



Exploring Private Refugee Sponsorship Option(s) for the United States

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Exploring Private Refugee Sponsorship Option(s) for the United States

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Abstract

The research goal of this thesis is to identify areas where the current United States government funded refugee sponsorship program can be augmented by private refugee sponsorships. The idea is not to replace government funded refugee sponsorship program, it is simply to augment it so that the collaborative resources can be leveraged to help more refugees given an average of 24 people were being forced to flee a minute worldwide as recently as 2015.

United States and Canada have many similarities. Canada has a private sponsorship model that it augments with its government sponsorship model. If this approach has been working in Canada since the 1970s, it is also worth considering in the United States.

One out of 100 humans are now displaced from their homes per a Pew Research Center publication as of October 2016. If all of these individuals created a country, it would be the world's 24th biggest country. To put it in perspective, this is more than the population of United Kingdom, or more than 65.3 million people. This has created an international humanitarian crisis. Unless addressed, it will only lead to other types of challenges, as people get desperate. At the same time, finding government funding to meet the challenges of the refugee and migrant crises has been difficult worldwide. In the United States, which has accepted over 3 million refugees since 1980, and was projected to accept over 110,000 refugees in 2017, only 53,716 refugees were actually accepted under President Trump's Administration. It does not look any better for 2018 as his administration has proposed to only accept 45,000 for this year. Meanwhile, countries like Greece, Jordan, Turkey, and others that were already struggling with an economic crisis prior to the migrant crisis, are now struggling to juggle both an economic and

migrant/humanitarian crises as they are inundated with refugees and migrants pouring in from their war-torn neighboring countries. World leaders must collectively make it a priority to innovate humane, practical, sustainable and logical solutions before this crisis spiral into more destabilization worldwide. This research explores whether private sponsorships of refugees can be part of the solution.

This research uses qualitative method and uses the current U.S. government funded refugee sponsorship and Canada's private sponsorship model as case studies. The research identifies the refugee screening steps and processes for entry into the United States, as well as the reception and resettlement steps and processes, once the refugee arrives at the United States. It identifies the costs based on data provided by the U.S. government and its non-profit partners. Then, it takes a similar case study approach towards the Canadian Private Sponsorship model. It is understood that Canada also has a government-funded refugee sponsorship model like in the United States. Their government-funded model is not the focus of this research. However, this research focuses on studying the Canadian private sponsorship model since it augments to their already available government funded model, and enables them to accept additional refugees.

As part of the research background, the thesis also lays out why addressing the international refugee crises is of importance to the United States and the world for national security, stability, our role as a world leader, our identity as a nation, and humanitarian reasons.

In the findings and conclusion portion of the research, the thesis identifies areas where the United States can leverage from a private sponsorship model similar to the Canadian model. It concludes that the reception and resettlement steps and costs, once the refugee enters in the United States, is an area where United States should consider leveraging an expanded private refugee sponsorship model.

Dedication

To the voiceless, you are not forgotten. To those who I met at various refugee camps in Greece, to those waiting for hours in long lines for a piece of bread, dry clothes, or medicine from a makeshift clinic; to those who I met in villages in Tanzania that were not yet on Google Maps, to the orphaned cerebral palsy children in Ecuador, to the community in Nepal that suffered an earthquake and a fuel crises that made even getting water and vegetables a luxury, to the kids studying in the remote Himalayan Mountain villages of India and orphans in Chennai, to the village in Ghana that asked us to build a library so that one day they can have internet for their community and connect with the rest of the world, and to all the volunteers, staff, community members, and teachers that tirelessly and silently dedicate their lives working selflessly to make someone else's life better, you inspire me to use this privileged life to tell your stories. You give me strength. I remember you. I see you. I hear you.

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Chapter I.

Introduction

The recent media attention on the European Refugee Crises has highlighted the fact that across the globe, there are more than 65.3 million¹ displaced humans as of the end of year 2015. At the same time, finding government funding to meet the challenges of the refugee and migrant crises has been difficult. What if the U.S. government allowed private sponsorships of asylum seekers to augment government initiatives?

The research problem this paper explores is: A private refugee sponsorship model as an added option for the United States.

Think tanks, governments, academics, organizations, and other experts have been trying for sometime to solve how to proactively avert circumstances that displace people in the first place. Meanwhile, how to sustainably provide aid to the already internationally displaced humans is also an emergency that is overdue for a solution.

Where aid comes from can be divided into two broad categories:

- Government resources
- Private resources

Government funding used for asylum seekers has become a politically controversial topic in the United States of America (United States, USA, U.S.) and the rest of the world.

¹“Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2015,” *UNHCR*, June 20, 2016, <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unhcrsharedmedia/2016/2016-06-20-global-trends/2016-06-14-Global-Trends-2015.pdf> ; Adrian Edwards, “Global Forced Displacement Hits Record High,” *UNHCR*, June 20, 2016, <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2016/6/5763b65a4/global-forced-displacement-hits-record-high.html>.

Many who feel their taxes should go towards supporting their current citizens initially resist it. But, what if there was an additional way to assist asylum seekers?

UNHCR, Migration Policy Institute, as well as think tanks such as the Niskanen Center and others are starting to explore the private sponsorship options. United States considered this under President Ronald Reagan's administration, and Canada has continued to allow private sponsorships for a few decades. In December of 2015, Judith Kumin published a valuable research paper called, "Welcoming Engagement: How Private Sponsorship Can Strengthen Refugee Resettlement in the European Union" posted in the Migration Policy Institute (MPI). In her paper, she also encourages other researchers to further explore the topic and identified areas that require further studies. Private sector funding is not a new idea as Kumin highlights in her report:

The private sector already plays a significant role in global governance, in areas that range from public health to child welfare to safeguarding the environment. Aid organisations look to the private sector for innovative ways to deliver humanitarian assistance. There is no reason why the same could not be true for refugee protection.²

Judith Kumin further explains "What Is the Private Sponsorship of Refugees?"

There is no agreed definition for private sponsorship, which, in practice, takes different forms in different countries. Attempts to define the arrangement are complicated by the fact that individuals and civil-society groups already help resettled refugees, and do so in a myriad of ways that reflect their own motivations and capacities—and the degree to which the state provides public assistance. In most cases, however, these forms of private assistance fall short of sponsorship.

Private sponsorship arrangements have two central features: First, an individual, group, or other organization assumes responsibility for providing financial, social,

²Judith Kumin, "Welcoming Engagement: How Private Sponsorship Can Strengthen Refugee Resettlement in the European Union," *Migration Policy Institute*, 2-3, December 2015, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/welcoming-engagement-how-private-sponsorship-can-strengthen-refugee-resettlement-european>, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/Asylum-PrivateSponsorship-Kumin-FINAL.pdf>.

and emotional support to a resettled refugee (or refugee family) for a predetermined period of time—usually one year, sometimes longer—or until the refugee becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first.

Second, sponsors have the option of naming the person or persons whose resettlement they are willing to support. Although this last feature is an important one for sponsors seeking to help relatives or friends, some sponsors do not have a specific refugee in mind and agree to be “matched” with refugees not related or otherwise known to them.³

Canada, which shares many similarities with the United States, including a history of being an immigrant nation, allows groups of private citizen, private communities, and private organizations to sponsor refugees. Perhaps something similar can alleviate some of the pressures or burdens faced by the United States government politically and economically without impeding its history of being a beacon of hope, and providing a safe place to those fleeing persecution, conflict, wars, and/or human rights violations. It is also politically easier to make the case for sponsoring additional asylum seekers when private groups, private citizens, and private businesses are offering to pay for the sponsorship instead of relying solely on public funding. U.S. President Ronald Reagan had explored such an option under Private Sector Initiative (PSI) in 1986. Over 16,000⁴ refugees, mostly Cubans and Soviet Jews, entered the United States under privately funded categories from 1987 to 1993 as reported by David Bier. However, the PSI model implemented under Reagan was allowed to expire under the Clinton Administration.⁵ The reason provided was that it was “difficult for many organization to meet the financial

⁴David Bier, “What Ronald Reagan Can Teach Us about Refugee Resettlement,” *Daily Caller*, November 12, 2015, <http://dailycaller.com/2015/11/12/what-ronald-reagan-can-teach-us-about-refugee-resettlement>.

⁷Myers, “Refugee Resettlement into the 1990s;” Bier and La Corte, “Private Refugee Resettlement.”

requirements.”⁶ As the Niskanen Center reports, this might have been due to the 1992 Senate Judiciary Committee finding that “private sector organizations resettling refugees have grown reluctant to commit themselves to private sector resettlement initiatives because of unpredictable and inflationary medical costs.”⁷ Other factors that the Niskanen Center reports could have been that the sponsors were responsible for supporting the refugees even if the refugee rejected a “reasonable” job offer even though 80 percent of those placed in small communities were employed after a year.⁸ Additionally, enrollment process for being a PSI organization was difficult. There were also concerns that the program was “unfair because it created a preference for certain established immigrant populations.”⁹ While Reagan’s PSI model became unsustainable, the Canadian Private Sponsorship Model continues to be sustainable since the 1970s. A deeper dive of the Canadian Private Sponsorship Model, and United States’ current model can be valuable research to explore whether U.S. can come up with a more sustainable future Private Sponsorship model for the United States?

My proposed research will be an extension of Judith Kumin’s, David Bier,¹⁰ Matthew La Corte’s,¹¹ Migration Policy Institute, Niskanen Center, and UNHCR’s work. This thesis research will augment their work by focusing on understanding the current United States refugee acceptance model and the Canadian Private Sponsorship Model to

⁸ Myers, “Refugee Resettlement into the 1990s;” Bier and La Corte, “Private Refugee Resettlement.”

⁹ Myers, “Refugee Resettlement into the 1990s;” Bier and La Corte, “Private Refugee Resettlement.”

¹⁰David Bier and Matthew La Corte, “Privately Funded Refugee Resettlement. How to Leverage American Charity to Resettle Refugees,” *Niskanen Center*, March 22, 2016, <https://niskanencenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/NiskanenPrivateRefugee.pdf>.

¹¹Bier and La Corte, “Privately Funded Refugee Resettlement.”

discern where the Canadian Private sponsorship model can be leveraged and where it can be modified to fit the United States in augmenting the U.S. government sponsored initiatives.

Chapter II.

Background of the Problem

As stated earlier, media attention that the European Refugee Crises has generated is finally bringing to world's attention that there are also 65.3 million¹² displaced people worldwide as of the end of 2015. To put it in perspective, this is more than the population of United Kingdom.¹³ One out of 100¹⁴ humans are now displaced from their homes per a Pew Research Center publication as of October 2016. If all of these individuals created a country, it would be the world's 24th¹⁵ biggest country. The worldwide engagement of this topic has already highlighted that the current international law around asylum seekers has gaps. Although there are many different international declarations, conventions, protocols, treaties, etcetera addressing asylum seekers, they only protect a fraction of asylum seekers. In addition, not all of them are legally binding. This makes it challenging for international organizations to enforce them. Sometimes, even if a country is violating binding international law, they are not held accountable or corrected for political, social, economical and security reasons. The plethora of layers in international, regional, local state laws, lack of political will, lack of facts on migrants, xenophobia flared by political

¹²"Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2015," *UNHCR*; Edwards, "Global Forced Displacement Hits Record High."

¹³Edwards, "Global Forced Displacement Hits Record High."

¹⁴Phillip Connor and Jens Manuel Krogstad, "Key Facts about The World's Refugees," *Pew Research Center*, October 5, 2016, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/10/05/key-facts-about-the-worlds-refugees/>.

¹⁵Edwards, "Global Forced Displacement Hits Record High."

campaigns, finger pointing, disagreements on who should take responsibility, which government should contribute how much, etc., makes it unrealistic to solely rely upon a solution provided by government collaboration to solve the internationally displaced crises.

It is also obvious that the precedence set by the international laws on displaced persons is insufficient and unsustainable in addressing the current refugee, migrant, and displaced crises. With unrest, wars, political, and economical issues in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Asian countries, the hurdles of changing international laws is mountainous and painstakingly slow in the backdrop of politicians fanning the flames of xenophobia, bigotry and fear of immigrants as part of their campaign messages.

Meanwhile, an average of 24 people were forced to flee each minute in year 2015.¹⁶ Countries like Greece, Jordan, Turkey, etc., that were already struggling with an economic crises before the migrant crises, are now struggling to juggle both an economic and migrant/humanitarian crises.

There are also countries like Germany who had announced they will accept refugees, which normally would be a great relief, but many Balkan countries between Greece and Germany closed their borders. They refused entry to migrants (including refugees) to even pass through their nations to voyage on to refugee-accepting countries like Germany. This is adding to the humanitarian crises in places such as Greece, Turkey, and others where refugees are pouring in hoping to eventually cross the borders and pass through to countries in Western Europe where refugees are being accepted. For example, Macedonia, on February 21, 2016, announced its borders were closed to Afghans.

¹⁶Edwards, "Global Forced Displacement Hits Record High."

Besides the fact that Macedonia's blanket policy stating that the borders are closed to people from specific country of origin, in this case Afghans, before giving the asylum seekers from Afghanistan a chance to be individually evaluated to determine whether he/she met the criteria of a refugee is discrimination based on country of origin and a violation of Article 3 of the *1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*;¹⁷ the Afghans that had already made a perilous journey up to the Greek & Macedonia border were now stuck in a growing population of over 50,000 displaced in Greece alone. Usually, United States offers to take refugees, but in 2017, with proposals by the new Trump administration of banning refugees, migrants, visitors, etc., from many Muslim countries, including Syria, instead of embracing refugees like most of the past administrations have done, it only added to the uncertainty and chaos. Albeit, the United States Justice Department has continuously struck down Trump administration's proposals of such ban, it nonetheless creates an uncertain environment and an administration that is lagging on the world stage to address this humanitarian crises instead of leading. Lack of leadership from the United States is creating a big void in the world stage. It could lead to international actors that do not have the best interest of United States in mind to fill the void.

In spring of 2016, having volunteered and witnessed the conditions at the Greek/Macedonia border area of Eidomeni (Idomeni), it is clear how outsized the humanitarian crisis has become. In 2016, Macedonian border control was throwing tear gas canisters at family tents across their border into Greek territory where there were

¹⁷Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Text of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Text of the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Resolution 2198 (XXI) Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly with an Introductory Note by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *UNHCR*, <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>.

babies, children and women inside people's tents. Macedonian border control claimed it did it for national security reasons because refugees were trying to cross the border, and yes, refugees did try to cross the border, but it is questionable whether Macedonian border patrol needed to drop canisters of tear gas on tents in the Greek side of the border with refugee and migrant families inside. A Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders tent was also hit with a tear gas canister on the Greek side of the border. Tear-gassing a population that already lacks the means of clean clothes, sanitization, shower facilities led to an increased number of skin diseases, health issues, not to mention emotional reactions, hopelessness and a sense of betrayal.

While volunteering at one of the InterVolve clothes distribution Isotope boxes in the Eidomeni camp, below is an example of a WhatsApp text message I received the day after tear gas canisters were thrown by the Macedonian border control. The message was from one of the MSF volunteers. Unfortunately, we were unable to fulfill this request due to lack of resources and a break-in overnight in the Isotope box:

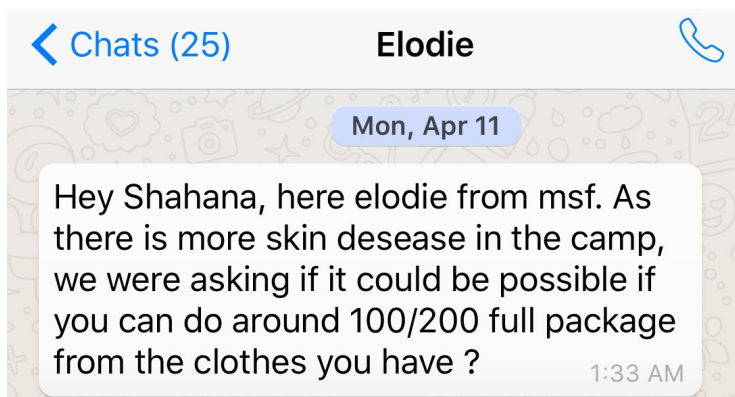


Figure 1. Elodie, Personal Conversation.

Elodie, MSF Worker, What's App Text Message, April 11, 2016.

Meanwhile, on a separate front, some countries in Europe, like Germany, are experiencing an aging population ready to retire combined with a simultaneous decline in working age population available to enter its workforce. The Pew Research projects:

Europe, where the only growing population is seniors, is projected to experience the sharpest increase in the total dependency ratio, from 47 to 73. Thus, for every 100 people of working age, Europe may have nearly three-quarters the number of dependents in 2050.¹⁸

However, instead of embracing a refugee population that can supplement the workers being lost, there is a growing backlash from some segments of the European population who voice that their tax funds should go towards helping its current citizens.

On one hand, countries such as Germany announced they will accept refugees. On the other hand, there has been a growing anti-refugee sentiment. Example, in 2016, in Berlin, an elderly taxi driver shared with me that he thinks German government should use its taxes to help people like him and poor elderly German citizens instead of spending its tax revenues on refugees. His opinion was that Germany cannot afford to help refugees when there is a growing population of poorer elderly people in Germany. When asked would it not benefit Germany long term to have refugees supplement the aging and retiring German population to sustain the workplace and its economy? His opinion was that the aging population argument is just propaganda. He believed that the reality is that the older generation needs the jobs to keep working longer to support themselves, and government should use the tax revenue to first help aging Germans rather than spend it on refugees. Right wing political parties campaign on such sentiments and spread an anti-refugee/anti-migrants message.

¹⁹ Phillip Connor and Jens Manuel Krogstad, “Key Facts about the World’s Refugees.”

Meanwhile, the United States and Canada have recently varied in their responses to the recent Syrian/European refugee crises. While U.S. still remains the world leader in accepting worldwide refugees for third country settlement program, it has lagged behind Canada in specifically accepting Syrian refugees amidst the recent European Refugee Crises since the Syrian Civil War started in 2011. While Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is welcoming Syrian refugees, U.S. President Donald Trump has tried initiating policies to ban refugees and ban travelers from several countries, including Syria. On the other hand, “About six-in-ten Syrians are now displaced from their homes, a number unprecedented in recent history for a single country,”¹⁹ reports Pew Research Center.

In the past, U.S. took over 3 million²⁰ refugees since the Refugee Act of 1980 while Canada had admitted 700,000²¹ over the past 40 years. Even last year, in 2016, U.S. admitted 84,995²² refugees; Canada accepted total of 46,000.²³ However, U.S. has lagged behind on the current Syrian refugee crises, and under President Trump’s administration, has cut down on allowing refugees.

Why is solving the refugee and migrant crises significant for the world?

65.3 million displaced people worldwide translate to a global humanitarian crisis. Besides a humanitarian crisis, if left unaddressed, such a large displaced population can translate into economic, social, and security destabilization in a globalized world.

²⁰ Jens Manuel Krogstad and Jynnah Radford, “Key Facts about Refugees to the U.S,” *Pew Research Center*, January 30, 2017, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/30/key-facts-about-refugees-to-the-u-s/>.

²¹ “Canada’s 2016 Record High Level of Resettlement Praised by UNHCR,” *UNHCR*, April 24, 2017, <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2017/4/58fe15464/canadas-2016-record-high-level-resettlement-praised-unhcr.html>.

²² Krogstad and Radford, “Key Facts about Refugees to the U.S.”

²³ “Canada’s 2016 Record High Level of Resettlement Praised by UNHCR,” *UNHCR*.

As previously stated, the absence of proper international law protection for asylum seekers is allowing intentional or unintentional opportunities for human rights violations and humanitarian crises. The gap in international laws for asylum seeker also handicaps the international community to hold governments and organizations accountable when human rights violations are perpetrated. This leads asylum seekers to be in critical physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological danger; making them vulnerable, insecure, and often subjected to indignity, feeling betrayed, fearful, sad/depressed, hopeless, humiliated, anxious, frustrated, angry and post traumatic syndrome. In some cases, it also leads to death.

When people escape joining terrorist organizations like Daesh, and/or ruthless governments like Assad's, they do so because they rejected those ideas and ideologies. During personal conversation in Greece with asylum seekers from Syria, they shared that the choices they had left at home were:

- Be killed
- Be forced to join terrorist organizations, join rebel groups, or state militaries like Assad's that are clearly violating its citizen's human rights.
- Find a smuggler that could help them escape from their country.

Many have taken the third option in the hopes that the "West," which advocates democracy, liberty, freedom, human rights, economic stability, etc., would give them a safe place to live.

If the "West" refuses to help these individuals and families, will they feel deceived by the "West"? Will it make the "West" appear hypocritical? Could terrorist organization use that to further propagate their agenda and recruit? Could terrorist

organization use this opportunity to step in and promise security, food, water, and basics to asylum seekers who are desperately lacking those basics? Can it create further division with the “West” and strengthen the terrorist network resulting in increased terrorism and instability around the world? In turn, this could lead to increased human rights violation, exasperate the humanitarian crises, and continue to create vicious cycles of further violence, wars, and chaos effecting the entire world? While the international community and governments have already considered all of these dynamics, there are still over 65.3 million²⁴ displaced humans on earth and the numbers are only growing. The Syrian Refugee Crises is just one example among many.

