61	53	1		19	4	263	14	249	817	328	6,744
COLORADO	11		18	3	20	15	8	199	37	133	78	12	956
CONNECTICUT	7		10					35	5	127	34	3	505
DELAWARE			12				6						22
DIST. OF COL.	8										8		33
FLORIDA	4		12	4		1	1	31	18	86	85	30	17,782
GEORGIA	19		55	9	7	9	1	205	27	136	106	90	1,714
HAWAII											3	7	11
IDAHO	25		1	1		9		47	2	52	135	9	782
ILLINOIS	84		57	4		23	3	274	22	196	136	22	1,897
INDIANA			14	22		6		42	2	237	24		1,422
IOWA	11		15				16	51	60	48	5	28	448
KANSAS	4		1			4		1	2	20	3	20	156
KENTUCKY	6		33			2		118	21	174	38	10	1,249
LOUISIANA			12					27		5		20	187
MAINE								94	9			1	118
MARYLAND	6		57	1		2	19	40	23	5	42	2	648
MASS.	12		73	1		2	2	130	16	23	204	48	828
MICHIGAN	526		10	1		9		96	17	21	26	14	1,385
MINNESOTA	2	29	297				1	1,574	31	233	153	17	3,200
MISSISSIPPI									1				6
MISSOURI	18		27		1	4	3	258	13	35	63	20	838
MONTANA										1			3
NEBRASKA	2		11		10		1	34	44	88	42	19	494
NEVADA			3			5		27	5	6			614
NEW HAMP.						4	1	60	6		33		250
NEW JERSEY			80			5	7	1	7	74	32	25	753
NEW MEXICO	7		1									8	157
NEW YORK	30		89	3	24	13	6	218	34	510	355	31	3,146
N. CAROLINA	9		56	5			6	96	2	305	126	446	1,831
N. DAKOTA	10		5			6	2	98	8				204
OHIO	14		23			10		845	19	93	97	4	1,574
OKLAHOMA			1	2				21		16	21	4	161
OREGON			3					124	2	50	290	7	793
PENNSYLVANIA	26		261	1		1	20	84	15	103	246	34	1,318
PUERTO RICO												3	14
RHODE ISLAND	4		64			1		17					139
S. CAROLINA	7			1			2	3	1	18	10	7	106
S. DAKOTA	1		16				1	66	6		1		219
TENNESSEE	19		23	2		11		172	26	57	24	11	974
TEXAS	68		66	23		21	21	497	59	414	57	143	4,830
UTAH	16		9				1	169	9	129	45		927
VERMONT			1					51	6		25		147
VIRGINIA	64		34	2		4	19	135	25	66	38	21	1,195
WASHINGTON	19		7	1		12	3	400	34	72	1,047	60	2,218
WISCONSIN	7	8	17					46	2	79	19	17	374
Grand Total	1,605	98	1,576	89	62	210	163	6,958	698	4,059	4,583	1,551	65,726