Out-of-the-box thinking needs to occur, and solely depending and waiting on government solutions is not working. The world, governments, and the displaced may all benefit if governments allow private sector sponsorship of asylum seekers to mitigate the lack of funding and resources that governments find challenging to overcome. As of 2016, there are 1,810 billionaires around the world whose accumulated net worth is almost \$6.5 trillion.²⁵ The U.S. alone has 540 billionaires.²⁶ In addition, as of 2014, there were over 14.6 million millionaires²⁷ in the world according to World Wealth Report released by Cap Gemini and RBC Wealth Management in June of 2015. Granted not everyone will contribute towards aiding asylum seekers, some are already contributing towards other types of charitable causes; however, even if a fraction of the world’s

²⁴“Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2015,” *UNHCR*; Edwards, “Global Forced Displacement Hits Record High.”

²⁵ “Forbes 2016: World’s Top 10 Billionaires,” CBS This Morning, Credit AP, *CBS News*, <http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/top-10-richest-billionaires-world-forbes-2016>.

²⁶ “Forbes 2016: World’s Top 10 Billionaires.” *CBS News*.

²⁷ Robert Frank, “How Many Millionaires? Depends Who’s Counting,” *CNBC*, June 24, 2015, <http://www.cnbc.com/2015/06/24/how-many-millionaires-in-the-world-it-depends.html>.

millionaires and billionaires were allowed the option to privately sponsor a family each year, over the course of few years, it can help sponsor a sizable portion of asylum seekers.

Not all the contributions have to be monetary. Some can be things such as sharing part of the house or vacation home to provide lodging to an asylum seeker. Adding to that pool, if groups of five individuals or more are also allowed to privately sponsor asylum seekers, like Canada allows, one does not have to be a millionaire or billionaire to help asylum seekers. Add charitable organizations, businesses, crowd funding, etc., into the pool of private sponsorships, and significant revenue can be accumulated to assist the displaced. When multiple avenues of privately sponsoring asylum seekers are considered, it could prove to be an additional viable option to help a significant amount of asylum seekers around the world.

The potential funds to assist private sponsorships are there; however, additional research is needed in lessons learned and best practices in deploying effective private sponsorship models so the funds can be used properly. Research in this area can be a significant contribution in aiding governments and the international community to seriously consider private sponsorship of refugees and contribute towards a humanitarian aid solution for the already displaced population in the world.

Why should United States do anything to resolve the refugee crises when there are 193 other countries in the United Nations that can also step up?

First, the United States is one of only five countries that is bestowed the power of a veto in the United Nations Security Council. This means, any decision made regarding the security of the world must get a “yes” vote from the five out of the 193 counties in the

United Nations before the world is allowed to act upon it. This can be viewed by some as U.S. being one of the “guardians,” unofficially known as the “Five Policemen” and more officially known as the “Permanent Five (P5)” of the world. How the U.S. acts and behaves matters just like how any guardian, policeman or policewoman in uniform acts and behaves in any public crisis matters. Secondly, the United States is currently the only remaining superpower in the world. The combination of being a superpower and a country with the veto power comes with certain responsibilities. One of them is to be a good role model for the rest of the nations and to facilitate peace and security in the world. Thirdly, those who were running away from persecutions in their home countries founded the United States. Honoring that, throughout its history, the United States has continued to provide a safe place for new generations facing danger or persecution in their home countries. It’s in United States’ DNA. Fourth, finding a solution is in the best interest of United States’ national security. Allowing this crisis to remain unresolved can make the world unstable and foster an environment that is not only unsafe for the rest of the world, but eventually unsecure for the United States as well. Fifth, it is the humane thing to do. Sixth, the United States became a super power by being exceptional and leading the way during times of crises and peace, and not by simply being complacent with status quo.

The United States is at a crossroads. It is a crossroad U.S. citizens have often found ourselves in throughout the history of the United States of America. The question that often comes up is, who or what is “American?” Unlike many homogenous nations around the world, it is not defined by a particular race, ethnicity, or religion. Besides for those who have 100% Native American heritage, everyone else in the United States, even

those with only partial Native American DNA, has immigrant ancestry or is a first generation immigrant himself or herself. So, who or what is an American? In very technical and simplest legal terms, American is any person who is a citizen of the United States. However, all through U.S. history, people of so many different races, ethnicities, and religions have come to the United States as non-citizens and later became citizens. So, what was the definition of “American” used to determine their American citizenship? What does the term “American” mean to children born here of first-generation immigrant parents vs. kids whose ancestors were immigrants multi-generations ago? What does “American” mean to children born to American citizens residing in another country? What does “American” mean to their expat parents who are still American citizens but do not live in America? What does “American” mean to “Dreamers” whose parents are illegally residing in America, but who themselves were either born here or brought by their parents at an early age; especially, those who know America as their only home? Did the word “American” mean anything to the indigenous native population that Columbus accidentally called “Indians” because he mistakenly thought he was in India instead of on one of the two American continents? What did “American” mean to the colonizers from Spain who occupied and lived in large parts of present day United States before the British got here? What did it mean to the English who came here from Britain? What did it mean to the Africans who were brought as slaves? What did it mean to the Germans, the Dutch, the French, the Irish, the Italians, the Jews, the Russians, the Chinese, the Japanese, the Vietnamese, the Mexicans, the Central Americans, the South Americans, the Arabs, the Central Asians, the South Asians, the Eastern Europeans, the Australians, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Zoroastrians,

Orthodox, Non-orthodox, atheists, agnostics, liberals, conservatives, gays/LGBTQ, and straights? What does “American” mean to people residing in states like New Mexico and Arizona whose grandparents or great grandparents knew that land as part of Mexico and considered themselves Mexican until these territories were annexed by the United States? What does it mean to people who are dual citizens, example, U.S. Citizen and Israeli Citizen? What does “American” mean to the refugees who arrived here from pretty much every corner of the world and were forced out of their homeland due to persecution? Is “American” a person, or an idea? Is it a concept? Is “American” an evolving concept? For example, if a Christian is asked to explain her religion, the answer may vary depending on whether she’s a Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jehovah’s Witness, Methodist, Orthodox, etc., because Christianity has evolved and branched out over time. Similarly, if a Muslim is asked what is Islam, the answer may vary depending on whether she is Sunni, Shia, Khawarij, Sufi, etc., because Islam has also evolved and branched out over time. Hindus will also provide various answers depending on which Hindu you ask, Buddhists, same thing, and on and on. Is “American” also a school of thought, albeit, not a religious school of thought, but a thought process and a concept, nonetheless? Does it also evolve over time? Or, does it have a more tangible and structured definition? What is “American?” This question has been asked in America throughout its history as new waves of immigrants arrive from various parts of the world in every generation. Currently, when the world is facing a tremendous humanitarian crisis due to over 65 million displaced humans, including refugees, this question is coming up again. Can those refugees become “American?” Is it “American” to accept refugees? Will they change the “American” way of life? What is the “American” way of life?

As stated earlier, the present United States of America, as a nation, was built by immigrants who came from every corner of the world. They were comprised of almost every race, ethnicity, religion, and school of thought. With every wave of new immigrants from a different part of the world, before and after U.S. independence from Britain in 1776, we have debated which wave of old and new immigrants are the “real” Americans? The indigenous population of Native American, even though very small right now, may have a completely different perspective.



Figure 2. The Original Founding Fathers.

*“The Original Founding Fathers,” Behrens, David, New Mexico.*²⁸
While we debate amongst ourselves as to which group of humans are “real Americans,” most today would agree that the Statue of Liberty is an “American” symbol. And, while our politicians in America debate immigration and refugee laws, the inscription on a plaque under the Statue of Liberty continues to instruct:

²⁸ The image is a photo of a magnet from David Behren’s, the artist’s, shop in Old Town, Albuquerque, New Mexico, a state that still has a few Native American pueblos. Behind the magnet, it says, “Made with Pride in the USA.”

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

So the question for our generation of America’s citizens is not necessarily “who” is an American, but perhaps, “what does it mean” to be American? How, if at all, do we live up to those words instructing us from under the symbol of America?

Stepping aside from a philosophical argument, another argument often heard is that the government does not have enough money/resources to meet its current obligations to the American citizens so it cannot support additional wave of refugees, even if it wanted. Most would agree that is a reasonable concern. What if the choice did not have to be mutually exclusive? What if there is a way to tackle both? What if private sector money could substantially fund it and augment the use of government resources? What if we did not have to reinvent the wheel and can leverage the blue print of the Canadian program of private sponsorship? Canada is similar to the United States in its history, culture, and both are countries built by immigrants. What if past refugee data shows that refugees become self-sufficient within a year or two of arrival to this country? Would Americans; however we want to define ourselves, continue our tradition and be more open to accepting asylum seekers, then?

Chapter III.

U.S. Response to Refugee Crises²⁹

Since 1975 to 2017, the United States has welcomed over 3.3 million refugees.

Both democrat and republican presidents such as Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and Bill Clinton responded by welcoming 100,000 or more refugees during certain years of their administrations in the 1970s, '80s, and '90s when faced with various international refugee crises as depicted by the graph below from the US. Department of State, Office of Admissions – Refugee Processing Center.³⁰ With the international refugee crises significantly growing in the last few years across Asia, Africa, Middle East, and Europe, the United States welcomed 84,995 refugees in fiscal year and President Obama had set a much higher goal of welcoming 110,000³¹ refugees for fiscal year 2017.

²⁹ “Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2017. Report to the Congress. Submitted on Behalf of the President of the United States to the Committees on the Judiciary United States Senate and United States House of Representatives in Fulfillment of the Requirement of Section 207(d)(1) and (e) of The Immigration and Nationality Act,” *United States Department of State, United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Department of Health and Human Services*. Hereafter abbreviated *PRAFY2017*, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/580e4274e58c624696efadc6/t/583c72eb37c5810ef265fd3e/1480356588974/Report+to+Congress+for+FY+2017+USRAP.pdf>.

³⁰ “Refugee Admissions by Region. Fiscal Year 1975 through 20-Sep-2017,” *US Department of State (DOS) Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Office of Admissions – Refugee Processing Center (RPC)*, Reports, Admissions Report, Historical Arrivals Broken Down by Region (1975 – Present). Hereafter abbreviated *RABRFY1975-2017*, <http://www.wrapsnet.org/s/Graph-Refugee-Admissions-since-197510517.xls>.

³¹ *PRAFY2017*.

Department of State
Office of Admissions - Refugee Processing Center
Refugee Admissions by Region
Fiscal Year 1975 through 30-Sep-2017

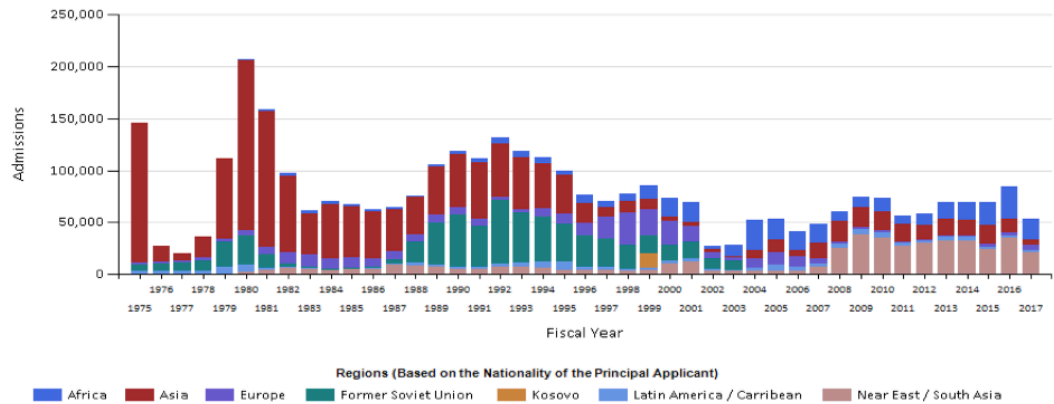


Figure 3. Refugee Admissions by Region. Fiscal Year 1975 through 30-Sep-2017

Refugee Admissions by Region, Fiscal Year 1876 through 30-Sep-2017, Department of State, Office of Admissions – Refugee Processing Center³²

³²RABRFY1975-2017.

Table 1. Refugee Admissions by Region. Fiscal Year 1976 through 30-Sep-2017. Cumulative Summary of Refugee Admissions

Fiscal Year	Regions (Based on the Nationality of the Principal Applicant)									
	Africa	Asia		Europe	Former Soviet Union	Kosovo	Latin America Caribbean	Near East South Asia	PSI	Total
1975	0	135,000		1,947	6,211	0	3,000	0	0	146,158
1976	0	15,000		1,756	7,450	0	3,000	0	0	27,206
1977	0	7,000		1,755	8,191	0	3,000	0	0	19,946
1978	0	20,574		2,245	10,688	0	3,000	0	0	36,507
1979	0	76,521		3,393	24,449	0	7,000	0	0	111,363
1980	955	163,799		5,025	28,444	0	6,662	2,231	0	207,116
1981	2,119	131,139		6,704	13,444	0	2,017	3,829	0	159,252
1982	3,412	73,755		11,109	2,760	0	580	6,480	0	98,096
1983	2,645	39,245		11,867	1,342	0	691	5,428	0	61,218
1984	2,749	51,978		10,096	721	0	150	4,699	0	70,393
1985	1,951	49,962		9,233	623	0	151	5,784	0	67,704
1986	1,322	45,482		8,503	799	0	131	5,909	0	62,146
1987	1,990	40,099		8,396	3,699	0	323	10,021	0	64,528
1988	1,593	35,371		7,510	20,411	0	2,497	8,368	733	76,483
1989	1,902	45,722	*	8,752	39,602	0	2,604	6,938	1,550	107,070
1990	3,453	51,598	*	6,094	50,628	0	2,305	4,979	3,009	122,066
1991	4,420	53,522	*	6,837	39,226	0	2,253	5,342	1,789	113,389
1992	5,470	51,899	*	2,915	61,397	0	3,065	6,903	882	132,531
1993	6,967	49,817	*	2,582	48,773	0	4,071	6,987	251	119,448
1994	5,860	43,564	*	7,707	43,854	0	6,156	5,840	0	112,981
1995	4,827	36,987	*	10,070	35,951	0	7,629	4,510	0	99,974
1996	7,604	19,321	*	12,145	29,816	0	3,550	3,967	0	76,403

1997	6,065	8,594	*	21,401	27,331	0	2,996	4,101	0	70,488
1998	6,887	10,854	*	30,842	23,557	0	1,627	3,313	0	77,080
1999	13,043	10,206	*	24,497	17,410	14,161	2,110	4,098	0	85,525
2000	17,561	4,561	*	22,561	15,103	0	3,232	10,129	0	73,147
2001	19,020	4,163	*	15,794	15,978	0	2,975	11,956	0	69,886
2002	2,551	3,512	*	5,459	9,969	0	1,934	3,706	0	27,131
2003	10,714	1,724	*	2,506	8,744	0	455	4,260	0	28,403
2004	29,104	8,084	*	9,254	0	0	3,577	2,854	0	52,873
2005	20,745	12,076	*	11,316	0	0	6,699	2,977	0	53,813
2006	18,126	5,659	*	10,456	0	0	3,264	3,718	0	41,223
2007	17,483	15,643	*	4,560	0	0	2,976	7,620	0	48,282
2008	8,935	19,489	*	2,343	0	0	4,277	25,147	0	60,191
2009	9,670	19,850	*	1,997	0	0	4,857	38,280	0	74,654
2010	13,305	17,716	*	1,526	0	0	4,982	35,782	0	73,311
2011	7,685	17,367	*	1,228	0	0	2,976	27,168	0	56,424
2012	10,608	14,366	*	1,129	0	0	2,078	30,057	0	58,238
2013	15,980	16,537	*	580	0	0	4,439	32,390	0	69,926
2014	17,476	14,784	*	959	0	0	4,318	32,450	0	69,987
2015	22,472	18,469	*	2,363	0	0	2,050	24,579	0	69,933
2016	31,624	12,518	*	3,957	0	0	1,340	35,555	0	84,994
2017	20,232	5,173	*	5,205	0	0	1,688	21,418	0	53,716
Total	378,525	1,478,700		326,574	596,571	14,161	128,685	459,773	8,214	3,391,232

*Original Data Source from Refugee Admissions by Region, Fiscal Year 1975 through 30-Sep-2017, Cumulative Summary of Refugee Admissions, Department of State, Office of Admissions – Refugee Processing Center, Reformatted, *Includes Amerasian Immigrants*

The US Department of State Archives Fact Sheet from the Office of the Spokesperson in Washington, DC, on October 4, 2016, stated:

The U.S. resettlement program serves refugees who are especially vulnerable; those who fled violence or persecution and cannot safely stay where they are or return home. It is the largest refugee resettlement program in the world. For each of the past several years the United States has offered 70,000 refugees new homes. In Fiscal Year 2016, President Obama set a new, more ambitious goal: resettling 85,000 refugees. Per the President's goal, the American communities welcomed 84,995 refugees in Fiscal Year 2016.

The refugees admitted under the program come from 79 countries. Over 70 percent fled five countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, Burma, Iraq, and Somalia, where protracted conflicts have driven millions from their homes. Over 72 percent of the resettled refugees are women and children. Many are single mothers, survivors of torture, people who need urgent medical treatment, religious minorities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex (LGBTI) persons, or others imperiled by violence and persecution.

American communities have long been the bedrock of the United States Refugee Admissions Program. The Department of State is proud to work with partners in about 180 cities across 48 states, and that list is expanding in Fiscal Year 2017 as more American communities open their doors to refugees.

However, under the new President Donald Trump, only 53,716³³ refugees have been admitted in fiscal year 2017, that is less than 50% of President Obama's 110,000³⁴ goal for 2017. Moreover, President Donald Trump had proposed halting the acceptance of refugees for at least 120 days and asked to review the process. The process has resumed since then, but the "Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2018" report submitted to Congress on behalf of the President of the United States, has proposed a

³³ *RABRFY1975-2017*.

³⁴ *PRAFY2017*.

refugee cap at 45,000³⁵ for fiscal year 2018 even though over 65 million people are displaced internationally and over 22 million are refugees.

³⁵ “Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2018,” “Proposed Refugee Admissions Fiscal Year 2018 Report,” *Bureau Of Population, Refugees, And Migration, U.S. Department of State*, October 4, 2017. Hereafter abbreviated *PRAFY2018*, <https://www.state.gov/j/prm/releases/docsforcongress/274613.htm>.

Chapter IV.

Refugee Facts and Figures at a Glance

Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Uganda, and Ethiopia are the top hosting countries for asylum seekers per the UNHCR information below (Figure 4). America or Western European countries are not among the top six hosts, contrary to what many assume.

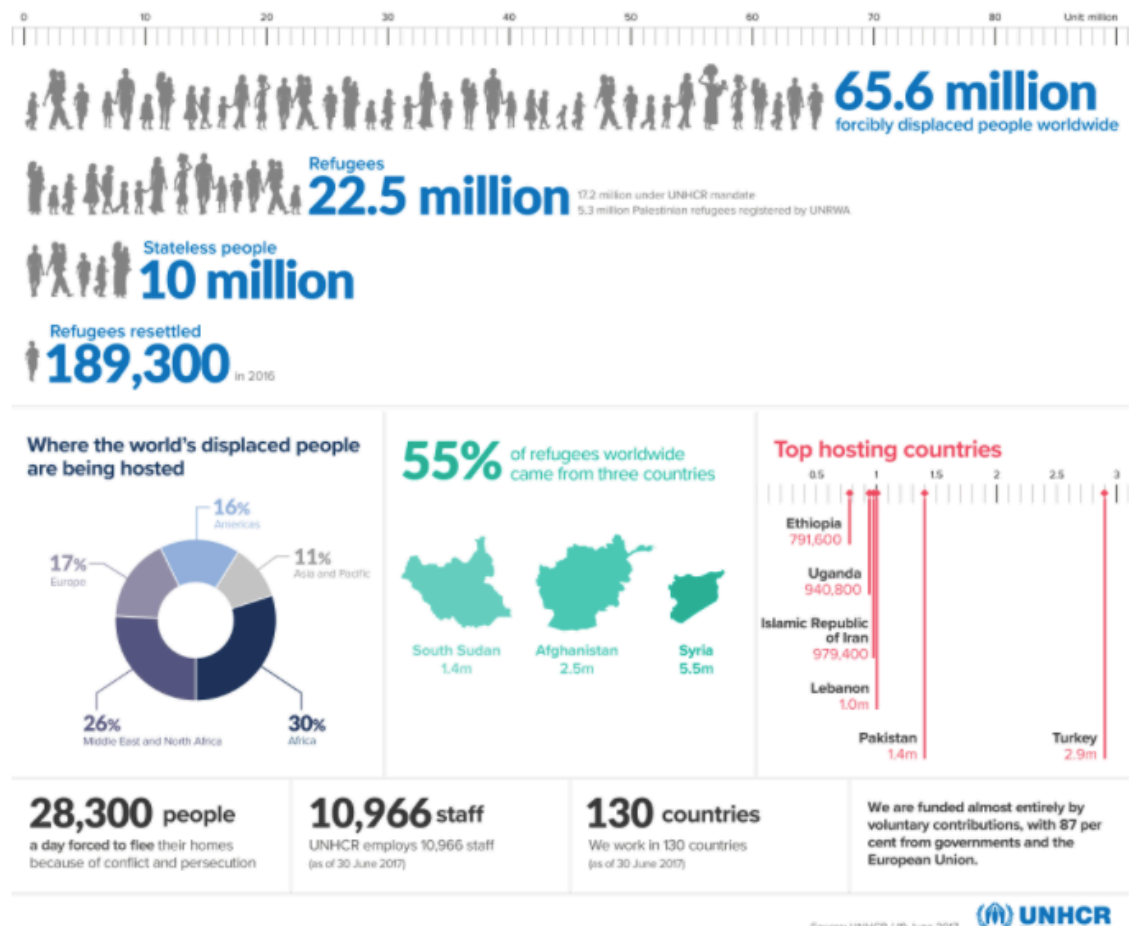


Figure 4. Figures at a Glance.

Figures at a Glance (June 17, 2017), UNHCR³⁶

Unlike popular belief, America or Western European countries are not among the top six hosts. As depicted by the UNHCR chart above, the top hosting countries around the world are: Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

Below is the data from UNHCR reporting the increase in displaced and refugee population around the world since the 1990s.

Figure 1 | Trend of global displacement & proportion displaced | 1997-2016

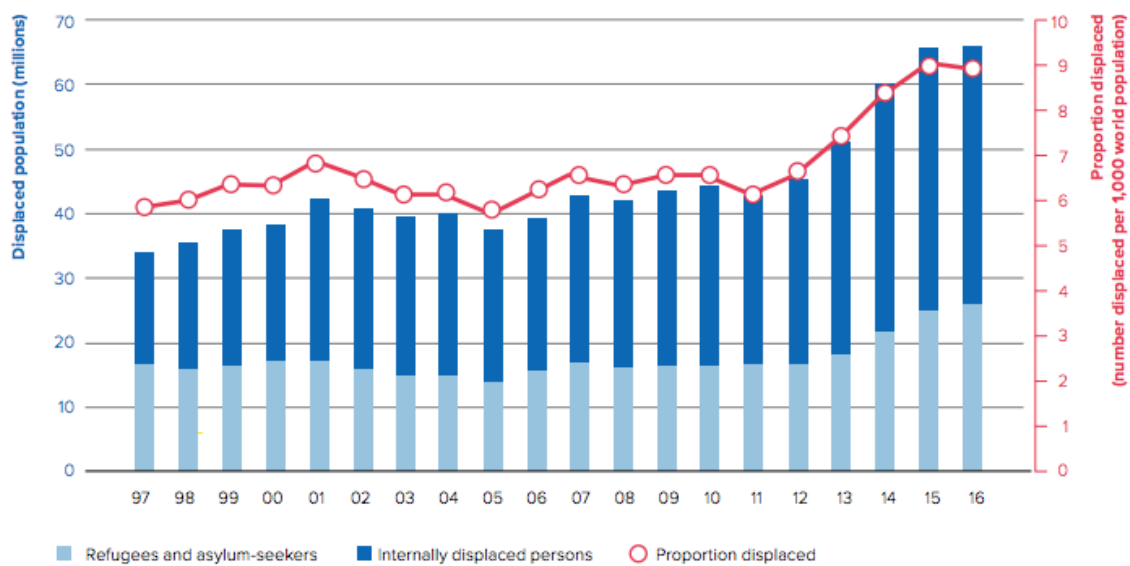


Figure 5. Trend of Global Displacement & Proportions Displayed, 1997-2016

Trend of Global Displacement & Proportions Displayed (1997-2016), UNHCR³⁷

However, to put things into perspective by going further back to the 1950s, the UNHCR chart below captures an alarming increase in displaced population in the recent years.

³⁶ “Figures at a Glance,” UNHCR. June 17, 2017. <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html>.

³⁷ “Figure 1: Trend of Global Displacement & Proportion Displaced (1997-2016),” *Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2016 report*, UNHCR, June 19, 2017, <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/statistics/unhcrstats/5943e8a34/global-trends-forced-displacement-2016.html>.

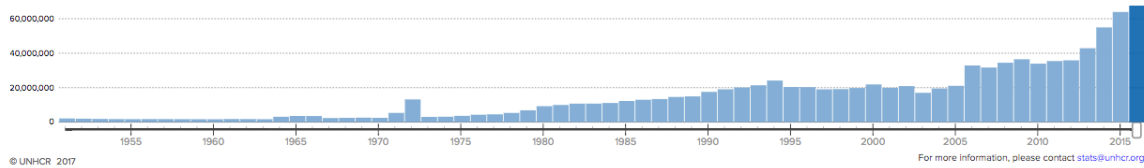


Figure 6. UNHCR Statistics – The World in Numbers

*UNHCR Statistics – The World in Numbers, UNHCR*³⁸

The displacement of humans and the number of refugees has been increasing in great numbers; however, instead of increasing the number of refugees accepted to 110,000,³⁹ as proposed by his predecessor, Trump Administration reduced refugee admissions to 53,716 in 2017 and his administration has proposed a further reduction to 45,000⁴⁰ in 2018. Among the many reasons he provided for this reduction, one of his reasons has been lack of government funds. This makes considering private sector funding opportunities more crucial. If private sponsorships are allowed to augment the government sponsorship, it could provide an additional source of funding that the government could leverage.

³⁸ “UNHCR Statistics, The World in Numbers,” *Population Statistics, UNHCR*, http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview#_ga=2.218067158.1198249495.1514067486-1807764107.1512339323.

³⁹ *PRAFY2017*.

⁴⁰ *PRAFY2018*.

Chapter V.

U.S. Security Measures for Refugee Screening

The United States government ensures that an asylum seeker being considered to the United States goes through a rigorous security screening, including capturing and processing biometrics plus cross-referencing the person's information through U.S. intelligence and other international intelligence sources. Below is an info graph highlighting the screening process refugees have to pass for entry into the United States. The info graph is from Amy Pope, Deputy Assistant to President Obama for Homeland Security.⁴¹

⁴¹ Amy Pope, "Infographic: The Screening Process for Refugee Entry into the United States," *The Whitehouse, President Barack Obama*, November 20, 2015, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2015/11/20/infographic-screening-process-refugee-entry-united-states>.

THE SCREENING PROCESS

FOR REFUGEE ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

1

MANY REFUGEE APPLICANTS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES TO
THE U.N. REFUGEE AGENCY, UNHCR. UNHCR, THEN:

- Collects identifying documents
- Performs initial assessment
 - Collects biodata: name, address, birthday, place of birth, etc.
 - Collects biometrics: iris scans
(for Syrians, and other refugee populations in the Middle East)
- Interviews applicants to confirm refugee status and the need for resettlement
 - Initial information checked again

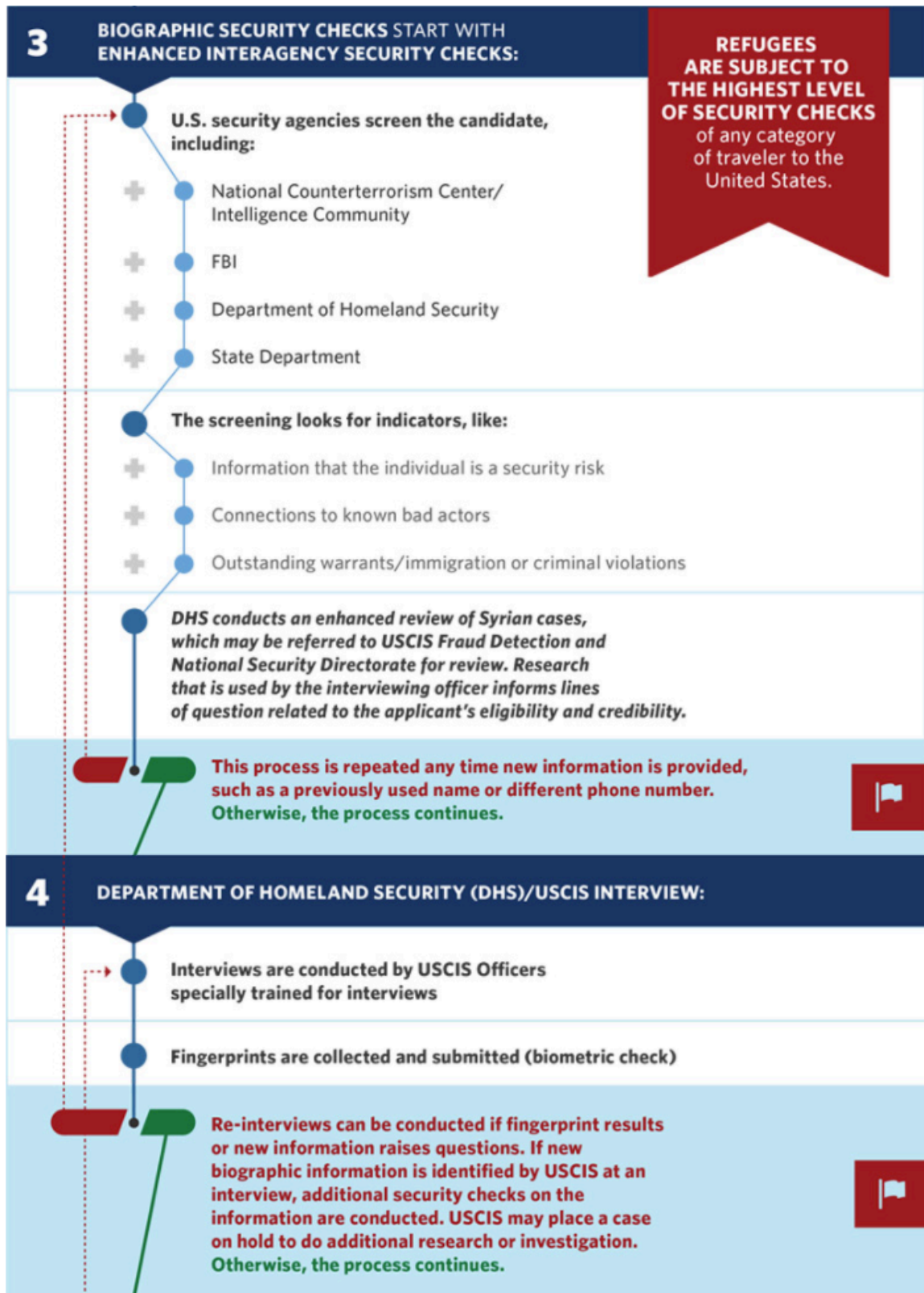
Only applicants who are strong candidates for
resettlement move forward (less than 1% of global refugee population).

Only applicants who are strong candidates for
resettlement move forward (less than 1% of global refugee population).

2

APPLICANTS ARE RECEIVED BY A FEDERALLY-FUNDED
RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT CENTER (RSC):

- Collects identifying documents
- Creates an applicant file
- Compiles information to conduct biographic security checks





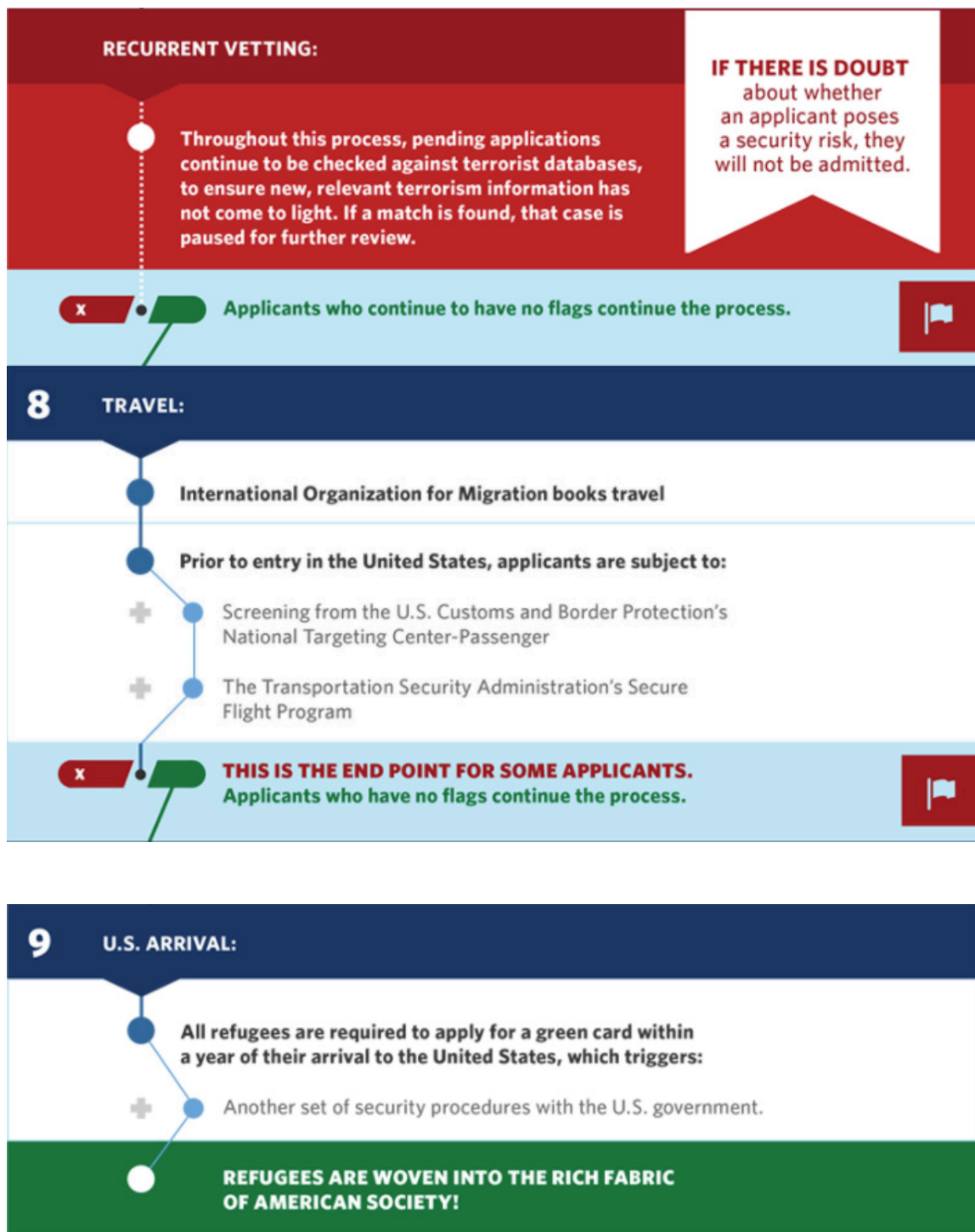


Figure 7. Infographic: The Screening Process for Refugee Entry into the United States.

*Infographic: The Screening Process for Refugee Entry into the United States (November 25, 2015), Amy Pope, Deputy Assistant to President Obama for Homeland Security, Obama, Whitehouse.*⁴²

⁴² Pope, "Infographic: The Screening Process for Refugee Entry into the United States."

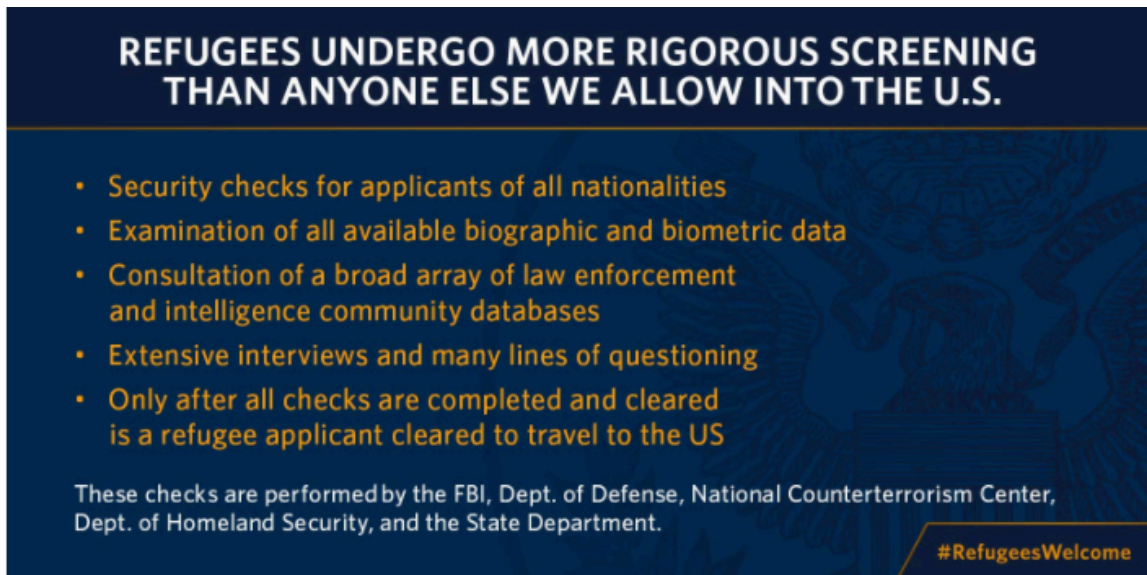


Figure 8. How We're Welcoming Syrian Refugees While Ensuring Our Safety.

*How We're Welcoming Syrian Refugees While Ensuring Our Safety (November 17, 2015), Amy Pope, Deputy Assistant to President Obama for Homeland Security, Obama, Whitehouse.*⁴³

⁴³ Amy Pope, "How We're Welcoming Syrian Refugees while Ensuring Our Safety," *The Whitehouse, President Barack Obama*, November 17, 2015, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2015/11/17/how-were-welcoming-syrian-refugees>.

Chapter VI.

U.S. Refugee Program

The United States had implemented the Refugee Act of 1980 “to provide for the effective resettlement of refugees and to assist refugees achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.”⁴⁴ It also established the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in Department of Health and Human Services and created The Federal Refugee Resettlement Program.⁴⁵ The Secretary of Health and Human Services appoints the Director of ORR. The ORR and its Director, in consultation with the Secretary of State, fund and administer this program directly or via other Federal agencies.⁴⁶

When the Refugee Act was first implemented in 1980, Title IV⁴⁷ of the program, which includes programs such as Transitional and Medical Services, Social Services, Preventive Health, and Targeted Assistance, were only authorized for fiscal years 1980 and 1981.⁴⁸

However, for fiscal year 1982 and beyond, the director had some authorization to make grants, and contract public or private nonprofit agencies for initial resettlement.

⁴⁴ *The Refugee Act*, Resource Library, *Office of Refugee Resettlement, an Office of the Administration for Children & Families*. August 29, 2012. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/the-refugee-act> (provides excerpts of Refugee Act of 1980).

⁴⁵ Jeremy L Neufeld, “Why Legislation Limiting Funds for Refugees Is a Grave Mistake,” *Niskanen Center*, September 27, 2016, <https://niskanencenter.org/blog/defunding-refugees-grave-mistake>.

⁴⁶ *The Refugee Act, Office of Refugee Resettlement*.

⁴⁷ Neufeld, “Why Legislation Limiting Funds for Refugees Is a Grave Mistake.”

⁴⁸ Neufeld, “Why Legislation Limiting Funds for Refugees Is a Grave Mistake.”

This included initial reception and placement with sponsors of refugees.⁴⁹ Per Jeremy L. Neufeld at Niskanen Center, after the initial three-year period of the Refugee Act of 1980:

Congress renewed its own authorization to make appropriations for the above mentioned four programs every few years until 2002, when it allowed authorization to lapse. Still, Congress has exercised its right to waive its traditional appropriations rules, choosing to continue funding these programs each year.⁵⁰

As further indicated by Politico and Niskanen Center, Congress spends about a tenth⁵¹ of its budget on programs that are not formally appropriated, this includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Agency, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, State Department, Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and Federal Election Commission (FEC) so this is not unique to just the Refugee programs.⁵²

The Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) coordinates and manages the United States Refugee Admission Program (USRAP). PRM determines which refugees will be considered for resettlement in the United States in coordination within Department of State, DHS/USCIS, and other agencies.⁵³

Per the "Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2017" report to Congress, submitted on behalf of President Obama to the Committees on the Judiciary United States Senate and United States House of Representatives, "Section 207(a)(3) of the INA states

⁴⁹ Danny Vinik. "Meet Your Unauthorized Federal Government." *Politico*. February 3, 2016. <https://www.politico.com/agenda/story/2016/02/government-agencies-programs-unauthorized-000036-000037>.