Table 4
Arrivals by State of Initial Resettlement
FY 1983 - 2007 a/

STATE	FY 83-02	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 83-07
ALABAMA	4,368	49	85	107	59	138	4,806
ALASKA	777	28	42	80	25	31	983
ARIZONA	31,034	1,051	2,268	2,007	1,822	2,175	40,357
ARKANSAS	1,848	5	20	12	1	9	1,895
CALIFORNIA	415,788	4,222	6,809	7,542	5,230	6,744	446,335
COLORADO	18,760	488	826	901	812	956	22,743
CONNECTICUT	19,304	220	434	528	319	505	21,310
DELAWARE	679	40	10	18	2	22	771
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	12,288	110	60	46	74	33	12,611
FLORIDA	227,306	10,961	25,396	19,410	22,554	17,785	323,412
GEORGIA	45,497	1,123	2,222	1,945	1,532	1,714	54,033
HAWAII	4,007	15	24	25	5	11	4,087
IDAHO	8,062	263	363	534	548	782	10,552
ILLINOIS	71,047	961	1,423	1,477	1,245	1,897	78,050
INDIANA	7,468	263	476	495	367	1,422	10,491
IOWA	18,242	228	475	365	358	448	20,116
KANSAS	9,869	99	138	154	150	156	10,566
KENTUCKY	16,102	556	1,387	1,078	1,112	1,249	21,484
LOUISIANA	12,163	113	384	221	143	187	13,211
MAINE	4,599	109	201	151	143	118	5,321
MARYLAND	28,258	811	955	742	679	648	32,093
MASSACHUSETTS	55,035	853	1,554	1,349	895	828	60,514
MICHIGAN	40,753	561	1,385	933	738	1,385	45,755
MINNESOTA	45,822	1,783	5,916	6,357	4,578	3,200	67,656
MISSISSIPPI	1,462	3	12	1	6	6	1,490
MISSOURI	31,812	448	924	991	564	838	35,577
MONTANA	929	34	7	5	0	3	978
NEBRASKA	9,569	214	491	228	301	494	11,297
NEVADA	8,472	391	788	654	621	614	11,540
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,558	241	566	313	271	250	7,199
NEW JERSEY	35,671	667	953	876	735	751	39,653
NEW MEXICO	6,666	96	202	131	164	157	7,416
NEW YORK	240,787	2,512	3,709	2,782	2,567	3,146	255,503
NORTH CAROLINA	18,025	597	1,118	1,286	1,272	1,831	24,129
NORTH DAKOTA	6,008	105	224	228	185	204	6,954
OHIO	27,738	662	1,446	1,563	1,943	1,574	34,926
OKLAHOMA	6,848	61	91	136	99	161	7,396
OREGON	31,400	866	1,615	1,113	1,102	793	36,889
PENNSYLVANIA	53,847	1,331	1,823	1,621	1,353	1,318	61,293
RHODE ISLAND	6,410	130	317	284	133	139	7,413
SOUTH CAROLINA	2,006	117	150	109	83	106	2,571
SOUTH DAKOTA	4,662	159	330	214	184	219	5,768
TENNESSEE	18,835	463	965	872	761	974	22,870
TEXAS	93,801	1,822	4,154	3,501	3,169	4,830	111,277
UTAH	15,416	401	761	753	672	927	18,930
VERMONT	4,192	78	237	182	165	147	5,001
VIRGINIA	34,660	854	1,702	1,389	1,257	1,195	41,057
WASHINGTON	81,086	2,757	3,027	2,851	2,465	2,218	94,404
WEST VIRGINIA	399	2	0	3	0	0	404
WISCONSIN	19,949	237	1,660	1,851	401	374	24,472
WYOMING	155	1	0	0	0	0	156
AMERICAN SAMOA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
GUAM	56	0	0	5	0	0	61
PUERTO RICO	710	25	31	17	23	14	820
VIRGIN ISLANDS	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
UNKNOWN	116	0	0	0	0	0	116
Grand Total	1,866,322	40,186	80,156	70,438	63,889	65,726	2,186,717

a/ The numbers in this table have been adjusted since the FY 2005 Annual Report due to verification of data in the Refugee Arrivals Data System

Appendix B

Federal Agency Reports

Department of State

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

The United States leads the world in providing assistance to refugees and victims of conflict. The U.S. resettles about one-half of the refugees referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for resettlement each year. The Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) has primary responsibility for formulating U.S. policies on these issues and for administering U.S. refugee assistance and admissions programs overseas.

Of the 48,281 refugees admitted to the U.S. in FY 2007, the largest number came from Africa (17,482), and East Asia (15,643). As in previous years, the President authorized in-country processing in the former Soviet Union, Vietnam and Cuba for persons who would qualify, as refugees were they outside their country of origin. In addition, the U.S. offered resettlement to refugees outside their country of origin who were deemed to be of "special humanitarian concern" to the U.S. A number of particularly vulnerable groups, including persecuted religious and ethnic minorities, were determined to be of special concern to the U.S. and given priority processing.

Department of Homeland Security

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) administers the immigration and naturalization laws relating to the interview, determination, admission and naturalization of refugees and asylees. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) within the DHS is responsible for the adjudication of refugee applications overseas, and USCIS officers make the final determination regarding an applicant's eligibility for refugee resettlement in the U.S. In FY 2007, USCIS conducted 50,000 refugee classification interviews in more than 50 different countries.

DHS is also responsible for the inspection and admission of approved refugees upon arrival in the U.S. and processes subsequent applications for refugees including adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident and naturalization. In FY 2007, 48,281 refugees from over 60 countries were admitted to the United States.

In addition to processing refugees overseas, USCIS also adjudicates asylum applications filed by asylum seekers who are already present in the U.S. In FY 2007, USCIS asylum officers completed 61,813 cases, approving 10,639. The countries with the greatest number of asylum approvals were: People's Republic of China (18%), Haiti (9%), Colombia (8%), Ethiopia (5%), Guatemala (4%), Indonesia (4%), and Venezuela (4%).