⁵⁰ Neufeld, "Why Legislation Limiting Funds for Refugees Is a Grave Mistake."

⁵¹ Neufeld, "Why Legislation Limiting Funds for Refugees Is a Grave Mistake."

⁵² Vinik, "Meet Your Unauthorized Federal Government."

⁵³ *PRAFY2017*.

that the USRAP shall allocate admissions among refugees ‘of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with a determination made by the President after appropriate consultation.’”⁵⁴ USRAP uses the following priority system to determine who is “of special humanitarian concern” to the United States (verbatim):⁵⁵

- Priority 1 – Individual cases referred to the program by virtue of their circumstances and apparent need for resettlement;
- Priority 2 – Groups of cases designated as having access to the program by virtue of their circumstances and apparent need for resettlement; and
- Priority 3 – Individual cases from designated nationalities granted access for purposes of reunification with family members already in the United States.

The above can still continue to happen if private sector is allowed to sponsor funds for the resettlement of refugees who they sponsor. The report also states that the refugees resettled in the United States are allowed to request reunification “with their spouses and unmarried children under 21 who are still abroad by filing a ‘Following to Join’ petition, which obviates the need for a separate refugee claim adjudication.”⁵⁶ This can also continue to happen with privately funded resettlement programs.

With some politicians fueling anti-refugee sentiments, example, congressional leader Representative Sam Graves of Missouri who introduced the H.R. 6044⁵⁷ bill to

⁵⁴ *PPRAFY2017*.

⁵⁵ *PRAFY2017*.

⁵⁶ *PRAFY2017*.

⁵⁷ “H.R. 6044,” 114th Congress 2nd Session, *Congress.gov*, September 15, 2016. Hereafter abbreviated *H.R. 6044*, <https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/hr6044/BILLS-114hr6044ih.pdf>.

“limit the amount of authorized to be appropriated to carry out chapter 2 of title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act, relating to refugee resettlement,”⁵⁸ if such bills were to get passed, American people and businesses who are ready and willing to fund for refugees would not be able to welcome refugees under the current law.⁵⁹ American businesses and multi-national corporations have a stake in keeping the world stable as instability can hurt their businesses at both a national and international scale; they could see a return of investment by contributing to help the refugees in the long run.

Currently, the government has allowed a selected number of private organizations to help process, welcome, and integrate the refugees. These organizations receive grants from the government and in return, they also provide in-kind and/or some cash contributions. There is a Voluntary Agencies (VOLAG) Matching Grant program limited to a handful of organization. As described by ORR:⁶⁰

The Voluntary Agencies Matching Grant Program is an alternative to public cash assistance providing services to help ORR-eligible populations (refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, certain Amerasians from Vietnam, Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking, and Special Immigrant Visa Holders (SIVs)) to become economically self-sufficient within 120 to 180 days of program eligibility. Services required under this program include, but are not limited to, case management, employment services, maintenance assistance and cash allowance, and administration. Self-sufficiency must be achieved without accessing public cash assistance. Enrollment is available to all ORR-eligible populations meeting the minimum employability requirements as defined under the Program Guidelines; however, enrollment must occur within 31 days of becoming eligible to ensure adequate services are provided and self-sufficiency is achieved and maintained within the period of eligibility. For additional information on program

⁵⁸ *H.R. 6044.*

⁵⁹ Neufeld, “Why Legislation Limiting Funds for Refugees Is a Grave Mistake.”

⁶⁰ “About the Voluntary Agencies Matching Grant Program,” *Office of Refugee Resettlement, An Office of the Administration for Children & Families. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. U.S. Government Department of Health and Human Services*, Last Reviewed October 24, 2017, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/matching-grants/about>.

eligibility and required program services see FY 2014 Matching Grant (MG) Program Guidelines for grantees.

The VOLAG Matching Grant program was originally put in place for the Refugee and Cuban & Haitian Entrant Reception and Placement (R&P) programs and “the approach” was confirmed with the 1986 Refugee Assistance Extension Act. The government funding is only available for VOLAGS that “already provide R&P services through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State (DOS) or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).”⁶¹

Below are the nine government-approved VOLAGS:

- Church World Service/Immigration and Refugee Program, New York, NY;
- Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the U.S.A., New York, NY;
- Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc./Refugee Resettlement Program, Arlington, VA;
- HIAS, Inc. (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)/Refugee and Immigrant Services, New York, NY;
- International Rescue Committee/Resettlement, New York, NY;
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, MD;
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC;
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Arlington, VA; and
- World Relief Corporation of National Association of Evangelicals/Refugee & Immigration Programs, Baltimore, MD.

⁶¹ “About the Voluntary Agencies Matching Grant Program,” *Office of Refugee Resettlement*.

Furthermore, since ORR provides the grants, it is pretty entrenched in all levels of the program implementation. The VOLAGS are expected to match the ORR grant with cash and in-kind contributions of goods and services from the community. ORR awards \$2 for every \$1 matched by the agency, up to a maximum of \$2,200 in Federal funds per client.⁶² At least 20 percent of the VOLAG's match has to be cash and the rest can be in-kind services or donated goods. The VOLAGs can choose to raise that cash via private donations to meet the 20 percent cash requirement.

Although the VOLAG Matching Grant only starts to scratch the surface of accepting private funding, it creates an opportunity and precedence here that can be leveraged to expand to private sponsorships. A comprehensive private sponsorship model allowing further sponsorships from private citizens, permanent residents, businesses, and other organization similar to the approach the Canadian government takes should be considered. Details on how Canada uses this approach are documented starting Chapter VIII.

Furthermore, if the U.S. Government allows tax credits to private citizens / permanent residents, communities, additional organizations, and businesses for sponsoring refugees, the private citizens may be more open and willing to sponsor and welcome refugees. This may also lead to a more accepting environment where integration of refugees into American society is more amicable, collaborative, and smoother.

U.S. Government Agencies and Their Current Responsibilities

Below are the U.S. Government Agencies and Their Current Responsibilities at a high level.⁶³

⁶² "About the Voluntary Agencies Matching Grant Program," *Office of Refugee Resettlement*.

⁶³ *PRAFY2017* (verbatim); "United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)," *U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Humanitarian/Refugees%20%26%20Asylum/USAP_FlowChart_V9.pdf; Refugee Processing and Security Screening,"

Table 2. U. S. Government Agencies and Current Responsibilities (High-level).

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/USCIS Refugee Adjudications	Department of State Processing Activities	Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)	Regional Programs: Religious Freedom Voluntary Repatriation Local Integration Third – Country Resettlement U.S. Admissions U.S. Resettlement Program
Eligibility Determination	Overseas Processing Services	State-Administered and Wilson-Fish Programs	Africa
Background Security Checks	Cultural Orientation	ORR Matching Grant Program	East Asia
	Transportation	ORR Refugee Health	Europe/Central Asia
	Reception and Placement (R&P)	ORR Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Program	Latin America / Caribbean
		Other ORR Discretionary Refugee Service Programs	Near East/South Asia
		ORR Technical Assistance	Unallocated Reserve

*U.S. Government Agencies and Current Responsibilities (High-level).*⁶⁴

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, <https://www.uscis.gov/refugeescreening>; “The United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) Consultation & Worldwide Processing Priorities.” *U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/refugees/united-states-refugee-admissions-program-usrap-consultation-worldwide-processing-priorities>; “Wilson/Fish Discretionary Grant Program; Notice,” 69 *Federal Register* 65 (April 5, 2004), pp. 17692-17700, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2004/04/05/04-7541/office-of-refugee-resettlement-wilsonfish-discretionary-grant-program>.

⁶⁴ *PRAFY2017* (verbatim); “United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)”; Refugee Processing and Security Screening”; “The United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) Consultation & Worldwide Processing Priorities”; “Wilson/Fish Discretionary Grant Program; Notice.”

Below are the U.S. government's refugee processing steps and the agencies leading it at a more detailed level.⁶⁵

Table 3. U.S. Government Agencies and Current Responsibilities (Detailed-level).

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
P-1 Referral or P-2 Groups of Special Concern Referral for resettlement consideration of an overseas refugee.	UNHCR, US Embassy, NGO (special trained)
U.S. Refugee Coordinator for P-1 and P-2	Department of State (DOS)
P-3 Family Reunification refugees – Family member in the U.S. submits Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) on behalf of a qualified refugee family member overseas to voluntary agency.	Voluntary agency sends to Refugee Processing Center (RPC)/Department of State (DOS) and RPC forwards it to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Refugee Access Verification Unit (RAVU).
P-3 relationship verification	RAVU under USCIS
Decision and action of either sending the refugee application/AOR to RSC (if relationship was verified) or back to voluntary agency (if relationship was not verified).	RPC
Organize physical processing of refugee applicants	Resettlement Support Center (RSC) under cooperative agreement with DOS.
Educate refugee applicant about the process	RSC under DOS
Prepare physical case file	RSC under DOS

⁶⁵PRAFY2017.

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
<p>Initiate Biographic Security Checks (Consular lookout and support system (CLASS) for name checks containing records from numerous agencies including information on individuals who have been denied visas, immigration violations, criminal histories, and terrorism concerns, intelligence information, child support enforcement data, National Counterterrorism Center/Terrorist Screening Center (terrorist watch list), TECS, Interpol, Drug Enforcement Administration, Health and Human Services and FBI. Security Advisory Opinion (SAO) may also be used for biographic/name checks that require higher level of check with FBI / intelligent community. Additionally, Interagency Check (IAC) screening is done for biographic data, names, date of birth, and other data points of all refugee applicants that fall within certain age ranges with the help of intelligence community partners.</p>	<p>RSC under DOS and in conjunction with FBI and intelligence community partner</p>
<p>Interview with applicant which includes confirming basic biographical data, verification that applicant was given proper access / is qualified for USRAP, determining whether applicant has suffered past persecution or has a well-founded fear of future persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion in his or her home country to be considered a refugee; and determine whether the applicant is admissible to the U.S. and whether he/she has been firmly resettled in another country. Question the applicant to elicit information regarding any involvement in terrorist activity, criminal activity or the persecution/torture of others, and conduct a credibility assessment on each applicant. USCIS officers are trained in country-specific issues prior to deploying overseas for the populations they interview including briefings from intelligence experts, policy experts, and academic communities. Fingerprints are collected for biometric checks.</p>	<p>USCIS</p>

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
<p>Fingerprints are screened against Department of Defense, FBI and Homeland Security biometric databases such as FBI Fingerprint check through Next Generation Identification (NGI) which looks for criminal history and previous immigration data, DHS Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT f/m/a US-VISIT) which is a biometric record check related to travel and immigration history of non-U.S. citizens as well as immigration violations, law enforcement/national security concerns and also allows CBP to confirm identity at port of entry, Department of Defense (DOD) Defense Forensics and biometric Agency DFBA's Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS)i which is also a biometric record check of DOD holdings collected in areas of conflict. CBP's National Targeting Center Passenger (NTC-P) conducts biographic vetting of all ABIS biometric matches (derogatory and benign) against various classified and unclassified U.S. government databases.</p>	<p>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)</p>
<p>Controlled Application Review and Resolution Process (CARRP): If any national security concerns are detected from security/background check or personal interviews/testimony, additional review through the CARRP process is conducted by the USCIS.</p>	<p>USCIS</p>
<p>For certain Syrian cases, there is a enhanced review involving Fraud Detection and National security Directorate (FDNS) which provides threat identification/suggested topic for questioning, intelligence-driven support to refugee adjudicators, and monitors terrorist watch list and provides intelligence information reports on applicants who are flagged to present a national security threat.</p>	<p>USCIS, FDNS</p>
<p>If denied, retains and stores case file for period of time before shipping stateside.</p>	<p>USCIS</p>

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
If denied, adjudicates requests for review.	USCIS
Approval of application	USCIS
Medical screening via panel physicians	USCIS
Cultural orientation	RSC
Arrange travel to the U.S.	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Provide loans for travel.	IOM
Provide transitional social and economical assistance	Resettlement agency (Identification of U.S. Site)
Additional background checks at port of entry in the U.S.	U.S. Customs and Border Protection

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
<p>Reception and Placement (R&P) of refugee once he/she passes the port of entry background check and is able to enter the United States.</p> <p>Reception and Placement (R&P) (verbatim): In FY 2016, PRM funded cooperative agreements with nine private resettlement agencies to provide initial resettlement services to refugees arriving in the United States. The R&P agencies are responsible for providing initial reception and core services (including housing, furnishings, clothing and food, as well as assistance with access to medical, employment, educational, and social services) to arriving refugees. These services are provided according to standards of care within a framework of outcomes and indicators developed jointly by the NGO community, state refugee coordinators, and U.S. government agencies. The nine organizations maintain a nationwide network of 309 affiliated offices in 180 locations to provide services. Two of the organizations also maintain a network of 27 affiliated offices through which unaccompanied refugee minors are placed into foster care, a program administered and funded by HHS/ORR. Using R&P funds from PRM supplemented by funds and in-kind contributions from private and other sources, the participating agencies provide the following services, consistent with the terms of the R&P cooperative agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship; • Pre-arrival resettlement planning, including placement; • Reception on arrival; • Basic needs support (including housing, furnishings, food, and clothing) for at least 30 days; • Cultural orientation; • Assistance with access to health, employment, education, and other services, as needed; and • Development and implementation of an initial resettlement service plan for each refugee. 	<p>Reception and Replacement (R&P) agencies funded by PRM within Department of State (9 R&P in 2016).</p> <p>Using R&P funds from PRM supplemented by funds and in-kind contributions from private and other sources, the participating agencies provide the listed services, consistent with the terms of the R&P cooperative agreement</p>

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
<p>OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT (ORR) (mostly verbatim): Through the Refugee Act, Congress directed HHS/ORR to provide refugees with resettlement assistance that includes employment training, English language training, cash assistance (in a manner that promotes early independence), and job placement – including providing women with equal opportunities to employment as men. ORR’s mission is to help refugee’s transition into the United States by providing benefits and assistance to achieve self-sufficiency and become integrated members of society as soon as possible. To this end, ORR funds and administers various programs, some of which are further discussed below: State-Administered and Wilson-Fish Program, ORR Matching Grant Program, ORR Refugee Health, ORR Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program, Other ORR Discretionary Service Program.</p>	HHS/ORR
<p>State-Administered and Wilson-Fish Programs (verbatim): State-administered or Wilson-Fish (WF) programs, refugees not eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are eligible to receive up to eight months of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA). Refugees not eligible for Medicaid are eligible to receive up to eight months of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) upon arrival. Instate-administered programs that operate a publicly administered RCA program (33 states) RCA benefits are based on cash benefit levels established by state TANF programs. In states that operate their RCA program through a Public Private Program (PPP) model (5 States) and WF states (12 States plus one county), the RCA benefit is based on the higher of the RCA rates outlined in the ORR regulations or the state TANF rates. The WF program is an alternative to the traditional state-administered program, and is usually administered by local resettlement agencies. The</p>	ORR

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
<p>WF program emphasizes early employment and economic self-sufficiency by integrating cash assistance, case management, and employment services, and by incorporating innovative strategies for the provision of cash assistance (e.g. financial bonuses for early employment). WF programs also serve as a replacement for the State when the State government declines to participate in the ORR-funded refugee assistance program. ORR also provides states/WF programs with Formula Refugee Social Services (RSS) and Targeted Assistance (TAG) funds. ORR distributes these funds based on arrival numbers and refugee concentration levels in counties with a high utilization of public assistance. Funding is time limited, and refugees can only access RSS and TAG services up to five years after arrival. These services include: employment services, on-the-job training, English language instruction, vocational training, case management, translation/interpreter services, social adjustment services, health-related services, home management, childcare and transportation. Additionally, to assist specific groups of refugees, ORR administers the specialized programs through states/WF programs, including Cuban-Haitian, Older Refugees, Refugee School Impact, and Targeted Assistance.</p>	
<p>ORR Matching Grant Program (verbatim): The ORR Matching Grant program (MG) is provided through the nine national resettlement agencies that provide R & P services and their resettlement affiliates in 42 states. The objective of MG is to guide newly arrived refugee households toward economic self-sufficiency through employment within four to six months of program eligibility (which usually begins on the date of arrival in the United States). In MG, self-sufficiency is defined as total household income from employment that enables a family unit to support itself without receipt of public cash assistance. For each MG participant, ORR awards \$2,200 to participating national resettlement agencies, which then</p>	ORR

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
<p>allocate funds to their networks of local affiliates. Agencies provide a 50% match to every federal dollar. Through the ORR MG Program, local service providers ensure core maintenance services for a minimum of 120 days that include housing, transportation, food, and a cash allowance. Clients also receive intensive case management and employment services throughout the 180-day service period. Refugees who are unable to attain self-sufficiency by day 120 or 180 may access RCA for the remainder of the eight-month eligibility period. In FY 2015, nearly 30,000 individuals were newly enrolled in the program, and of those enrolled in the program for 180 days, 82% achieved self-sufficiency. Approximately 30% of refugees who arrive in a fiscal year participate in the ORR MG Program.</p>	
<p>ORR Refugee Health (verbatim): ORR Refugee Health addresses the health and emotional well-being of refugees by providing technical assistance on Refugee Medical Assistance and domestic refugee medical screening, supporting mental health awareness, managing the Services for Survivors of Torture and Refugee Health Promotion grant programs, and other health initiatives.</p>	ORR
<p>ORR Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Program (verbatim): ORR Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Program provides funds to 15 states, which administer over 20 Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) programs. States contract with local licensed foster care agencies that provide specialized placements and services to URM. URM live in various placements including: traditional and therapeutic foster homes, group homes, semi-independent and independent living and residential treatment centers, and homes of relatives. URM receive various services including: English language training, educational and vocational training, cultural preservation, social integration, family tracing, permanency</p>	ORR

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
planning, independent living, medical care, and mental health care. ORR regulations require states to provide services to URM in parity with the state's Title IV-B foster care plan.	
Other ORR Discretionary Refugee Service Programs (verbatim): Other ORR Discretionary Refugee Service Programs also provides funding to non-profit agencies to carry out special initiatives or programs for refugees including: case management, ethnic community development, home-based child care business development, individual development accounts, micro enterprise development, and agricultural projects. The Preferred Communities Program is implemented through the nine resettlement agencies and focuses on building capacity to receive an increasingly vulnerable refugee population. The program supports long-term case management services to the more at risk populations including, but not limited to, women heads of household and refugees with significant medical and mental health needs. Additionally, the program has allowed resettlement agencies the flexibility to address unanticipated arrivals such as refugees arriving in underserved areas, increased Cuban/Haitian arrivals and secondary migrants.	ORR
*Regional Programs (Africa) – Religious Freedom	
*Regional Programs (Africa) – Voluntary Repatriation	
*Regional Programs (Africa) – Local Integration	
*Regional Programs (Africa) – Third-Country Resettlement	

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
*Regional Programs (Africa) – U.S. Admissions	
*Regional Programs (Africa) – U.S. Resettlement Programs	
*Regional Programs (East Asia) – Religious Freedom	
*Regional Programs (East Asia) – Voluntary Repatriation	
*Regional Programs (East Asia) – Local Integration	
*Regional Programs (East Asia) – Third-Country Resettlement	
*Regional Programs (East Asia) – U.S. Admissions	
*Regional Programs (East Asia) – U.S. Resettlement Programs	
*Regional Programs (Europe/Central Asia) – Religious Freedom	
*Regional Programs (Europe/Central Asia) – Voluntary Repatriation	
*Regional Programs (Europe/Central Asia) – Local Integration	
*Regional Programs (Europe/Central Asia) – Third-Country Resettlement	
*Regional Programs (Europe/Central Asia) – U.S. Admissions	
*Regional Programs (Europe/Central Asia) – U.S. Resettlement Programs	
*Regional Programs (Latin America/Caribbean) – Religious Freedom	

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
*Regional Programs (Latin America/Caribbean) – Voluntary Repatriation	
*Regional Programs (Latin America/Caribbean) – Local Integration	
*Regional Programs (Latin America/Caribbean) – Third-Country Resettlement	
*Regional Programs (Latin America/Caribbean) – U.S. Admissions	
*Regional Programs (Latin America/Caribbean) – U.S. Resettlement Programs	
*Regional Programs (Near East/South East) – Religious Freedom	
*Regional Programs (Near East/South East) – Voluntary Repatriation	
*Regional Programs (Near East/South East) – Local Integration	
*Regional Programs (Near East/South East) – Third-Country Resettlement	
*Regional Programs (Near East/South East) – U.S. Admissions	
*Regional Programs (Near East/South East) – U.S. Resettlement Programs	
*Regional Programs are regionally operated within the regions of Africa, East Asia, Europe/Central Asia, Latin America / Caribbean, Near East/South East	

United States Refugee Processing Steps	U.S. Government Funded Agency/Department
PRM = Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)	
USRAP = United States Refugee Admissions Program = https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/refugees/united-states-refugee-admissions-program-usrap-consultation-worldwide-processing-priorities	

*U.S. Government Agencies and Current Responsibilities.*⁶⁶

DHS/USCIS Refugee Adjudication Process?⁶⁷

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has the authority to admit refugees who are not “firmly resettled in a third country, who is determined to be of special humanitarian concern, and who is admissible to the United States.”⁶⁸ They interview refugees, and also expend resources to “security vetting, anti-fraud, and training related to refugee processing.”⁶⁹ They partner with law enforcement, national security, and intelligence communities to determine eligibility of refugees and run background checks.