Information about USCIS and the processing of refugee and asylum cases can be found on the internet at www.uscis.gov.

Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Global Health Affairs

The Mission of the Office of Global Health Affairs is to promote the health of the people of the world by advancing the Department of Health and Human Services' global strategies and partnerships, thus serving the health and well-being of the people of the United States.

Humanitarian and Refugee Health Affairs in the Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA) is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of refugees resettled in the United States through the provision of technical assistance to the Office of Refugee Resettlement. OGHA accomplishes this goal through collaboration with Federal partners at the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and others.

OGHA provides guidance on refugee health on the federal, state and local levels. OGHA provides technical assistance to States on providing health assessments to newly arrived refugees and briefs State refugee workers and Voluntary Agencies on emerging health conditions within refugee populations and common conditions that could be a hindrance to successful resettlement. Healthy refugees are better equipped to manage the stresses of resettlement in the United States. OGHA is working to ensure that medical care providers, refugees, refugee workers and state and local officials have the tools to promote refugee health within their communities and on the local and national levels.

Information about the Office of Global Health Affairs can be found on the internet at www.globalhealth.gov.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The Refugee Mental Health Program (RMHP) is located in the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Since 1995, through an Intra-Agency Agreement (IAA), ORR has funded the RMHP to provide refugee mental health consultation and technical assistance to Federal, State, or local agencies. The IAA funds one full-time public health advisor.

The objectives of the RMHP are to facilitate collaboration among refugee service providers and public and private mental health providers, organizations and systems, provide technical assistance and consultation on refugee mental and behavioral health and well-being, and respond to emergencies of refugee admissions and other unique refugee-related assignments from the Office of the Director, ORR, such as Kosovar refugees processed at Ft. Dix in 1999, refugees dislocated in U.S. by disasters, and populations with high prevalence of torture survivors.

Specific RMHP services and activities include:

- In-site and distance consultation and technical assistance concerning issues related to health and well-being of refugees.
- Refugee community assessments, program development and dissemination of technical assistance documents.
- Workshops and training programs for resettlement staff and mainstream personnel.

- Monitoring, technical assistance and evaluation of torture treatment centers.
- Special missions as assigned by the Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement.

In FY 2007, RMHP continued ongoing activities related to ORR's national refugee health promotion and disease prevention initiative. The initiative known as "Points of Wellness, Partnering for Refugee Health and Wellbeing" was established to help organizations become involved with health promotion and disease prevention activities and programs within refugee communities. In particular, RMHP conducted several state, regional and national training workshops and webinars on the topic of refugee public mental health. Additionally, RMHP maintained the refugee health listserv, which was first established in FY 2005 for the purpose of sharing refugee health information and updates. The listserv may be accessed at <http://list.nih.gov> and browse for REFUGEEHEALTH-L. It now has 330 subscribers.

Appendix C

Resettlement Agency Reports

Church World Service

The Immigration and Refugee Program (IRP) is the largest program of Church World Service, Inc (CWS). CWS is the relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican communions in the United States. Working in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS works worldwide to meet human needs and foster self-reliance for all whose way is hard.

CWS/IRP is unique among voluntary agencies in that seven national Protestant denominations partner with the organization in its resettlement activities. This unique relationship provides an extended network of support that benefits CWS clients, as the church co-sponsorship model utilized by the agency mobilizes congregations to provide additional private resources that assist refugees in their transition into the U.S. Local congregations frequently offer assistance in the form of material donations, social adjustment services, transportation, emergency funds, help with housing, and thousands of hours in volunteer time. On the national level, CWS/IRP’s denominations are involved in designing program and policy through their participation in the Immigration and Refugee Program Committee (IRPCOM). IRPCOM is composed of representatives from each of the following communions: *American Baptist Churches USA; the United Methodist Church; Presbyterian Church USA; Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Christian Reformed Church; Reformed Church of America; and the United Church of Christ.*

CWS/IRP operates through a national network of 25 affiliates and 9 sub-offices located in 23 states. Affiliate partners are independent, ecumenical, community-based non-profit organizations that organize sponsorships, secure community resources and deliver refugee services as part of their commitment to CWS/IRP refugees resettled in their respective areas. They range in size and scope from refugee service units of local interfaith councils to large multi-service agencies that provide wide-ranging services to many segments of the refugee, asylee and immigrant population(s). Through CWS/IRP and the national denominations’ involvement in a broad range of refugee and immigrant issues, the affiliate network is able to gain perspective on the context of their work, ensure strong community involvement in resettlement activities, and link refugees with resources to address needs beyond the initial resettlement period and services required by the Cooperative Agreement with Department of State/BPRM.

In FY 2007, CWS/IRP resettled 4,767 refugees through its affiliate network. Additionally, CWS/IRP assisted with the primary and secondary resettlement of 6,399 Cuban and Haitian clients.

FY 2007 Arrivals (CWS)	
Region:	Cases/Individuals:
Africa	708 / 2,064
Europe / Central Asia	89 / 297
Latin America	105 / 203
Near East	416 / 868
Southwest Asia	708 / 1,335
TOTAL	1,879 / 4,767

FY 2007 Cuban and Haitian Entrants (CWS)	
Region:	Entrants:
Cuba	6,399
Haiti	0
TOTAL	6,399

In addition to the work carried out through the affiliate network, CWS/IRP administers the Overseas Processing Entities in Nairobi, Kenya and Accra, Ghana through contractual relationships with Department of State/Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. In 2007, CWS/IRP continued its overseas activities under the Durable Solutions for the Displaced Program, with programs addressing an array of needs for displaced persons in Senegal, Kenya, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Haiti, Ghana, Tanzania, Thailand, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. CWS/IRP also maintained its partnership with Jesuit Refugee Service/USA to operate the Religious Services Program, which offers access to religious services and counsel for detainees in eight of the Department of Homeland Security’s Service Processing Centers. Further, CWS/IRP’s Legal Program expanded number of CWS/IRP affiliates providing immigration legal services, offering training sessions, assistance with Bureau of Immigration Appeals accreditation and recognition, and ongoing technical assistance on issues related to establishing, maintaining, and strengthening immigration legal services.

Episcopal Migration Ministries

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), a program of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, responds to refugees, immigrants and displaced persons both domestically and internationally. EMM operates a national resettlement program through a network of 33 affiliate offices in 27 dioceses of the Episcopal Church that agree to organize parish sponsorships and community resources as part of their commitment to ensure the provision of reception and placement services to refugees. Programs range in size and scope from multi-service centers in major urban areas to smaller diocesan programs and refugee ministry units of state councils of churches.

While EMM is fortunate to benefit from substantial private support from the Episcopal Church, EMM believes that the hallmark of the Matching Grant program is the involvement of local communities and the resources they bring in the form of cash and in-kind assistance. In this regard, EMM affiliate sites regularly exceed the Office of Refugee Resettlement’s (ORR) total match requirement.

In FY 2007, EMM resettled 2,296 refugees from the following regions:

FY 2007 Resettlement (EMM)			
Europe and Central Asia	276	21	178
Africa	1,762	712	749
Near East	735	141	482
Asia	874	434	747
Latin America	187	55	140
TOTAL	3,934	1,363	2,296

EMM enrolled approximately 38 percent of its annual refugee caseload in the ORR-funded Matching Grant program, with asylees, parolees, and victims of trafficking comprising the remainder of program enrollments. Several EMM sites with substantial resettlement potential have enhanced their resettlement capacity with ORR preferred community grants, utilizing the funds towards employment, community outreach, medical case management, and extended cultural adjustment. Preferred Communities funding was particularly beneficial in providing for additional intensive case management in nine localities that were impacted by especially large numbers of refugees arriving in the 4th quarter of the fiscal year.

EMM links the Episcopal Church with the worldwide Anglican Communion in responding to refugee crises internationally and represents the Church in advancing the need for safe and humane treatment of all forcibly displaced persons. EMM, through its office for Church Relations and Outreach, promotes active parish involvement in sponsoring or otherwise assisting refugees and marginalized immigrants.

For further information, contact Michelle Gonzalez at Episcopal Migration Ministries, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017 or migonzalez@episcopalchurch.org.

Ethiopian Community Development Council

Headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) is a non-profit community-based organization, which since 1983 has been dedicated to helping refugees achieve successful resettlement in their new homeland and providing cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs in the refugee and immigrant community. ECDC also conducts humanitarian, educational and socio-economic development programs in Ethiopia.

In 2007, ECDC consolidated its national programs into one division, the Center for African Refugees and Immigrants (CARI). Within CARI there are three program areas: Refugee Resettlement; Public Education; and Community Development Initiatives. ECDC serves as the national office for a network of 10 resettlement affiliates, which includes eight independent, community-based organizations and two ECDC branch offices that provide resettlement services in local communities around the country. Through information and educational programs and services, ECDC seeks to generate greater public awareness about the needs of uprooted people around the world, with a focus on Africa, and to enhance appreciation for the contributions that refugee newcomers make to the United States.