How Does Department of State Process Refugees?⁷⁰

Below are areas that the Department of State funds:

⁶⁶ *PRAFY2017*, 15.

⁶⁷ *PRAFY2017*.

⁶⁸ *PRAFY2017*.

⁶⁹ *PRAFY2017*, 15-16.

⁷⁰ *PRAFY2017*.

- Overseas Processing Services
- Cultural Orientation
- Transportation
- Reception and Placement (R&P)

Overseas Processing Services⁷¹

PRM usually works with an NGO, an international organization (IO), or U.S. embassy contractors to manage a Resettlement Support Center (RSC) that helps process refugee applicants for United States. RSC staff pre-screens applicants for DHS/USCIS adjudication. Here is another example of where other private organizations or donors can work with these existing U.S. Government approved (or additional) NGOs, IOs, and U.S. embassy contractors to manage a Resettlement Support Center. RSCs help applicants complete required documents and schedule eligibility interviews with DHS/USCIS. If conditionally approved for resettlement by DHS/USCIS, RSC provides the refugee with guidance through the post-adjudication steps; example, attending medical screening exams and cultural orientation programs. When RSC obtains sponsorship assurances and after all requirements and security clearances are completed, the RCS staff refers the case to IOM for transportation to the United States. As reported by the “Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2017”⁷² Report to Congress submitted on behalf of the President Obama:

In FY 2016, NGOs (Church World Service, HIAS, and International Rescue Committee) worked under cooperative agreements with PRM as RSCs at locations

⁷¹ *PRAFY2017*.

⁷² *PRAFY2017*.

in Austria (covering Austria and as of June, Israel), Kenya (covering sub-Saharan Africa), and Thailand (covering East Asia). International organizations (IOM and the International Catholic Migration Commission) supported refugee processing activities based in Ecuador, Jordan, Russia, Nepal, and Turkey, which covered Latin America, the Middle East, South and Central Asia, and Europe. The Department of State supported refugee processing in Havana, Cuba.

Refugees Go through Cultural Orientation⁷³

Currently, U.S. Government also funds the cultural orientation programs. This, too, can be an opportunity where private sector can step in and help provide additional funding so more refugees can be accommodated.

Refugees come from all walks of life, cultures, socio-economic background and countries. Starting over in a foreign country with unfamiliar customs, culture, and language is not easy. It can be shocking if one is not prepared for it. The Department of State ensures that the refugees are provided cultural orientation programs prior to their departure for the United States and also upon their arrival to the U.S. It funds one- to five-day pre-departure orientation classes for eligible refugees in locations worldwide. This is to ensure that refugees “have a realistic idea of what their new lives will be like, what services will be available to them, and what their responsibilities will be.”⁷⁴

Additionally, a *Welcome to the United States* guidebook and video developed with input from refugee resettlement workers, resettled refugees, and government officials and translated in twelve languages, including: Arabic, Burmese, Chin, Dari, English, Farsi, Karen, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, Somali, Spanish, and Swahili. The previous (2007) edition is still available in eight other languages: Albanian, Amharic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, French, Kirundi, Russian, Tigrinya, and Vietnamese (and the

⁷³ PRAFY2017.

⁷⁴ PRAFY2017.

2004 version video is also available in Karenni, Kirundi, Russian, and Tigrinya) is provided to each family. It provides information regarding the initial resettlement period before the refugee's arrival to the U.S. All this material is also available for free online.⁷⁵ As further described by the "Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2017"⁷⁶ Report to Congress submitted on behalf of the President Obama:

In an effort to further bridge the information gap for certain refugee groups, brief video presentations featuring the experience of recently resettled refugees of the same ethnic group are made available to refugee applicants overseas. Groups featured include refugees from Bhutan, Burma, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba, Darfur, and Iraq. Faces of Resettlement shows five individuals who entered the United States as refugees, from Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Iraq, and Sudan. Each of them tells their own story of the ways in which they are rebuilding their lives in their new communities. Faces of Resettlement also includes interviews with receiving community members. This video is accompanied by discussion guides for community members, service providers, and refugees.

The Department of State also offers a curriculum for cultural orientation after refugees' arrival in the United States. Based on Reception and Placement (R&P) Program objectives and indicators, the curriculum was developed to provide domestic cultural orientation providers with lesson plans, tools, and techniques to help refugees develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they will need to adjust to new life in the U.S. In addition to lesson plans, the publication contains a User's Guide; a section on staff preparation; and a section on tools for trainers and orientation development, with sub-sections on topics such as instructional approach, working with groups of different sizes, incorporating English into orientation, and conducting needs assessments. A companion toolkit includes a model assessment intended to provide domestic orientation providers with a sample tool for assessing refugee understanding of orientation topics during the R&P period.

Some of this material is already created, and reusing / reproducing will be less costly. However, if a private sponsorship model is in place, they may be able to fund updating the material each year as information changes or translations in additional

⁷⁵ Welcome to the United States guidebook and videos are available for free at: www.COResourceExchange.org.

⁷⁶ *PRAFY2017*.

languages are needed. In addition, private sector can augment the funding by paying for the staff salaries that process and create this material.

Transportation to the United States⁷⁷

Transportation costs is another area that private sector funding can be augmented to help refugees. Currently, the Department of State provides a loan to the refugee for their international transportation cost to the United States through IOM. The refugees are given six months to start repaying the loan after their date of arrival. If the refugee is unable to start paying the loan after six months, a deferral may be requested. Even though the Department of State receives back what they paid, the Department of State still needs to have the initial funds to be able to give out a loan. How many loans they can give out will be limited to the amount of funds they have available, this, in turn, can impact how many refugees they can welcome at a time. Having private sponsors provide transportation loan or donate towards the cost of transportation for refugees may help increase the number of refugees who can be welcomed in any given year.

Reception and Placement⁷⁸

Reception and Placement is an area that U.S. Government is already leveraging the private sector; however, there is plenty of room to engage more private sponsors here.

Using PRM R&P funds and in-kind (non-cash) contributions from private and other sources, the 9 participating agencies that the U.S. Government worked with in 2016 provided the following services:

- Sponsorship

⁷⁷ *PRAFY2017.*

⁷⁸ *PRAFY2017.*

- Pre-arrival resettlement planning, including placement
- Reception on arrival
- Basic needs support (including housing, furnishings, food, and clothing) for at least 30 days
- Cultural orientation
- Assistance with access to health, employment, education, and other services, as needed
- Development and implementation of an initial resettlement service plan for each refugee

Per the “Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2017”⁷⁹ Report to Congress submitted on behalf of the President Obama:

These nine organizations maintain a nationwide network of 309 affiliated offices in 180 locations to provide services. Two of the organizations also maintain a network of 27 affiliated offices through which unaccompanied refugee minors are placed into foster care, a program administered and funded by HHS/ORR.

Instead of limiting this to just nine organizations perhaps the U.S. government can open this up to more private sponsors similar to Canada. That can also help share the volume of tasks, administration, and cost that otherwise just nine organizations are bogged down with so that more refugees can be welcomed at a time.

How Does Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Process Refugees?⁸⁰

The ORR processes are very specific and technical. To avoid accidentally misspeaking, much of the information for the ORR sections of this thesis is taken verbatim from the websites provided in the footnotes. However, the point is, outside of the medical and health benefits/services, private sponsors can also be leveraged further to

⁷⁹ *PRAFY2017*.

⁸⁰ *PRAFY2017*.

assist with cash and in-kind contributions. In Chapter VIII, I provide information on how Canada expects their sponsors to take on many of these responsibility. I think health and medical funding will still need to come from the government because it is impossible to predict health issues and how much a sponsor may be able to afford in healthcare funding upfront. The Canadian government also assumes the responsibility for Healthcare and do not add that to the sponsor's responsibility. In addition, during Clinton Administration, they found the healthcare cost was a concern for the PSIs.

Congress asked HHS/ORR to provide resettlement assistance to refugees, including, employment training, English language training, cash assistance to promote early independence and job placement, equal opportunity for women, etc.⁸¹ ORR's mission is to "help refugee's transition into the United States by providing benefits and assistance to achieve self-sufficiency and become integrated members of society as soon as possible. ORR funds and administers many programs, including the ones highlighted below."⁸²

State-Administered and Wilson-Fish Program⁸³

Refugees ineligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are eligible to receive up to eight months of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) via State-Administered and Wilson-Fish Program.⁸⁴ Refugees can obtain up to eight months of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) when

⁸¹ *PRAFY2017*.

⁸² *PRAFY2017*.

⁸³ *PRAFY2017*.

⁸⁴ *PRAFY2017*.

they arrive if they are ineligible for Medicaid.

There are 33 states that have state-administered programs that operate a publicly administered RCA program. RCA benefits are based on cash benefit levels established by state TANF programs.⁸⁵ In states that operate their RCA program through a Public Private Program (PPP) model (5 States) and WF states (12 States plus one county), the RCA benefit is based on the higher of the RCA rates outlined in the ORR regulations or the state TANF rates.⁸⁶

The WF program is an alternative to the traditional state-administered program, and is usually administered by local resettlement agencies.⁸⁷ The WF program emphasizes early employment and economic self-sufficiency by integrating cash assistance, case management, and employment services, and by incorporating innovative strategies for the provision of cash assistance (e.g. financial bonuses for early employment).⁸⁸ WF programs also serve as a replacement for the State when the State government declines to participate in the ORR-funded refugee assistance program.⁸⁹

ORR also provides states/WF programs with Formula Refugee Social Services (RSS) and Targeted Assistance (TAG) funds.⁹⁰ ORR distributes these funds based on arrival numbers and refugee concentration levels in counties with a high

⁸⁵ *PRAFY2017*.

⁸⁶ *PRAFY2017*.

⁸⁷ *PRAFY2017*.

⁸⁸ *PRAFY2017*.

⁸⁹ *PRAFY2017*.

⁹⁰ *PRAFY2017*.

utilization of public assistance.⁹¹ Funding is time limited, and refugees can only access RSS and TAG services up to five years after arrival.⁹² These services include: employment services, on-the-job training, English language instruction, vocational training, case management, translation/interpreter services, social adjustment services, health-related services, home management, childcare and transportation.⁹³

ORR administers the specialized programs through states/WF programs as well.⁹⁴

ORR Matching Grant Program⁹⁵

The ORR Matching Grant program (MG) is provided through the nine national resettlement agencies that provide R&P services and their resettlement affiliates in 42 states.⁹⁶ The objective of MG is to guide newly arrived refugee households toward economic self-sufficiency through employment within four to six months of program eligibility (which usually begins on the date of arrival in the United States).⁹⁷ In MG, self-sufficiency is defined as total household income from employment that enables a family unit to support itself without receipt of public cash assistance.⁹⁸ For each MG participant, ORR awards \$2,200 to participating

⁹¹ *PRAFY2017.*

⁹² *PRAFY2017.*

⁹³ *PRAFY2017.*

⁹⁴ *PRAFY2017.*

⁹⁵ *PRAFY2017.*

⁹⁶ *PRAFY2017.*

⁹⁷ *PRAFY2017.*

⁹⁸ *PRAFY2017.*

national resettlement agencies, which then allocate funds to their networks of local affiliates. Agencies provide a 50% match to every federal dollar.⁹⁹

Through the ORR MG Program, local service providers ensure core maintenance services for a minimum of 120 days, which include housing, transportation, food, and a cash allowance. Clients also receive intensive case management and employment services throughout the 180-day service period.¹⁰⁰ Refugees who are unable to attain self-sufficiency by day 120 or 180 may access RCA for the remainder of the eight-month eligibility period. In FY 2015, nearly 30,000 individuals were newly enrolled in the program, and of those enrolled in the program for 180 days, 82% achieved self-sufficiency.¹⁰¹ Approximately 30% of refugees who arrive in a fiscal year participate in the ORR MG Program.¹⁰²

ORR Refugee Health¹⁰³

ORR addresses the health and emotional well being of refugees by providing technical assistance on Refugee Medical Assistance and domestic refugee medical screening, supporting mental health awareness, managing the Services for Survivors of Torture and Refugee Health Promotion grant programs, and other health initiatives.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁹ *PRAFY2017.*

¹⁰⁰ *PRAFY2017.*

¹⁰¹ *PRAFY2017.*

¹⁰² *PRAFY2017.*

¹⁰³ *PRAFY2017.*

¹⁰⁴ *PRAFY2017.*

ORR Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Program¹⁰⁵

ORR provides funds to 15 states, which administer over 20 Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) programs.¹⁰⁶ States contract with local licensed foster care agencies that provide specialized placements and services to URM. ¹⁰⁷ URM live in various placements including: traditional and therapeutic foster homes, group homes, semi-independent and independent living and residential treatment centers, and homes of relatives.¹⁰⁸ URM receive various services including: English language training, educational and vocational training, cultural preservation, social integration, family tracing, permanency planning, independent living, medical care, and mental health care. ORR regulations require states to provide services to URM in parity with the state's Title IV-B foster care plan.¹⁰⁹

Other ORR Discretionary Refugee Service Program¹¹⁰

ORR also funds non-profit agencies to help with case management, ethnic community development, home-based childcare business development, individual development accounts, microenterprise development, and agricultural projects.¹¹¹ The Preferred Communities Program is implemented through the nine resettlement agencies.¹¹² They provide long-term case management

¹⁰⁵ *PRAFY2017.*

¹⁰⁶ *PRAFY2017.*

¹⁰⁷ *PRAFY2017.*

¹⁰⁸ *PRAFY2017.*

¹⁰⁹ *PRAFY2017.*

¹¹⁰ *PRAFY2017.*

¹¹¹ *PRAFY2017.*

services to the more at risk populations.¹¹³

ORR Technical Assistance¹¹⁴

ORR provides technical assistance (TA) in things like community engagement/integration, employment, mental health, youth initiatives, services to survivors of torture, and monitoring.”¹¹⁵

¹¹² *PRAFY2017*.

¹¹³ *PRAFY2017*.

¹¹⁴ *PRAFY2017*.

¹¹⁵ *PRAFY2017*.

Chapter VII.

What are the Current Costs for U.S. Government?

To understand where private sector funding can be leveraged and augmented, it is important to first appreciate exactly what the U.S. Government Refugee Program currently funds. It is also important to note that although the U.S. Government currently works with selected private sector partners in processing, welcoming and integrating refugees to the United States, it currently also significantly funds these private sector, non-profit and for profit organizations, for their assistance through public grants.¹¹⁶

The following table is based on Fiscal 2017 President's Budget requested for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) by the Department of Health and Human Services. It includes the actual, enacted and requested funds reported by them for fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017 in the Refugee and Entrant Assistant section of the Administration for Children (pages 15 and 16) All Purpose Table from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Table 4. U.S. Refugee and Entrant Assistance.

Program	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Requested	Change from FY 2016 Enacted
Transitional and Medical Services	383,266,000	490,000,000	581,357,000	91,357,000
Social Services	149,927,000	155,000,000	176,927,000	21,927,000
Survivors of Torture	10,735,000	10,735,000	23,375,000	12,640,000

¹¹⁶ Randy Capps and Michael Fix, "Ten Facts about U.S. Refugee Resettlement." *Migration Policy Institute*, October 2015, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/Refugee-Facts-Oct-2015-FINAL.pdf>; *PRAFY2017*.

Program	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Requested	Change from FY 2016 Enacted
Refugee Health Promotion	4,600,000	4,600,000	4,600,000	0
Targeted Assistance	47,601,000	47,601,000	55,601,000	8,000,000
Unaccompanied Children	948,000,000	948,000,000	1,321,000,000	373,000,000
Anti-Trafficking in Persons Programs	15,755,000	18,755,000	22,000,000	3,245,000
Total, Refugee and Entrant Assistance, B.A.	1,559,884,000	1,674,691,000	2,184,860,000	510,169,000

*U.S. Refugee and entrant Assistance Cost*¹¹⁷

As noted by the table above, the cost of the entire refugee program was approximately \$1.56 billion¹¹⁸ for 69,933¹¹⁹ refugees admitted in 2015, and \$1.64 billion¹²⁰ enacted for the 85,000,¹²¹ which ended up being 84,998¹²² admissions in 2016. There is no straight forward method to calculate the per person annual cost to sponsor each refugee since there are many variables that impact the cost; for example, how much

¹¹⁷ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees, Fiscal Year 2017*, pp 15-16, https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/olab/final_cj_2017_print.pdf.

¹¹⁸ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees, Fiscal Year 2017*, pp 15-16.

¹¹⁹ *RABRFY1975-2017*; Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees, Fiscal Year 2017*, pp 15-16.

¹²⁰ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees, Fiscal Year 2017*, pp 15-16.

¹²¹ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees, Fiscal Year 2017*, pp 15-16.

¹²² *RABRFY1975-2017*.

assistance does the refugee need, if he/she can already speak and understand English, skills for job placement, whether he or she has relatives or friends already in the United States that can help with the admission, reception, and integration process or contribute towards housing, clothing, etc., whether the refugee is traveling alone or with family (sometimes portions of the cost can be shared when admitting a family together). However, even if we ignore all the variables and just take a basic calculation of the amount of spending in actuals or enacted expenses government has in a year divided by the number of refugees admitted, for 2015 that is approximately $1,559,884,000 / 69,933 = \$22,305$ per person, and for 2016, it is $1,674,691,000 / 84,994$, that is approximately $\$19,703.41$ spent per refugee. If the United States would have allowed 110,000 refugees and spent the estimated 2,184,860,000, that is approximately $2,184,860,000 / 110,000 = 19,862.36$ per person. One of the VOLAGS had done an internal study to calculate their costs, and for a 90 day period of pre and post reception, their reported cost was about $\$5,291$ per refugee, which when multiplied by $4.1 \times 5,291$ equals approximately $\$21,693$ (there are 365 days per year, not adjusting for leap year, divided by 90 days is approximately 4.1 and 4.1 multiplied by $\$5,291$ equals approximately $\$21,693$ for the year). So, the funds needed to sponsor one refugee is probably somewhere between 19,700 and 22,500 in the United States.

To put it in perspective, Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, Sheldon Adelson, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, and Masayoshi Son each individually earned between $\$20,732$ per minute to $\$25,694$ per minute in 2013.¹²³ By donating an hour worth of their earnings,

¹²³ Julia La Roche, "Here's How Much 10 of the Richest People in the World Made Per Minute in 2013," *Business Insider*, December 19, 2013, <http://www.businessinsider.com/what-warren-buffett-makes-per-hour-2013-12>.

each of them could potentially sponsor about 60 refugees. If each of the six donated one month's worth of salary at the lower end of \$20,732 that they earn a minute, that would equate to $\$20,732 \times 60 \text{ minutes in an hour} \times \text{minimum of 40 hours a week of work} \times 4 \text{ weeks a month} \times 6 \text{ of America's top billionaire's contributing for month approximately } \$1.19 \text{ billion in one month}$. If sponsoring one refugee costs between 19,700 to 22500, then with approximately \$1.19 billion between approximately 52,889 to 60,406 refugees can be sponsored. \$1.19 billion divided by 19,700 is about 60,406 while \$1.19 billion divided by 22,500 is about 52,889. That is close to, if not more, refugees sponsored from one month's salary than what the U.S. Government was able to sponsor for all of fiscal year 2017 as a result of cut backs proposed by the Trump Administration, which allowed only 53,716 refugees. This thesis is not assuming that the six people will make such a donation, but the figures are just used to put things in perspective. Imagine how many more people can be helped if the U.S. Government allowed willing private sector and private donors to sponsor refugees.¹²⁴

To further cross-reference, consider Canada's private refugee sponsorship costs

¹²⁴ David Bier, "Press Release: National Groups Endorse Privately-Funded Refugee Resettlement," *Niskanen Center*, October 28, 2015, <https://niskanencenter.org/blog/national-groups-endorse-privately-funded-refugee-resettlement>; Syrian American Council, Syrian American Medical Society, Syria Relief and Development, Arab American Institute, Turkish Heritage Organization, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Islamic Society of North America, Karam foundation, and Watan USA, Syrian American Council, Syrian American Medical Society, Syria Relief and Development, Arab American Institute, Turkish Heritage Organization, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Islamic Society of North America, Karam foundation, Watan USA, Letter to President Barack Obama, In *Niskanen Center*, October 28, 2015, <https://niskanencenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/RefugeeLettertoPres.pdf>; Jodi Kantor and Catrin Einhorn, "Who Else Can Sponsor a Refugee? The List Is Limited, for Now," *The New York Times*, June 30, 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/01/world/refugees-private-sponsors.html>; Nyshka Chandran, "George Soros to invest \$500 million in help for refugees," *CNBC*, September 20, 2016, <https://www.cnn.com/2016/09/20/george-soros-to-invest-500-million-in-help-for-refugees-through-his-open-society-foundations.html>; John Kluge, "Over 50 U.S. Businesses Step Up for Refugees," *Forbes*, September 20, 2016, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnkluge/2016/09/20/u-s-businesses-step-up-for-refugees/#4fed05e63a9e>; Matthew La Corte, "Private Refugee Sponsorship Gains Crucial Support," *Niskanen Center*, September 22, 2016, <https://niskanencenter.org/blog/private-refugee-sponsorship-idea-gains-crucial-new-support>.

since Canada is similar to the United States (without adjusting for each province in Canada or State in the United States). The Canadian government reported that it costs about \$13,500 Canadian Dollars to privately sponsor one refugee, that is approximately 10,615.04 USD, at current exchange rate of 1 USD = 1.2 CAD. A future research would be worth evaluating how the Canadian private sponsorship can be so much lower than the costs self-reported by the LIRS VOLAG in the United States and what factors are contributing to almost double the cost in the United States and does it impact how well the refugee is integrated or their rate to self-sufficiency?

Chapter VIII.

How Are Canadians Doing It? Canadian Private Sponsorship Program

The Canadian Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program allows groups of private Canadian citizens, private communities, and private organizations/businesses to sponsor and help settle asylum seekers in Canada with their private funding, time, and effort.

Per the Government of Canada website, the following groups may submit for private sponsorships

- Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAHs)
- Constituent Groups (CGs)
- Groups of Five (G5)
- Community Sponsors (CSs)

Per the Government of Canada website, each of the private sponsorships models are described as follows (verbatim):

Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs):

Incorporated organizations that have signed a formal sponsorship agreement with Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Most current SAHs are religious organizations, ethno cultural groups or humanitarian organizations. SAHs, which may be local, regional or national, assume overall responsibility for the management of sponsorships under their agreement. Organizations entering into a sponsorship agreement with IRCC generally submit several refugee sponsorships a year.¹²⁵

¹²⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?* Publications and manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

Constituent Groups (CGs):

A SAH can authorize CGs to sponsor under its agreement and provide support to the refugees. Each SAH sets its own criteria for recognizing CGs. CGs are based in the sponsored refugee's expected community of settlement and must have their sponsorship application and settlement plan approved by their SAH before the undertaking is submitted to the Resettlement Operations Centre in Ottawa (ROC-O).¹²⁶

Groups of Five (G5):

Five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents, who are at least 18 years of age, live in the expected community of settlement and have collectively arranged for the sponsorship of a refugee living abroad. The five individuals act as guarantors that the necessary support will be provided for the full duration of the sponsorship. ROC-O assesses individual contributions of group members to the sponsorship. The financial and non-financial aspects are considered collectively, as well as the settlement plan, before the sponsorship is approved. The group's financial commitment must meet the levels established in the Sponsorship Cost Table under section E of the Settlement Plan (PDF, 1.21 MB).¹²⁷

As part of the application package, the sponsoring group will need to include proof that each applicant has been recognized as a refugee by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) or by a foreign state. Only a photocopy of the original document is required. If the document is in a language other than English or French, then a certified translation (in either official language) must be submitted along with the photocopy of the original document.¹²⁸

Community Sponsors (CSs):

Any organization (for-profit/not-for-profit, incorporated/non-incorporated) located in the community where the refugees are expected to settle can make an organizational commitment to sponsor. Community Sponsors must undergo financial and settlement plan assessments by ROC-O each time they wish to sponsor. Like G5s, Community Sponsors must demonstrate that the organization is willing and able to commit funds toward the sponsorship in line with the levels

¹²⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

¹²⁷ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

¹²⁸ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

established in the Sponsorship Cost Table under section E of the [Settlement Plan and Financial Assessment \(IMM 5515\) \(PDF, 1.28 MB\)](#).¹²⁹

As part of the application package, the sponsoring group will need to include proof that each applicant has been recognized as a refugee by the UNHCR or by a foreign state, unless the refugee you wish to sponsor is a Syrian or Iraqi refugee. Only a photocopy of the original document is required. If the document is in a language other than English or French, then a certified translation (in either official language) must be submitted along with the photocopy of the original document.¹³⁰

A SAH, a CG or a CS has the option of formalizing a partnership with an outside party to share in the delivery of settlement assistance and support. Partnerships may be formed with individuals (e.g., a family member of the sponsored refugee living in Canada) or other organizations. The partner – co-sponsor – is expected to sign the sponsorship undertaking and discharge the responsibilities that were agreed to in the settlement plan.¹³¹

What Is the Canadian Group of Five (G5) Private Sponsorship Program?

Group of Five (G5) Private Sponsorship Program allows five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents to sponsor a refugee who is living abroad to come and live in Canada. They cannot sponsor people already in Canada.

Per the Canadian Government, the G5s can only sponsor asylum seekers who are recognized as “refugees” by either the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) or a foreign state. The “principal applicant must already have refugee status,” meaning, an authorized body (UNHCR or government of another country) has recognized that the

¹²⁹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

¹³⁰ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

¹³¹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

asylum seeker meets its refugee definition. The G5 is required to submit documentation providing proof of recognized refugee status when they submit their refugee sponsorship application.¹³² The sponsors need to provide a photocopy of the original document, and if the document is not in English or French, then a certified translation in English or French must also be submitted.¹³³

To be eligible,¹³⁴ each member of the G5 must:

- Qualify as a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Be 18 years or older
- Reside in the same community where the refugee is expected to settle
- Agree to give settlement support for the length of the sponsorship (usually one year).

In addition, the G5 must submit a settlement plan and prove that the group of five has enough money to sponsor a refugee for the duration of one year. The funds needed depends on the number of refugees the G5 commits to sponsor, cost of living can also vary depending on the part of the country the sponsors live, and other factors. However, in general, the G5 is expected to “at least equal to that of the prevailing rates for social assistance in the expected community of settlement.”¹³⁵ The Canadian government also provides a Sponsorship Cost Table and the In-Kind Deduction Table (PDF, 1.21 MB) to

¹³² Canada, Immigration and Citizenship, Immigrate, Refugees, *Sponsor*, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/groups.asp>.

¹³³ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

¹³⁴ Canada, Immigration and citizenship, Immigrate, Refugees, *Sponsor, Group of Five*. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/groups-who.asp>.

¹³⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.7 How Much Financial Support Will Be Required?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp#a2.7>.

estimate cost of sponsoring a refugee. The table below is a screenshot depicting estimated costs that the government sponsorship kits provide.

Sponsorship Cost Table (\$)						
Family Size	12 Months of Income Support	Start-up Costs	Estimated Total Annual Settlement Cost (\$)			
1	10,700	2,800	13,500			
2	18,000	4,400	22,400			
3	18,900	5,300	24,200			
4	21,200	7,000	28,200			
5	23,700	7,200	30,900			
6	25,700	8,000	33,700			
Additional member	1,550	1,000	2,500			

In-Kind Deduction Table (\$)						
Family Size	Shelter	Clothing	Furniture	Start-up Costs (household needs)	School Start-up Costs	Food Staples
1	6,900	500	1,500	325		175
2	8,300	1,000	2,000	350		250
3	9,000	1,375	2,500	375		325
4	9,600	1,750	3,000	400		400
5	10,800	2,125	3,500	425		475
6	10,800	2,500	4,000	450		550
For each additional member, add	900	375	500	25	150 per child between ages 4 - 21	75

Figure 9. Sponsorship Cost Table and the In-Kind Deduction Table.

*Sponsorship Cost Table and the In-Kind Deduction Table, Government of Canada, Immigration Refugees, and Citizenship, Canada, "Guide to the Private sponsorship of Refugee Program, "2.7 How Much Financial Support Will Be Required? Accessed May 19, 2017.*¹³⁶

How Many Refugees Has Canada Sponsored?

Canada has resettled the following number of refugees by province/territory and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) between January 2015 and August 2017.¹³⁷

¹³⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.7 How Much Financial Support Will Be Required? Sponsorship Cost Table and the In-Kind Deduction Table (PDF)*, Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5373AE.pdf>.

¹³⁷ Government of Canada. Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Open Government License – Canada, Canada – Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Intended Destination and Immigration Category, August 31, 2017,

Table 5. Canada-Admissions of Resettlement Refugees by Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Intended Destination and Immigration Category, January 2015 – August 2017.

Canada – Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Intended Destination and Immigration Category, January 2015 – August 2017

Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area		Blended Sponsorship Refugee	Government-Assisted Refugee	Privately Sponsored Refugee	Total
	St. John's	80	590	75	745
	Corner Brook	--	0	10	15
	Grand Falls-Windsor	--	0	0	--
	Other – Newfoundland and Labrador	30	--	5	35
Newfoundland and Labrador Total		120	590	85	795
	Charlottetown	35	220	155	410
	Summerside	5	0	0	5
	Other – Prince Edward Island	0	0	--	--
Prince Edward Island Total		40	220	155	415
	Halifax	110	1,315	345	1,770
	Cape Breton	20	0	15	30
	Truro	10	0	15	30
	Kentville	25	0	5	30
	New Glasgow	10	0	5	15
	Other – Nova Scotia	175	5	30	210
Nova Scotia Total		350	1,320	420	2,085
	Moncton	40	705	20	765
	Fredericton	55	685	15	755
	Saint John	60	615	15	690
	Miramichi	10	0	5	20
	Other – New Brunswick	70	10	5	85

http://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/4a1b260a-7ac4-4985-80a0-603bfe4aec11?_ga=2.34628705.11050486.1509924536-869592982.1509924536.

Canada – Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory and
Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Intended Destination and Immigration
Category, January 2015 – August 2017

Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area	Blended Sponsorship Refugee	Govern- ment- Assisted Refugee	Privately Sponsored Refugee	Total
New Brunswick Total	235	2,015	60	2,310
Montréal	15	1,560	8,975	10,545
Sherbrooke	0	835	1,230	2,065
Québec	0	1,200	245	1,445
Ottawa – Gatineau (Quebec part)	5	715	155	875
Granby	0	370	0	370
Drummondville	0	295	0	295
Saint-Hyacinthe	0	225	0	225
Trois-Rivières	0	220	--	220
Joliette	0	190	0	190
Victoriaville	0	185	0	185
Rimouski	0	40	0	40
Saguenay	0	0	10	10
Saint-Jean-sur- Richelieu	0	0	--	--
Baie-Comeau	0	0	--	--
Val-d'Or	0	0	--	--
Other – Quebec	0	--	25	30
Quebec Total	20	5,835	10,645	16,495
Toronto	1,090	5,095	10,750	16,935
Ottawa – Gatineau (Ontario part)	400	2,530	1,375	4,300
London	130	1,980	770	2,880
Hamilton	165	1,980	640	2,785
Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo	255	1,805	630	2,695
Windsor	30	1,630	600	2,260
St. Catharines – Niagara	105	5	235	345
Peterborough	40	215	70	325
Kingston	45	170	100	315
Guelph	70	0	200	270
Thunder Bay	40	135	25	205
Leamington	55	135	--	195
Oshawa	35	0	135	170

Canada – Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory and
Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Intended Destination and Immigration
Category, January 2015 – August 2017

Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area	Blended Sponsorship Refugee	Govern- ment- Assisted Refugee	Privately Sponsored Refugee	Total
Sault Ste. Marie	25	95	10	130
Belleville	25	--	30	55
Greater Sudbury	30	0	20	50
Stratford	50	0	0	50
Brantford	25	0	15	45
Chatham-Kent	25	0	15	40
Brockville	35	0	10	40
Barrie	30	0	10	40
Sarnia	35	0	0	35
Owen Sound	30	0	0	30
Cobourg	15	0	10	30
North Bay	20	0	5	25
Centre Wellington	20	--	0	25
Kawartha Lakes	5	5	10	20
Port Hope	15	0	--	20
Hawkesbury (Ontario part)	0	0	20	20
Woodstock	15	0	--	15
Midland	15	0	0	15
Collingwood	10	0	0	10
Norfolk	10	0	0	10
Cornwall	--	0	--	10
Temiskaming Shores	5	0	0	5
Ingersoll	5	0	0	5
Elliot Lake	5	0	0	5
Tillsonburg	5	0	0	5
Timmins	5	0	0	5
Kenora	--	0	0	--
Pembroke	0	0	--	--
Other – Ontario	345	10	120	475
Ontario Total	3,295	15,790	15,820	34,900
Winnipeg	195	2,300	3,945	6,435
Brandon	5	85	55	145
Steinbach	30	0	--	30
Portage la Prairie	5	5	0	10
Other – Manitoba	185	0	30	215

Canada – Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory and
Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Intended Destination and Immigration
Category, January 2015 – August 2017

Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area	Blended Sponsorship Refugee	Govern- ment- Assisted Refugee	Privately Sponsored Refugee	Total
Manitoba Total	420	2,390	4,025	6,830
Saskatoon	110	970	345	1,425
Regina	50	960	250	1,260
Moose Jaw	--	260	5	270
Prince Albert	5	200	0	205
Swift Current	15	0	0	15
Estevan	0	0	15	15
Lloydminster (Saskatchewan part)	0	0	5	5
Yorkton	--	0	0	--
Other – Saskatchewan	30	0	40	75
Saskatchewan Total	220	2,390	660	3,270
Calgary	160	1,735	3,305	5,205
Edmonton	190	2,255	2,185	4,630
Lethbridge	10	415	60	485
Red Deer	10	330	45	380
Medicine Hat	10	265	--	275
Brooks	5	85	30	125
Wood Buffalo	0	0	65	65
Grande Prairie	10	--	10	25
Wetaskiwin	10	0	0	10
Lacombe	5	0	--	10
Lloydminster (Alberta part)	0	0	10	10
Camrose	0	0	5	5
Canmore	0	0	5	5
Strathmore	5	0	0	5
High River	0	0	--	--
Other – Alberta	55	5	90	155
Alberta Total	480	5,090	5,825	11,390
Vancouver	250	3,540	1,860	5,650
Victoria	95	365	120	575
Abbotsford – Mission	70	75	15	155
Kelowna	50	15	30	95

Canada – Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory and
Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Intended Destination and Immigration
Category, January 2015 – August 2017

Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area		Blended Sponsorship Refugee	Govern- ment- Assisted Refugee	Privately Sponsored Refugee	Total
	Nanaimo	25	60	10	95
	Vernon	20	--	20	45
	Kamloops	35	0	10	45
	Salmon Arm	35	0	10	45
	Chilliwack	30	--	10	45
	Prince George	25	0	15	45
	Duncan	20	0	15	30
	Fort St. John	--	0	15	15
	Terrace	10	0	5	15
	Penticton	15	0	0	15
	Cranbrook	10	0	--	15
	Powell River	0	0	15	15
	Squamish	10	0	--	10
	Campbell River	0	0	10	10
	Parksville	10	0	0	10
	Williams Lake	10	0	0	10
	Port Alberni	5	0	--	10
	Prince Rupert	5	0	0	5
	Courtenay	0	0	5	5
	Dawson Creek	--	0	0	--
	Other – British Columbia	135	--	75	210
British Columbia Total		870	4,065	2,245	7,175
	Yellowknife	5	0	--	10
	Other – Northwest Territories	0	0	--	--
Northwest Territories Total		5	0	--	10
	Whitehorse	10	0	10	20
Yukon Total		10	0	10	20
Province/Territory not stated Total		5	10	180	195
Total		6,060	39,715	40,130	85,900

Canada – Admissions of Resettled Refugees by Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Intended Destination and Immigration Category, January 2015 – August 2017

Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area	Blended Sponsorship Refugee	Government-Assisted Refugee	Privately Sponsored Refugee	Total
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Notes:

— Please note that all values between 0 and 5 are shown as “--”. This is done to prevent individuals from being identified when IRCC data is compiled and compared to other publicly available statistics. All other values are rounded to the closest multiple of 5 for the same reason; as a result of rounding, data may not sum to the totals indicated.

— Data are preliminary estimates and are subject to change.

Source: IRCC, August 31, 2017

Canada-Admissions of Resettlement Refugees by Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Intended Destination and Immigration Category, January 2015 – August 2017, IRCC, August 31, 2017.

Who Can Be Sponsored?

Canada only allows private sponsorship of those who qualify as refugees under the two classes of refugees, Convention Refugees Abroad and Country of Asylum, as specified in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations.¹³⁸

As stated in the Canadian Governments website, a Conventional Refugee¹³⁹ is any person who by reason of a well-founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion:

¹³⁸ Canada, Minister of Justice, Justice Laws Website, Consolidation, *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations*, JSOR/2002-227, May 11, 2017, Last amended on May 5, 2017. <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/SOR-2002-227.pdf>.

¹³⁹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, 2.1 Who May Be Sponsored?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

- Is outside the country of his or her nationality and is unable or, by reason of that fear, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country; or
- Does not have a country of nationality, is outside the country of his or her former habitual residence and is unable or, by reason of that fear, unwilling to return to that country.

A Convention Refugee Abroad¹⁴⁰ is any person who:

- Is a Convention refugee;
- Is outside Canada;
- Is seeking resettlement in Canada;
- Does not have a prospect of another durable solution, within a reasonable period of time, that is:
 - Cannot return to his or her country of nationality or habitual residence;
 - Cannot integrate in the country of refuge or the country of first asylum; and
 - Does not have another offer of resettlement from a country other than Canada.
- Will be privately sponsored or assisted by the government or has adequate financial resources to support himself or herself and any dependants.

A Member of the Country of Asylum Class¹⁴¹ is a person:

- Who is outside his or her country of citizenship or habitual residence;
- Who has been, and continues to be, seriously and personally affected by civil or armed conflict or who has suffered massive violations of human rights;
- For whom there is no possibility of finding an adequate solution to his or her situation within a reasonable period of time; and

¹⁴⁰ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.1 Who May Be Sponsored?*

¹⁴¹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.1 Who May Be Sponsored?*

- Who will be privately sponsored or who has adequate financial resources to support himself or herself and any dependants.

The final decision on whether someone is eligible for resettlement in Canada is made by an officer at a Canadian visa office usually after:

- The Canadian visa officer has interviewed the applicant
- The applicant and the sponsoring group have submitted the required supporting documents
- Review of additional information such as country condition updates, etc.

Similar to the United States, for Canada, the applicant also has to pass medical, security and admissibility checks. He or she will also be assessed on his or her ability to establish successfully in Canada. The latter is based on whether the applicant has relatives or sponsors in Canada, is able to speak or learn to speak English, and his/her potential for employment and resourcefulness. When a family is applying, the settlement potential of all family members is assessed as a single determination. If a refugee is assessed as in need of urgent protection or in vulnerable circumstances by the Canadian visa officer, then, the ability to establish is not assessed.¹⁴²

Who Cannot Be Privately Sponsored?¹⁴³

The following people do not qualify for private sponsorships in Canada:

- People already in Canada.

¹⁴² Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.1 Who May Be Sponsored?*

¹⁴³ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.2 Who May Be Sponsored?*

- People who were previously refused sponsorship unless their circumstances have changed; new information that was not previously presented is made available, or Canadian laws affecting the case have changed.
- People deemed to be Conventional refugees by another country and allowed to live there permanently.
- People who flee persecution or civil war some time ago but can now integrate into the country where they are residing or can return home safely.

Who Is Ineligible to Privately Sponsor a Refugee?¹⁴⁴

The following people and groups are ineligible to sponsor refugees:

- Any group or person who was responsible for a sponsorship that remains in default.
- Individuals convicted for murder or a Schedule I or II of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* offense in Canada, “regardless of whether the offence was prosecuted by indictment,”¹⁴⁵ and if five years have not passed since the sentence was completed under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.
- Individuals convicted outside of Canada for something that would have resulted in the same conviction as one of the above-mentioned offenses if committed within Canada, and if five years have not passed since the sentence was completed under a foreign law.
- Individuals with a removal order.

¹⁴⁴ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private sponsorship of refugees program. 2.4 Who May Not Submit a Private Sponsorship?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

¹⁴⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.4 Who May Not Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

- Individuals with “revocation proceedings under the *Citizenship Act*.”¹⁴⁶
- Individuals “detained in penitentiary, jail, reformatory or prison.”¹⁴⁷
- Individuals with defaulted court-ordered support payments.