In FY 2007, ECDC and its affiliates resettled 1,940 refugees, including 997 from Africa. Matching Grant programs were conducted by affiliates in Chicago, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Omaha, Phoenix, and San Diego. Seven affiliate sites received ORR funding support through the Preferred Communities program, which enabled these sites to offer enhanced employment and orientation services, driver's education, youth programs, and increased their resource development capacities.

ECDC's African Resource Initiative (ARI) provided technical assistance and resource development support to over 60 existing and emerging African community-based organizations (ACBOs) across the United States, most of which were established by former refugees who experienced first-hand the difficulties of adjusting to a new culture; benefited from available public and private support systems; and now extend similar assistance to those just embarking on a life-changing journey they know so well. In addition, ECDC conducted an ARN Forum for ACBO leaders to strengthen organizational capacity and effectiveness in addressing community concerns; and to build a formalized network as a collective voice and a source of information sharing. As part of its efforts in public education and awareness building on African refugees and immigrants, ARI publishes a bimonthly eNewsletter, the *African Refugee NETWORK*.

Designed to increase understanding about African refugee issues, ECDC conducts an annual national conference that attracts over 250 participants, including local, state and federal government officials, voluntary agencies, non-profit organizations, African community-based organizations, service providers, policymakers, African refugees and immigrants, as well as others interest in African refugee issues. Conference sessions focus on enhancing the knowledge and skills of service providers and ACBOs to more effectively meet the needs of refugees as they become self-sufficient, contributing members of American society; and to strengthen the capacity of newcomer communities to achieve healthy and fulfilling lives in their new homeland. ECDC's 13th national conference, *African Refugees and Immigrants: In Pursuit of Life, Liberty, Happiness*, was held in Arlington, Virginia, May 21-23, 2007.

The ECDC Enterprise Development Group, through the ORR-funded Micro-enterprise Development Program, disbursed 15 loans totaling \$141,470 to refugee entrepreneurs in the Washington, D.C., area; and provided training to 80 people as well pre-loan business assistance and post-loan technical assistance to borrowers.

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) is the national and worldwide arm of the organized American Jewish community for the rescue, relocation and resettlement of refugees and migrants. HIAS works closely with Jewish Federations, Jewish Family Service and Jewish Vocational Service agencies across the nation to maintain an extensive cooperative network committed to providing the broadest possible spectrum of professionally staffed resettlement services.

All HIAS affiliates receive Reception and Placement grant funds to assist in meeting the needs of refugees in their initial phase of resettlement. Many HIAS affiliates also elect to supplement these services with private funding and other resources, enabling them to participate in the ORR Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program as a way of further enhancing their ability to assist refugees to attain economic and social self-sufficiency. Several HIAS sites have also been awarded ORR Preferred Communities funding to help HIAS diversify its caseload, an effort that has resulted in an increasingly large proportion of HIAS's refugee arrivals being from populations other than the former Soviet Union and Iran. In addition, HIAS has received funding from ORR to oversee marriage education activities conducted by affiliates in Tucson (AZ), San Diego (CA), Atlanta (GA), Chicago (IL), Rockville (MD), Boston (MA), Springfield (MA), Bergen County (NJ), New York (NY), Cincinnati (OH), Columbus (OH), Pittsburgh (PA), and Milwaukee (WI), and to provide technical assistance to other ORR grantees. HIAS also has received funding to foster civic participation among emigres from the former Soviet Union living across the United States.

HIAS World Headquarters is located at 333 Seventh Avenue (16th Floor), New York, NY 10001-5005. Information may be found by internet at www.hias.org. E-mail may be sent to info@hias.org.

HIAS and its member agencies resettled 1,563 refugees in FY 2007, which consisted of 571 Iranian refugees, 407 refugees from the former Soviet Union (consisting of 358 family-reunification FSU refugees and 49 free-case Meskhetian Turks), 303 Southeast Asians, 230 Africans, and 52 Iraqis.

International Rescue Committee

Founded in 1933, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is a global leader in emergency relief, rehabilitation, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement services and advocacy for those uprooted or affected by conflict and oppression. At work in over 25 countries, the IRC delivers lifesaving aid in emergencies, rebuilds shattered communities, cares for war-traumatized children,

rehabilitates health care, water and sanitation systems, reunites separated families, restores lost livelihoods, establishes schools, trains teachers, strengthens the capacity of local organizations and supports civil society and good-governance initiatives. For refugees afforded sanctuary in the United States, IRC offices across the country provide a range of assistance aimed to help new arrivals as they resettle, adjust and acquire the skills to become self-sufficient. Committed to restoring dignity and self-reliance, the IRC is a symbol of hope and renewal for those who have taken flight in search of freedom.

IRC resettles refugees in 23 cities throughout the U.S. Aside from its core resettlement services, IRC provides numerous enhanced programs. These include employment programs, services for refugees with special needs, financial literacy, English language training, school-readiness and after school programs, and other services designed to assist refugees to move rapidly towards self-sufficiency.

During FY 2007, the IRC resettled 6,904 refugees. Of this number, 2,005 were from Africa, 1,876 were from East Asia, 286 were from Eastern Europe, 571 were from Latin America, 2,081 were from Near East and 85 were from Former Soviet Union.

Iowa Department of Human Services

Bureau of Refugee Services' Mission

The State of Iowa's refugee resettlement program, in existence since 1975, has reduced its level of resettlement over the last several years. Nevertheless, as a part of state government and representing the people of Iowa, we are committed to helping victims of persecution rebuild their lives.

The Bureau of Refugee Services' (BRS) mission is to offer a home and a future for victims of persecution while helping them become self-sufficient. This enriches our state through the sharing of talents, skills and culture.

Originally, the Bureau's interest was Indochinese refugee resettlement. However, efforts are now being focused on resettling an increasingly diverse refugee population with a new emphasis on refugees from Africa and Burma.

BRS Organization

The Bureau's refugee services model is based upon a team environment encompassing: skills training, job development and placement, case management, core reception and placement activities, social adjustment and administration.

In February of 2003, the Bureau initiated activities in the Assessment, Training and Placement Center. The Center is producing the desired results and is, via skills training and targeted job prep, placement and retention activities, giving clients a much better start in their new jobs as well as the increased ability to succeed in their employment situations.

Iowa's State Coordinator for Refugee Affairs is Mr. Kevin W. Concannon, Director of the Department of Human Services. The Deputy Coordinator and Program Manager is Mr. John Wilken, Chief of the Bureau of Refugee Services.

Iowa's resettlement model is unique. The Bureau of Refugee Services' initial involvement with many refugee clients is via the Department of State Reception and Placement program, the only state with this designation. Because the Bureau is also the designated state agency for post reception and placement

services funding from the DHHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) the Bureau is able to provide an unbroken continuum of services for clients resettled by the Bureau as well as on-going services for secondary migrants and other refugees and asylees beyond their resettlement and Match Grant periods.

Iowa’s Bureau of Refugee Services conducts initial resettlement efforts as well as providing post resettlement services from its headquarters located in Des Moines, Iowa.

Resettlement Efforts

A continuing philosophy that refugees need to become self-sufficient as quickly as possible is core to resettlement for the Bureau.

Emphasis is on early placement of refugees in jobs as this promotes economic independence, generates tax income and helps local economies. Use of welfare-type assistance is discouraged, except in emergency situations or as temporary support which leads to self-sufficiency. For more information contact the Bureau at 1200 University Ave., Suite D, Des Moines, IA. 50314 or on the internet at www.dhs.state.ia.us/refugee.

FY 2007 Resettlement (BRS)	
Ethnicity:	Resettled:
Burmese	128
Burundi	1
Liberian	4
Sudanese	51
Vietnamese	18
TOTAL	202

FY 1975-2007 Resettlement (BRS)	
Ethnicity:	Resettled:
Afghan	16
Benin	2
Bosnian	3,184
Burmese	156
Burundi	1
Cambodian	368
Congolese	3
Ethiopian	2
Hmong	452
Iraqi	5
Kosovar	72
Lao	1,895
Liberian	126
Sierra Leone	7
Somali	7
Sudanese	390
Tai Dam	2,375
Vietnamese	3,824
Other	62
TOTAL	12,947

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) organized in 1939 to help World War II refugee survivors rebuild their lives in the United States, and is now the largest Protestant refugee and immigrant-serving agency in the U.S. In partnership with local Lutheran social ministry organizations and other community-based agencies, LIRS provides social services, immigration-related legal services and child welfare services to refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable immigrant populations. LIRS also works with congregations and faith-based coalitions to provide public education and advocate for just and humane treatment of refugees and immigrants.