How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?¹⁴⁸

The following types of sponsorship groups can be formed and how they can be formed are described briefly in subsequent paragraphs:

- Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH)
- Constituent Groups (CG)
- Groups of Five (G5)
- Community Sponsor (CS)
- Co-sponsor

Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH)¹⁴⁹

An organization interested in becoming a SAH should first request an application by emailing PSR-PPPR@cic.gc.ca. It is required that the SAH must be an incorporated organizations. Normally the SAH applicants have sponsorship experience and plan on

¹⁴⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.4 Who May Not Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

¹⁴⁷ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.4 Who May Not Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

¹⁴⁸ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

¹⁴⁹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?*

sponsoring multiple refugees each year. Per the Canadian law, “Applicant organizations must have personnel and finances available to ensure the settlement needs of the sponsored refugees are in place before their arrival.”¹⁵⁰

Constituent Groups (CG)¹⁵¹

CGs are typically “members of the organization holding the sponsorship agreement,” and have their “own criteria for recognizing CGs.”¹⁵² To learn about any specific SAH’s criteria and eligibility requirements, one could directly contact the SAH.¹⁵³

Groups of Five (G5)¹⁵⁴

To form a G5, the Canadian Government states the following:

At least five individuals must be eligible to sponsor and willing to contribute to the requirements of sponsorship. Each group member must complete a personal financial profile form and the group must collectively complete a settlement plan and financial assessment.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵⁰ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?*

¹⁵¹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?*

¹⁵² Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?*

¹⁵³ SAH can be searched on the Government of Canada website under Immigration and citizenship by navigating under Immigrate, Refugees, Sponsor, Private Sponsorship of Refugees program – Sponsorship Agreement Holders, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/list-sponsors.asp>.

¹⁵⁴ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?*

¹⁵⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?*

Community Sponsor (CS)¹⁵⁶

To sponsor refugee(s) as a community, an organization is required to “provide statements demonstrating the ability to meet the required financial obligations.”¹⁵⁷

Co-sponsor¹⁵⁸

If an individual is interested in partnering to privately sponsor refugees, he or she can contact a SAH, CG or a CS to learn about their eligibility criteria, screening and approval procedures. “Each SAH, CG or CS has its own procedures for screening and approving a co-sponsor as well as for establishing the division of responsibilities in the settlement plan. The decision to accept an individual or organization as a co-sponsor is the choice of the SAH, CG or CS who submits the undertaking,” per the Government of Canada.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁶Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?*

¹⁵⁷Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?*

¹⁵⁸Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed?*

¹⁵⁹Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.5 How Is a Sponsoring Group Formed*; The Government of Canada provides the following to apply for “Sponsorship Kit for SAH/CGs, G5s and CSs as well as the Application for Convention Refugees Abroad and Humanitarian-protected Persons Abroad (IMM 6000) (overseas application kit), which the refugee must complete.” Sponsorship Kit for SAH/CGs, G5s and CSs retrieved from <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/private.asp>. Application for Convention Refugees Abroad and Humanitarian-protected Persons Abroad retrieved from <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/conref.asp>.

What Are the Responsibilities of the Sponsoring Group?¹⁶⁰

Sponsors are responsible for a 12 month period or when the refugee becomes self sufficient, whichever comes first, starting when the refugee has arrived in Canada. The sponsor is responsible for providing the refugee “with care, lodging, settlement assistance and support for the duration of the sponsorship period,”¹⁶¹ per the government of Canada. There are some exceptional cases where the visa officer, prior to granting the sponsorship, determines that the refugee may need more than 12 months, a maximum of 36 month, of sponsor support in Canada. If that is the case, the visa officer requests the sponsoring group to extend the sponsorship to a maximum of 36 months. The sponsoring group has the right to refuse the extension, but then the sponsoring group may also risk having their sponsorship case request be rejected.

Private sponsors normally provide the following support to the refugees:

- Food, rent and household utilities and other day-to-day living expenses
- Clothes, furniture and other household goods
- Help find interpreters
- Select a family physician and dentist
- Assist with application for provincial health-care coverage
- Enroll children in school and enroll adults in language training
- Introduce newcomers to other individuals with similar personal interests
- Assist with orientation to banking services, transportation, etc.

¹⁶⁰ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.6 What Are the Responsibilities of the Sponsoring Group?*

¹⁶¹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.6 What Are the Responsibilities of the Sponsoring Group?*

- Help search for employment

Sponsors have obligations, commitments, and responsibilities in their personal day-to-day lives as well. That is why it is important to have a group of people helping settle their sponsored refugee(s) so that no one person is overwhelmed with all the responsibilities. The Canadian government requires that the sponsoring group live in, or have representatives in the community where the sponsored refugees will reside. Having the group of sponsors there helps share their responsibilities and time commitments towards the refugees to proactively prevent any one sponsor from feeling overwhelmed. To avoid splitting up the refugee family, the sponsors need to “name all immediate and dependent family members listed on the *Application for Permanent Residence*, whether they are accompanying the principal applicant to Canada or may follow later under the provisions of the One Year Window (OYW).”¹⁶² They are required to provide support to all family members listed on the *Application for Permanent Residence*, regardless of whether all the family members arrive at the same time or separately over the course of time. Per the Canadian government:

The sponsor is responsible for supporting the non-accompanying family members under the same terms as in the original settlement plan, unless the principal refugee applicant is now self-sufficient and able to provide adequately for his or her family members. De facto dependants should also be included in the sponsorship but should be named on a separate undertaking.¹⁶³

¹⁶² Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.6 What Are the Responsibilities of the Sponsoring Group?*

¹⁶³ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.6 What Are the Responsibilities of the Sponsoring Group?*

How Much Financial Support Will Be Required?¹⁶⁴

The Canadian government provides a sponsorship application kit with details the cost of sponsorship. Like in the United States, cost of living varies across Canada. Per the Canadian government, “Sponsorship Cost Table and the In-Kind Deduction Table¹⁶⁵ included in Appendix A of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Application Guide (IMM 5413)¹⁶⁶ can help to estimate the minimum annual settlement cost for sponsoring a refugee or refugee family” and “sponsors should also consider prevailing Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) rates in the expected community of settlement.” These are guidelines only, and the actual cost may vary. The Canadian government also allows reduced sponsorship rates in exchange for “in-kind” goods, example, shelter, furniture and clothes.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁴ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.7 How Much Financial Support Will Be Required?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>; Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.8 Are There Any Extra Costs?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

¹⁶⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.7 How Much Financial Support Will Be Required?*; Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.8 Are There Any Extra Costs?*; The Sponsorship Cost Table and In-Kind Deduction Table: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5413ETOC.asp#appa>.

¹⁶⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.7 How Much Financial Support Will Be Required?*; Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.8 Are There Any Extra Costs?*; Private Sponsorship of Refugees Application Guide (IMM 5413): <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5413ETOC.asp#appa>.

¹⁶⁷ In-kind deduction table is provided by the Canadian government in Appendix A of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Application Guide (IMM 5413).

ROC-O requires that the sponsor's committed funds plus in-kind donations meet or exceeds the sponsorship cost table amounts after the sponsor's existing financial are accounted.

The Canadian government expects the refugees to “contribute to their own settlement costs from funds they bring to Canada or earn during their sponsorship period.”¹⁶⁸ Refugees have the right to manage their own finances when they have their own available resources and sponsors cannot require them to be managed by others. Financial support from sponsors is intended to be provided if there is a “basis of need.”¹⁶⁹

The sponsoring group has the option to create a trust fund for the sponsorship. However, they are not allowed to accept or require payment of sponsorship funds from a refugee. Trust funds, including accumulated interests, are returned to the donors if the refugee is not accepted to Canada.

Sponsorship group should not assume that the refugee will be employed within the sponsorship period and should account for supporting the refugee for the period of sponsorship.¹⁷⁰ To promote self-sufficiency, sponsoring groups may help refugees find employment but “cannot force refugees to accept any job offered.”

Similar to the United States, the Canadian government provides a loan to help a refugee pay for their transportation to Canada. If the visa office questions the refugee's

¹⁶⁸ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.7 How Much Financial Support Will Be Required.*

¹⁶⁹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.7 How Much Financial Support Will Be Required.*

¹⁷⁰ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.7 How Much Financial Support Will Be Required.*

ability to repay a loan, the government may ask the sponsoring group to pay a portion of, or all of these costs. For example, if an elderly person is unlikely to find a job or the sponsor is sponsoring unaccompanied minor children, the government may ask the sponsorship group to pay for the refugee's transportation costs. Per the Canadian government:

Payment for transportation and other costs from the contributions fund is reserved for certain cases within the Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) component where a visa officer is of the opinion that the refugee would be unable to repay the loan.¹⁷¹

How Is a Match Made between a Sponsoring Group and a Refugee?¹⁷²

The Canadian government matches a sponsoring group with a refugee in the following two ways: Sponsor-referred and Visa office-referred.

Sponsor-referred

In the Sponsor-referred method, the sponsoring group (SAHs/CGs, G5s or CSs) applies and submits the name of a refugee or refugee family it wants to sponsor to ROC-O. Example, a sponsorship group may have gotten a referral from an overseas friend or contact.

The Canadian government encourages the sponsorship group to consider the following:

¹⁷¹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.8 Are There Any Extra Costs?*

¹⁷² Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.9 How Is a Match Made between a Sponsoring Group and a Refugee?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

- Is the person eligible for the private sponsorship program? Canadian government requires that the principal applicant already have a refugee status and UNHCR or the government of the country, where the person currently resides, has provided a document stating that the person meets its refugee definition. This document must be submitted to ROC-O with the application. Only a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) can sponsor a principal applicant without a refugee status recognition from the UNHCR or a foreign state government.
- Does the person have relatives or friends in Canada? Canadian government encourages refugees to be resettled in their relative's community.

Visa office-referred (VOR)

Visa office-referred can normally travel within one to four months of being matched with a sponsor. ROC-O at IRCC administers visa office-referred (VOR) cases that have already been selected, and IRCC tries to find a private sponsor to match with the refugee that UNHCR has identified. According to the Canadian government:

Once the sponsorship is signed, the local IRCC Centre works with ROC-O and the visa office to provide the sponsor with more accurate information regarding departure and arrival dates, as well as any particular settlement needs that might exist in transit and in the first few weeks after the refugees have arrived in Canada.¹⁷³

Non-accompanying Family Member and One-Year Window (OYW) of Opportunity¹⁷⁴

¹⁷³ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.9 How Is a Match Made between a Sponsoring Group and a Refugee*; For more information, refer to Section 3, Additional Sponsorship Opportunities for More Information on VORs, including the Blended VOR (BVOR) Program. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-3.asp>.

¹⁷⁴ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.10 What Is a Non-accompanying*

The Government of Canada defines non-accompanying family members as “spouses and dependent children of the principal applicant who have been separated from the family unit and will not be travelling with the rest of the family.” This is not the same as De facto dependants who are described in the next section. If ROC-O receives the non-accompany family member’s application for permanent residence within one year of when the principal applicant arrived in Canada, the Canadian government will expedite the application process of the non-accompanying family member and treat it as part of the same application as the principal applicant. To qualify, the principal applicant is required to identify the non-accompanying family member on the Generic Application Form for Canada (IMM 0008) before he/she departs for Canada, the sponsorship group is expected to include separated family members and have the principal applicant identify them on the IMM 0008 application. OYW applications are processed at the visa office for the area in which the family members reside regardless of where the principal applicant was processed. If the application is submitted after the one-year period has expired, the family member will not benefit from OYW.¹⁷⁵

What Is a De Facto Dependant?¹⁷⁶

De facto dependant is someone who the refugee family considers to be an integral member of the family unit; however, who does not meet the IRCC’s definition of a family member and are ineligible for OYW.

Family Member and the One-Year Window (OYW) of Opportunity? Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

¹⁷⁵ OYW Instruction Guidelines are available at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/fam-follow.asp>.

¹⁷⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.11 What is a De Facto Dependant?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

Examples de facto dependants per Government of Canada are:¹⁷⁷

- An unmarried adult daughter in cultures where it is normal for an unmarried adult daughter to remain dependent until she marries.
- A widowed sister or sister-in-law in a culture where it is normal for the applicant to take on responsibility for her care and sustenance when she has no other means of support.
- Nieces and nephews whose parents have been killed or are missing. In the case of nieces and nephews, sponsors must take into consideration the best interests of the child. To the extent possible, sponsors should work with appropriate authorities in that field to try to avoid any disputes with respect to custody or guardianship.
- Parents of any age living with the principal applicant and without other children with whom they could reside or without means of support other than the principal applicant.
- Elderly relatives who have lived with the principal applicant or who are solely, or for the most part, dependent on the applicant for care, shelter, etc.

Examples of people who may *not* qualify as de facto dependants per Government of Canada are:

- A married sister living with the applicant, who has a husband residing in another known location, unless it is demonstrated to the visa officer that the sister cannot rely on her husband for support.
- A married daughter and her husband living with the principal applicant, unless they can demonstrate to the visa officer that they are completely dependent on the principal applicant for financial support.

¹⁷⁷ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.11 What is a De Facto Dependant?*

- An elderly parent who normally lives with the principal applicant but who may reside with other children from time to time.
- A person who has been taking care of the principal applicant's children and living in the household for an extended period (more than six months) but who is not without family of his or her own.

Sponsors have to submit a separate sponsorship for de facto dependants and identify the name and date of birth of the principal applicant to ensure that de facto dependants are processed concurrently with the refugee family unit. De facto dependants have to be refugees themselves to be accepted unless they are granted acceptance for humanitarian and compassionate consideration.

Cases where de facto dependants identified by the principal applicant were not listed by the sponsor, visa officers and ROC-O need to ensure that sponsoring groups can assume responsibility for the settlement of the de facto dependants with the refugee family unit.

Addition of a Dependant to an Application¹⁷⁸

In situations such as birth of a child or marriage, a family member will need to be added to the sponsor's application after it has been submitted to ROC-O but before the visa has been issued. The sponsoring group is expected to provide the appropriate

¹⁷⁸ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.12 Addition of a Dependant to an Application*, Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

documents to ROC-O in order to add a dependant to an existing Sponsorship.¹⁷⁹ If the sponsoring group is unable to provide support to the additional family member, they

¹⁷⁹ Per the Government of Canada, the following documents are required for Additional Family members that were not part of the family when the sponsor originally submitted the application. The documents vary by the type of sponsorship group.

should locate a replacement-sponsoring group. The replacement sponsor/new sponsoring group would need to submit a sponsorship for the entire family to ROC-O. According to

Additional information below from Government of Canada (verbatim provided in footnote below). Home. Departments and Agencies. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Publications and manuals. Guide to Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program:

SAHs and their CGs: Request to Add Dependant(s) to a Private Sponsorship Undertaking (IMM 5618): <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5618E.pdf>; Application for Convention Refugees Abroad and Humanitarian-protected Persons Abroad (IMM 6000): <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/conref.asp> – De facto and overage dependants require their own separate application and must therefore be identified as the Principal Applicant on the IMM 6000. All other types of dependants must be recorded as such on an updated IMM 6000 application package to be completed by the Principal Applicant; Settlement Plan (IMM 5440) (if the SAH has less than two years of experience): <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5440E.pdf>.

Groups of Five: Request to Add Dependant(s) to a Private Sponsorship Undertaking (IMM 5618); Application for Convention Refugees Abroad and Humanitarian-protected Persons Abroad (IMM 6000): <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/conref.asp> – De facto and overage dependants require their own separate application and must therefore be identified as the Principal Applicant on the IMM 6000. All other types of dependants must be recorded as such on an updated IMM 6000 application package to be completed by the Principal Applicant; Settlement Plan and Financial Assessment (IMM 5373AE): <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5373AE.pdf>, for Each Sponsorship Undertaking; Refugee Status Determination (RSD) for anyone who requires a separate sponsorship application package (e.g., for overage dependent children and for de facto dependants); Financial documentation required by all group members providing financial support: copy of your most recent T4; copy of most recent Notice of Assessment issued by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA); an original letter or proof of annotated cheque stubs from your employer confirming financial details for the past 12 months; if self-employed, an original letter from an accountant confirming your annual income for the past 12 months; proof of other sources of income (pension statement, investments, etc.); or employment Insurance pay stubs/money held in trust: an original letter from a Canadian financial institution attesting to account details, identity of the beneficiary (i.e. the refugees), when and how funds will be dispersed, the outcome of the funds should the beneficiary not arrive in Canada and the details of the two members of the sponsoring group with signing authority (i.e. full name, date of birth and addresses); Sponsorship Assessment (IMM 5492): <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5492E.pdf>, for each group member; and Financial profile (IMM 5373B) <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5373BE.pdf> for each group member providing financial support.

Community Sponsors: Request to Add Dependant(s) to a Private Sponsorship Undertaking (IMM 5618); Application for Convention Refugees Abroad and Humanitarian-protected Persons Abroad (IMM 6000) <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/conref.asp> – De facto and overage dependants require their own separate application and must therefore be identified as the Principal Applicant on the IMM 6000. All other types of dependants must be recorded as such on an updated IMM 6000 application package to be completed by the Principal Applicant; Settlement Plan and Financial Assessment (IMM 5515) <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5515E.pdf> for EACH Sponsorship Undertaking; Refugee Status Determination (RSD) for anyone who requires a separate sponsorship application package (e.g., for overage dependent children and for de facto dependants); Financial Documentation: Last year's audited financial statement from the sponsoring organization; An original letter from a Canadian financial institution attesting to bank account details; An original letter from the organization guaranteeing a cash donation; or Proof(s) of alternate source(s) of funding; Sponsorship Assessment (IMM 5492) <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5492E.pdf>; and for Co-sponsors in Community Sponsorship application (if applicable): Sponsorship Assessment (IMM 5492) <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5492E.pdf>; Proof of income (if providing financial support); Financial profile (IMM 5373B) <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5373BE.pdf> (if providing financial support).

the Canadian government the new “undertaking replaces the first and the original group would no longer be considered the sponsor.”

If the request to add a dependant to the application is refused and a replacement sponsor cannot be identified, the principal refugee’s application will likely be refused by the overseas visa officer.

How Does a Group Begin the Sponsorship Process?¹⁸⁰

A sponsorship has to complete the Refugee Sponsorship¹⁸¹ package, and the refugee has to complete the Application for Permanent Residence.¹⁸² This and any supporting documents should be submitted to the Resettlement Operations Centre in Ottawa (ROC-O) at the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.¹⁸³

The Refugee Sponsorship should include the following forms:

- Undertaking to sponsor
- Settlement plan, including, settlement and financial arrangements for the refugee
- G5s and CSS financial assessment forms
- Document checklist

The Application for Permanent Residence should include:

¹⁸⁰ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.13 How Does a Group Begin the Sponsorship Process?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp#>.

¹⁸¹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Refugee Sponsorship Application Package*, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/private.asp>.

¹⁸² Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Application for Permanent Residence*, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/conref.asp>.

¹⁸³ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.13 How Does a Group Begin the Sponsorship Process?*

- Instructions for the form
- Application for Permanent Residence
- Additional Dependants/Declaration
- Schedule A–Background/Declaration
- Schedule 2–Refugees outside Canada
- Use of Representative form
- Document checklist

Once obtained, the Permanent Residency cards are valid for five¹⁸⁴ years. Refugee applicants must complete the Application for Permanent Residence in Canada:

Convention Refugees Abroad and Humanitarian-Protected Persons Abroad (IMM 6000 kit).¹⁸⁵

Once visa office has approved the sponsorship undertaking and Application for Permanent Residence, the applicant is interviewed.¹⁸⁶

Sponsorship undertaking and the Application for Permanent Residence for sponsor-referred cases are submitted to ROC-O the following two ways:

1. Sponsorship group submits the IMM 6000 kit, supporting documents, photographs, and the sponsorship undertaking to the ROC-O after reviewing

¹⁸⁴ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information*, Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

¹⁸⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.14 IMM 6000 Application Kit*. Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>; the Application for Permanent Residence in Canada: Convention Refugees Abroad and Humanitarian-Protected Persons Abroad (IMM 6000 kit): <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/conref.asp>.

¹⁸⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.14 IMM 6000 Application Kit*.

completed forms and documents the sponsored refugee overseas has returned to them.¹⁸⁷

OR

2. The sponsored overseas refugee sends the completed IMM 6000 kit, supporting documents, photographs, and the sponsorship undertaking, which was sent to them by the Sponsors to the ROC-O.¹⁸⁸

Per the Canadian government, the first method may reduce the processing time overseas since the sponsorship group has the opportunity to review the documents are completed and submitted per instructions before submission to the ROC-O.

Sponsoring groups can also provide the visa office supporting documents that demonstrate the applicant's need for protection. Supporting document examples per the Canadian government are:

- Written accounts from other individuals who have fled similar situations,
- Media reports on the persecution of persons in similar situations,
- Reports of government legislation affecting the status of refugees in countries of asylum.

Canadian government also allows an attachment to the application called the Sponsorship Rationale where the sponsors can indicate:

- Why the principal refugee applicant is being referred for protection?
- Why the resettlement is the only durable solution available to him/her?
- Why Canada is the most logical choice as a destination?

The Canadian government proactively provides the sponsors tools to screen their applications prior to application. The visa officer makes the final decision on the

¹⁸⁷ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.14 IMM 6000 Application Kit.*

¹⁸⁸ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.14 IMM 6000 Application Kit.*

applicant's eligibility and admissibility, but these tools assist the sponsors in proactively identify any red flags prior to the application submission.