In FY 2007, LIRS resettled 931 refugees from Europe and Central Asia, 2,473 from Africa; 506 from the Near East/South Asia; 2,240 from East Asia; 256 from Latin America; for 6,406 refugees. The number of affiliates participating in the Matching Grant program in FY 2007 increased to 22, assisting 3,748 refugees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, asylees, and certified victims of trafficking seek economic self-sufficiency without accessing public cash assistance. Fourteen LIRS affiliates were Preferred Community sites, providing specialized services to strengthen a community's capacity to welcome refugees and enhance affiliate ability to serve populations; of these, four sites focused on Hmong refugees, eight provided women's empowerment programs and two expanded sponsorship development opportunities. LIRS also received Preferred Communities supplemental funding for sixteen affiliates to provide enhanced reception and placement services due to a dramatic increase in arrivals during the last quarter.

LIRS continued to manage the ORR-funded Refugee Works project, a national refugee employment training and technical assistance program. LIRS expanded its Family Enrichment program participation from three locations to six, provided 3,748 refugees with services to help them cope with family structure and communication issues that can be a result of resettlement-related stressors. The Burmese Asylee Project of LIRS completed its fourth and final year with these asylees originally processed in Guam to integrate into their new communities. A final meeting of Burmese community leaders, facilitated by LIRS, solidified plans to create a Burmese-led association to connect and support Burmese communities throughout the United States. LIRS also continued to coordinate a nationwide network of five legal service hubs for torture survivors held in immigration detention.

LIRS services to unaccompanied refugee and migrating children continued to expand in 2007. LIRS's Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program provided specialized foster care services to resettled refugee youth through its national network of 10 affiliate foster care programs. Since 2002, the affiliate programs expanded their capacity to care for unaccompanied minor victims of human trafficking. In FY 2007, LIRS placed 35 unaccompanied refugee children, 10 unaccompanied asylee children and three unaccompanied trafficked children into URM foster care. In addition, 11 refugee children were reclassified as unaccompanied and placed into URM foster care. A total of 248 unaccompanied refugee, asylee and trafficked children were receiving URM foster care services at the end of FY 2007 (133 resettled refugees, 28 asylees and 25 trafficked children, 61 children reclassified as URM and 1 Haitian entrant).

Since 2003, LIRS has expanded services to unaccompanied migrant children in the custody of ORR/Division of Unaccompanied Children's Services. Through the Safe Haven program, LIRS assessed approximately 2,936 of the approximately 9,000 total unaccompanied children placed in ORR shelters, and submitted 2,408 family reunification recommendations.

Through the Lutheran Unaccompanied Children and Youth Services (LUCYS) program, LIRS placed 42 unaccompanied children in the custody of ORR/Division of Unaccompanied Children's Services, collaborated with foster care affiliates to continue culturally and linguistically appropriate services for 81 children placed in previous fiscal years, and provided specialized family reunification assessment and post-reunification services for 170 children. LIRS also provided digital fingerprinting services as part of background checks of potential sponsors for these children. For more information contact Lutheran

Immigration and Refugee Service at 700 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230 or on the internet at www.lirs.org.

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) is a U.S. based non-profit refugee resettlement, immigrant service, public education and advocacy organization. USCRI has served the needs of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants through a network of nearly 50 community-based partner agencies in the United States since 1911. The USCRI network is multicultural and multilingual, representing more than 65 language groups, and is able to deal sensitively with the ethnic and cultural diversity of the clients it serves. The USCRI network collaborates with the Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Department of Homeland Security Citizenship and Immigration Services to provide resettlement assistance, cultural orientation, employment placement, language instruction, health and nutrition outreach, marriage education, services for clients with special needs, legal services, citizenship services, capacity building, and a variety of other programs for refugees and immigrants in the United States.

USCRI is a Private Voluntary Organization registered with the United States Agency of International Development. USCRI has held contracts with the Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration for overseas processing projects in Singapore, Indonesia, Costa Rica, and Saudi Arabia. USCRI operated emergency processing operations in Guam and Ft. Dix, NJ, to facilitate the admission of evacuees from Iraq and Kosovo. USCRI is currently a grantee of the Ford Foundation, the Citigroup Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. USCRI has administered overseas programs serving women, youth and children in Croatia and Rwanda. During FY 2007, USCRI and its partner agencies in 27 cities throughout the U.S. resettled 4,558 refugees from around the world.

For more information contact USCRI headquarters at 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC.

FY 2007 Resettlement (USCRI)	
Region:	Resettled:
Africa	2,089
Eastern Europe	6
East Asia	1,467
Latin America	351
Near East and South Asia	373
FSU	271
TOTAL	4,558

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops / Migration & Refugee Services

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is the public policy and social action agency of the Roman Catholic bishops in the United States. Migration & Refugee Services is the lead office responsible for developing USCCB policies at international and national levels that address the needs and conditions of immigrants, refugees, migrants, and people on the move.

FY 2007 Resettlement (USCCB/MRS)	
Contact:	Resettled:
Africa	5,169
East Asia	4,852
Eastern Europe	700
Latin America	1,052
Near East	1,856
TOTAL	13,629
Of 48,218 total arrivals	28%

Working with the federal government and local churches, USCCB/MRS has helped refugees admitted to the United States resettle into caring and supportive communities around the country since 1920. USCCB/MRS resettles well over a quarter of the refugees coming to the United States through 104 local offices, and assists the service providers who work with them. The USCCB Committee on Migration conducts fact-finding missions to learn first-hand the issues and needs of refugees in camps around the world.

Children and Families

MRS is one of two national voluntary agencies that serve unaccompanied minors for foster placements. With the technical expertise in its *Safe Passages* programs, MRS arranges safe haven for children on the move unaccompanied by adults and without legal travel documents, and helps the U.S. government apply appropriate child welfare standards of care while the children are in USG custody.

MRS implements ORR’s designated Technical Assistance provider for child welfare, the *Bridging Refugee Youth & Children’s Services* program. BRYCS is an interactive storehouse of expertise, offering on-site, targeted trainings, new resources, and an online clearinghouse of information on refugee child welfare via www.brycs.org, to strengthen the capacity of service providers who work with refugee children, youth, or families in the United States.

Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking

Since 2002, MRS has led efforts to combat the modern-day slave trade of human trafficking, by increasing public awareness, training, and technical assistance to service providers, and directing outreach to the trafficking victims themselves. MRS places trafficked children into foster care, group homes, or independent living arrangements, and monitors their care and well-being.

Migrants

MRS also assists local churches and specialized ethnic apostolates responding to the pastoral needs of immigrants, refugees, migrants, and people on the move, aiding in the development and nurturing of a welcoming and supportive Church in the United States.

World Relief

World Relief (WR) is an international relief and development organization committed to relieving human suffering, poverty and hunger worldwide. Founded by the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) in 1944 to assist victims of World War II, World Relief now implements a variety of programs around the world including AIDS education, child survival and maternal health, microenterprise development, agricultural development, anti-trafficking, refugee & immigrant services and disaster response. World Relief works in partnership with churches, volunteers, and community organizations.

In the U.S., World Relief participates with the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) in the resettlement of refugees from processing posts around the world. In FY 2007, World Relief resettled 5,281 refugees through its network of 21 resettlement sites in the U.S.

Since the inception of its refugee resettlement program in 1979, World Relief has resettled over 213,000 refugees in the U.S. Involvement in the resettlement of refugees is viewed as an extension of World Relief’s mandate to empower the local evangelical church to minister to those in need.

In addition to the PRM-funded Reception and Placement program, World Relief’s U.S. affiliate offices implement a variety of programs serving the local refugee and immigrant population, including employment services, ESL classes, immigration legal services, life skills training, and youth programs. In FY 2007, 11 affiliate offices participated in the ORR Matching Grant program, and eight in the Preferred Communities program. Thirteen offices also received supplemental funding from ORR to assist with the high influx of refugee arrivals during July through September. Five affiliates provided assistance to victims of human trafficking through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime. World Relief also maintains a national sub-contract with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) under their HHS-funded program to assist trafficking victims throughout the U.S.

Partnership with local churches is a primary focus of all World Relief programs. Affiliate offices have built a large network of churches, colleges, seminaries, para-church organizations, community-based organizations, and individual volunteers. Together, these partnerships provide a broad range of support and services for refugees and immigrants; including cash contributions, transitional housing, donated goods, and a variety of professional and non-professional volunteer services. In FY 2007, World Relief’s refugee arrivals were from the following regions:

FY 2007 Resettlement (WR)	
Contact:	Resettled:
East Asia/Pacific	1,635
Africa	1,449
Europe (incl. former Soviet Union)	1,381
Near East/South Asia	488
Latin America/Caribbean	328
TOTAL	5,281

For more information contact World Relief headquarters at 7 East Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202, or on the internet at www.worldrelief.org.

Note: According to 45 CFR 87.1 (d), A religious organization that participates in the Department-funded programs or services will retain its independence from Federal, State, and local government, but may not use direct financial assistance from the Department to support any inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization.

Appendix D

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