Sponsorship applications can also be emailed to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).¹⁸⁹ Compared with receiving applications via regular mail, the email submission saves ROC-O over one hour in processing time per application.¹⁹⁰ The Canadian government provides detailed instructions on how to submit the application via email and provides instructions on proper file formatting to facilitate a successful submission.¹⁹¹

How Is the Application Processed?¹⁹²

Once the Resettlement Operations Centre in Ottawa (ROC-O) receives a sponsorship application, ROC-O does the following:¹⁹³

¹⁸⁹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.15 How to Submit a Sponsorship Application via Email*, Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

¹⁹⁰ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.15 How to Submit a Sponsorship Application via Email*.

¹⁹¹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.15 How to Submit a Sponsorship Application via Email*.

¹⁹² Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?* Publications and Manuals. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>; Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.17 How Can I Obtain information on the processing status of the sponsorship and refugee application?* Publications and Manuals. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

¹⁹³ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

- Reviews the sponsorship for eligibility requirements and reviews whether the application is completed for permanent residency. Sends an acknowledgement to the sponsor that they have received the undertaking application¹⁹⁴
- Informs the sponsoring group of decisions related to the application¹⁹⁵
- For sponsor-referred cases: forwards approved undertaking and the completed application for permanent residence to the visa office responsible for the area where the refugee lives¹⁹⁶
- For all VOR and JAS cases: reviews, assesses, and processes the sponsorship¹⁹⁷
- Provides the sponsoring group with processing updates¹⁹⁸

Canadian visa offices process permanent residency applications that refugees living abroad submit. Per the Canadian government, “The visa offices work closely with international service providers who deal with refugees around the world and also maintain contact with ROC-O.”¹⁹⁹ The visa offices perform the following tasks:²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁴ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

¹⁹⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

¹⁹⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

¹⁹⁷ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

¹⁹⁸ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

¹⁹⁹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²⁰⁰ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

- Review the application for permanent residence and pre-screen for basic eligibility requirements²⁰¹
- Notify the sponsor of selection decision²⁰²
- Conduct interview to determine whether the applicant belongs to the convention Refugees Abroad Class or Country of Asylum Class²⁰³
- Assess the applicant's ability to establish in Canada²⁰⁴
- Initiate medical, criminal and security checks and review the results to ensure the applicant is admissible to Canada²⁰⁵
- For all VOR sponsorships: send a completed VOR referral form 1 to ROC-O so that the profile can be added to the online refugee profile directory²⁰⁶
- Issue a loan for transportation²⁰⁷
- Issue a permanent resident visa when a positive final decision is made²⁰⁸

²⁰¹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²⁰² Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²⁰³ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²⁰⁴ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²⁰⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²⁰⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²⁰⁷ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²⁰⁸ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

- Make travel arrangements for the refugee in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration²⁰⁹
- Provide the refugee with orientation and travel information in collaboration with international service providers²¹⁰
- Advise ROC-O of the date and place that the refugees will arrive in Canada²¹¹

The applicant's local IRCC office in Canada perform the following tasks:²¹²

- Provide sponsoring group with names of agencies offering immigrant support services²¹³
- Register the refugees for the interim federal health program (ifhp)²¹⁴
- Monitor the settlement of the refugees after arrival²¹⁵

²⁰⁹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²¹⁰ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²¹¹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²¹² Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²¹³ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²¹⁴ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

²¹⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.16 How is the Application Processed?*

What Are the Refugee's Responsibilities?²¹⁶

Refugees must complete the IMM 6000 kit and provide supporting documentation to the sponsoring group or to ROC-O.²¹⁷ If they send it to the sponsoring group, sponsoring group will need to submit it to ROC-O. They have to provide accurate and complete information about their refugee claim and circumstances in their country of asylum to the interviewer.²¹⁸ If they pass the interview stage, the refugees is required to visit a Panel Physician and receive medical clearance for travel to Canada.²¹⁹ Visa office provides the applicant with instructions for medical exam.

The refugee will need to pass criminality and security checks and may need to produce supplemental documentation to finalize these checks.²²⁰

The travel costs for refugee, including their dependent family members, is the refugee's responsibility. However, immigration loans for travel may be available for those unable to afford the travel cost to Canada.

²¹⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.18 What are the Refugee's Responsibilities?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

²¹⁷ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.18 What are the Refugee's Responsibilities?*

²¹⁸ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.18 What are the Refugee's Responsibilities?*

²¹⁹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.18 What are the Refugee's Responsibilities?*

²²⁰ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.18 What are the Refugee's Responsibilities?*

Once in Canada, the refugee is “expected to make every effort to become self-sufficient as soon as possible after arriving in Canada.”²²¹ They are expected to enroll in language classes, as needed, and utilize other settlement services to obtain employment.²²²

How Long Does It Take before the Refugee Can Arrive to Canada?²²³

The time of refugee’s arrival can depend on whether they are a Sponsor-referred case or a Blended VOR and other VOR cases. Sponsor-referred cases can take “considerable amount of time”²²⁴ to process. Canadian government makes the processing times, in each visa office, for the past 12 months available online.²²⁵ However, the Blended VOR and other VOR cases “are usually travel-ready by the time a match has been made with a private sponsorship group in Canada and usually arrive within one to four months after ROC-O has approved the sponsorship.”²²⁶

²²¹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.18 What are the Refugee's Responsibilities?*

²²² Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.18 What are the Refugee's Responsibilities?*

²²³ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.19 When Will the Refugee Arrive?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

²²⁴ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.19 When Will the Refugee Arrive?*

²²⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.19 When Will the Refugee Arrive?*

²²⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.19 When Will the Refugee Arrive?*

Healthcare Costs and Coverage²²⁷

Privately sponsored refugees are encouraged to apply for provincial or territorial health insurance, immediately.²²⁸ Refugees may be eligible for healthcare from the day of arrival in most jurisdictions.²²⁹ However, it can take up to 90 days for provincial health insurance coverage in some providences.²³⁰ Meanwhile, as a last resort, the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) provides limited, temporary health-care benefits for those who lack public health insurance or comprehensive private insurance, until they become eligible for provincial or territorial health insurance, which is normally within 3 months.²³¹ However, per the Canadian government, “All resettled refugees, including privately sponsored refugees, are eligible for basic, supplemental and prescription drug coverage under the IFHP”²³² for the duration of their private sponsorship, which is typically 12 months.²³³

²²⁷ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.* Publications and Manuals. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

²²⁸ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²²⁹ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²³⁰ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²³¹ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²³² Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information*; More information on Canada’s basic, supplemental, and prescription drug coverage is available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/summary-ifhp.asp>.

Canada Child Benefit²³⁴

Refugee parents with children under the age of 18 can apply for a monthly payment for assistance with the cost of raising their children.²³⁵

Trust Accounts²³⁶

Private sponsors are allowed to create trust accounts for the “funds collected, raised or donated for the settlement of sponsored refugees.”²³⁷ However, they should use caution in ensuring that the funds in the account, and all interest accrued, are used only for the direct settlement costs of the refugees for whom the funds were collected. Regardless, “sponsors must be able to account for all expenditures.”²³⁸

²³³ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information*; IFHP healthcare details are available at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/arriving-healthcare.asp>.

²³⁴ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information*.

²³⁵ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information*.

²³⁶ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information*.

²³⁷ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information*.

²³⁸ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information*.

Secondary Migration and Self-destination²³⁹

A self-destination or secondary migration is a situation “when the refugee either fails to establish in or decides to move out of the sponsor's community.”²⁴⁰ Examples provided

by the Canadian Immigration website are as follows:

If the refugee is able to support himself or herself in the new community for the remainder of the sponsorship period, the sponsoring group has no further obligations.²⁴¹

If the sponsoring group wishes to transfer the sponsorship to another group in the new community or if the group is not willing or able to continue providing material assistance to the refugee in the new location, ROC-O must be contacted immediately. (Note: If the former, the SAH is expected to make the initial contact with another sponsoring group.)²⁴²

If sponsorship is transferred, the new group signs a sponsorship undertaking for the remainder of the sponsorship period.²⁴³

If the original sponsor “will not or cannot continue to support the refugee in the new community,”²⁴⁴ the local IRCC Centre, the sponsoring group and the refugee have to meet and try to resolve the sponsorship breakdown and responsibility.²⁴⁵ If there is no

²³⁹ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²⁴⁰ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²⁴¹ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²⁴² Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²⁴³ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²⁴⁴ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²⁴⁵ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

agreement on who is ultimately responsible for the breakdown, the local IRCC Centre makes the final determination.²⁴⁶ Per the Canadian government:

If the sponsor is found responsible, the group must continue to support the refugee in the new community. If it is not responsible, it is released from all further obligations.

It is important to remember that unless the local IRCC Centre issues a formal notice of sponsorship breakdown, (which effectively cancels the sponsorship undertaking) sponsored refugees are not entitled to obtain income support through provincial or municipal social assistance programs or the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) during the sponsorship period (normally 12 months).

Furthermore, sponsoring groups may, under certain circumstances, be liable for reimbursing the government concerned for income support issued to refugees under the group's sponsorship.²⁴⁷

²⁴⁶ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information.*

²⁴⁷ Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.20 Other Useful Information;* Additional Sponsorship Breakdown info available in Chapter 3 of IRCC's in-Canada Processing Manual (IP 3) at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/manuals/ip/ip03-part4-eng.pdf> or the Sponsorship Agreement at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/sah.asp>.

Chapter IX.

Research Methodology

This research uses qualitative method and uses the current U.S. government funded refugee sponsorship and Canada's private sponsorship model as case studies.

The research identifies the refugee screening steps and processes for entry into the United States as well as the reception and resettlement steps and processes once the refugee arrives at the United States. It identifies the costs based on data provided by the U.S. Government and its non-profit partners.

Then, the research takes a similar case study approach towards the Canadian Private Sponsorship model. It is understood that Canada also has a government funded refugee sponsorship model like the United States. Their government-funded model is not the focus of this research. However, this research focuses on studying their private sponsorship model since it augments to their already available government funded model, and enables them to accept additional refugees.

Available observation data, document data, audio-visual data, interview data, text and image analysis, themes/patterns interpretation were studied. Types of sources are sampled below, but more are available throughout the footnotes of this paper and in the Bibliography section:

- Assessments, reports, data, texts, interviews, questionnaires/answers, measurements, etc., available through other research organizations / governments / international organizations / NGOs / Non-profit organizations
- Available public government papers and information from government sources
- Statements, speeches, letters, emails, messages, social media posts, announcements
- Literature review, books
- Media coverage and reports
- Available data from interviews, messages from, and/or observations of asylum seekers when available
- Reports and data provided by businesses/organizations that have contributed to private funding of asylum seeker initiatives. Example companies that have provided such data after helping in the Canadian initiatives are: General Motors of Canada, IKEA Canada, RBC, Sun Life Financial, Mainstreet Equity Corp., Cogeco and Centraid of Greater Montreal, Desjardins Group (partnered with Canadian Red Cross) Pro Bono Québec and CN, Law Foundation of Ontario, Intact Foundation, Metro Inc., Co-operators, Manulife and Community Foundations of Canada, Canadian banks BMO Financial Group, CIBC, Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank and TD Bank Group), Canadian unions.
- Observations made during my personal volunteering field experience at refugee camps across Leros, Athens, and Eidomeni (Idomini) Greece. Personal volunteering, lessons learned in the kind of things, infrastructure, resources, and human support asylum seekers needed once they arrive in another country.
- Although not the focus of the study, to understand the operational and logistical challenges faced by the private sponsorship program, researched international

agreements, treaties, protocols, immigration laws/regulations, asylum seeker laws, and sponsorship details / procedures available by countries that have allowed or are allowing private sponsorship of asylum seekers.

- Information from organizations such as: United Nations, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Justice Resource Center, European Parliament, European Union, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), The European Legal Network on Asylum (ELENA), European Resettlement Network, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Global Migration Data Analysis Center (GMDAC), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Migration Policy Institute (MPI), CATO Institute, Niskanen Center, Open Society Foundations, Research on Public Policy, Pew Research Center, Presidential Libraries, World Health Organization (WHO), Argentina Government (Programa Especial De Visado Humanitario Para Extranjeros Efectados Por El Conflicto e La Republica Arabe Siria), German Federation Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Irish Naturalization and Immigration Service (INIS), Australian Government, Refugee Council of Australia, Canadian Council for Refugees, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), Manitoba Labor and Immigration, U.S. Department of State (U.S. Refugee Admissions Program), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR/ACF/DHHS), Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge(BAMF), Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege/Federal Association of Voluntary Welfare, PRO ASYL, American Society of International Law (ASIL), World University Service Canada (WUSC) State of California – Department of Social Services, AURA, LifelineSyria, WE'RE DOING IT, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Refugee International, Oxford

International, International Cities of Refugee Network (ICORN), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Boat Refugee Foundation, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders, Praxis, InterVolve, Save The Children, Red Cross, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Citizens for Public Justice, etc.

Extracting from Judith Kumin's, David Bier²⁴⁸ and Matthew La Corte's²⁴⁹ researches, as well as adding to them, the following attributes and criteria were referenced to understand private sponsorship model for the U.S.

- Who is allowed to sponsor (private citizens/residents, groups, businesses, organizations, international sponsors, etc.)?
- Who is allowed to be sponsored? How are families handled? This question also includes Kumin's question on whether family link with sponsors are factored?
- Is the ability to sponsor impacted based on whether the sponsored is still in his/her home country, already in the host country, or in a third country? This also considers Kumin's question on whether "direct entry from country of origin is allowed."
- What types of guidance, support and resources are available to the sponsor? Example: Are there government, non-governmental organizations/charity, training programs, etc., available to support the sponsors and the sponsored in answering sponsorship related questions, concerns, etc.

²⁴⁸ David Bier and Matthew La Corte, "Privately Funded Refugee Resettlement. How to Leverage American Charity to Resettle Refugees," *Niskanen Center*, March 22, 2016, <https://niskanencenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/NiskanenPrivateRefugee.pdf>.

²⁴⁹ Bier and La Corte, "Privately Funded Refugee Resettlement. How to Leverage American Charity to Resettle Refugees."

- Are tax exemptions/relief provided to the sponsors?²⁵⁰
- What are the obligations expected of the sponsor? This includes identifying resource commitments from sponsors such as legal/civil, monetary, lodging, transportation, time, tasks, duration of obligation, etc. Is it realistic to include healthcare and education expenses as the sponsor's responsibility, or can sponsors be partnered with other private funding groups or organizations that can carry those? Or, is government funding of the healthcare and education expense considered?
- Are there quota restrictions, if so, what?
- What type of legal status is granted to the sponsored? Is there a legal waiting period before the sponsored can work? If so, how long? Example, just as recently as August and September of 2016, I got a message from a 21-year-old Syrian asylum seeker in Greece. He said he was ineligible to work until the Greek government processes his paperwork. Hence, no one was hiring him. Meanwhile, he had fallen ill in Greece since the last time I saw him while volunteering at Greek refugee camps. Only going off of what he said, he said the doctor told him that he needs an operation within two weeks due to some gall bladder complication. Over Facebook messenger, he shared with me that he had no money, and he had not eaten properly. He explained that the hospital is far, and his only option is to go back and forth alone in over an hour-long bus ride while in pain. He was not allowed to work even before the gall bladder complication, and a taxi was too expensive to cover the distance. At 3 AM in the morning Greek time, he was crying. He said he missed his mother. He said he felt alone. He said he was scared. He wondered if he may die. His case is not out of the ordinary. Legal status is important because it

²⁵⁰Kumin, Bier and La Corte have recommended this.

determines whether one will be able work and have access to support basic human needs as an asylum seeker.

Chapter X.

Research Limitations

Recently, President Donald Trump has attempted and/or talked about introducing new immigration regulations, including ones that impact asylum processes for refugees to United States. Various layers of the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. government officials, and NGOs have challenged some of these. Due to the fluidity of this situation and the confusion it has caused, it was difficult to determine what President Trump and United States' immigration policy for asylum seekers and refugees will be going forward while this thesis was being written. Because of this, most of the United States refugees processing policy information reflect the policies up through President Barack Obama's administration. However, the number of refugees processed was information available from reports to Congress over the years, including 2017's report provided by representatives of the Trump Administration.

An assumption is made that the data provided by the governments, UNHCR, established NGOs and official sources are accurate.

Laws, treaties, rules, etc., regarding refugees and migrants are changing internationally and within the United States. This may outdate the information provided regarding refugee processing going forward.

Although my sources have been predominantly in English, some data provided to my sources may not have originated from fluent English speakers. This could mean that there was a dependency on the source's translators or the translating tool's ability to

accurately translate the information. There might have been a heavier reliance on English language sources for reasons of practicality.

Chapter XI.

Findings and Conclusion

Over the years, the United States Government has contributed substantially by providing humanitarian aid abroad and also accepting refugees into the United States. However, the number of refugees accepted into America dwindled in 2017 and met only about half of the number proposed for 2017. Whether the reason for this is political, economic, social, or all of the above can be debated. However, there are a substantial number of Americans willing to help people who are displaced around the world by sponsoring refugees into America with their private funds. Now, is the optimal time to consider other sources of funding and allow the willing American people, organizations, and businesses to sponsor refugees via private funding. This can provide much needed support, additional resources, collaboration, and funds for the U.S. Government Refugee Agencies and the U.S. Department of State.

The Obama Administration has left detailed information on how much it costs to help refugees resettle in the United States.²⁵¹ The approximately \$1.64 billion used in 2016 for less than 85,000 refugees and the projected estimates they provided of approximately \$2 billion to help over 100,000 refugees resettle in the United States are a great place to begin thinking of the costs and programs that the private sector can assist and contribute towards.²⁵² Canada is already doing this. United States can leverage the

²⁵¹ *PRAFY2017*.

²⁵² *PRAFY2017*.

Canadian model in the reception and resettlement stages of the refugee admissions program. Canadian government has allowed private sponsorship and funding from Canadian citizens, permanent residents, organizations and businesses that operate in Canada. Given that the U.S. Government is mostly funding these initiatives via public funding and only allows a public-private sponsorship with nine volunteer agencies for some in-kind and cash donations, United States government should also consider tapping into the generosity of private American citizens, permanent residents, organizations, and businesses by allowing a larger scale private sponsorship model.

In fiscal year 2017, the Trump Administration cut back refugee admissions to only 53,716. However, hypothetically speaking, even if America's top six billionaire's contributed 1 month of their salary to sponsor refugees, approximately 52,889 to 60,406 more refugees could have been welcomed via private sponsorships. This thesis is not assuming that the top 6 billionaires will make such a donation, but other citizens might, whether it is through pooling funds together via crowd-funding,²⁵³ group funding, community funding, church funding, Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, etc., imagine how many more people can be helped if the U.S. Government would allow private sponsorship to augment public sponsorships.

United States government already has a very secure way of vetting refugee backgrounds for security reasons and integrating refugees in the American society. It works. There are more chances in the United States soil of getting hit by lightening than of being killed by a terrorist attack orchestrated by a refugee in a given year, it is a

²⁵³ Matthew La Corte, "A Simple Humanitarian Proposal: Crowdfunding Resettlement for Syrian Refugee Families," *Huffington Post*, May 5, 2016, https://www.huffingtonpost.com/matthew-la-corte/a-simple-humanitarian-proposal_b_9829560.html.

testament that the security process already works.²⁵⁴ This thesis proposes that U.S. government should allow private sponsorship of refugees of those it has already vetted and cleared.

In addition, U.S. can leverage the Canadian model in the reception and resettlement areas that are helpful for private sponsors to contribute and open it to more than just the nine organizations that it allows.

Canadian private sponsors normally support the sponsored refugees by:

- Providing the cost of food, rent and household utilities and other day-to-day living expenses
- Providing clothing, furniture and other household goods
- Locating interpreters
- Selecting a family physician and dentist
- Assisting with applying for provincial health-care coverage (in Canada, the government pays for the healthcare cost though)
- Enrolling children in school and adults in language training
- Introducing newcomers to people with similar personal interests
- Providing orientation with regard to banking services, transportation, etc.
- Helping in the search for employment.

Sponsors are responsible for a 12-month period or when the refugee becomes self sufficient, whichever comes first, after the refugee arrives in Canada. The sponsorship groups have to reside in or have representatives in the community where the refugee(s)

²⁵⁴ Chris Nichols, “Mostly True: Odds of Fatal Terror Attack in U.S. by a Refugee? 3.6 Billion to 1,” *Politifact, California*, February 1, 2017, <http://www.politifact.com/california/statements/2017/feb/01/ted-lieu/odds-youll-be-killed-terror-attack-america-refugee/>.

they sponsored will be settled. The sponsorship group must provide support to all family members/Canadian recognized dependents of the refugee applicant, unless the applicant has become self-sufficient, regardless of the timing of their arrival in Canada. The applicant and the other family members may or may not arrive at the same time.

A sponsor first gets vetted by ROC-O to assess financial capacity. ROC-O evaluates whether the amount of committed funds plus in-kind donations (example: shelter, furniture, clothing, etc.) meet or exceed the sponsorship cost table amounts after the sponsor's existing financial commitments are taken into account. If the sponsor is approved, they are responsible for funding the refugee sponsorship. In contrast, the United States government provides grants to its sponsors, an example of this is the matching donation incentive for the sponsor to provide \$1 for every \$2 that the U.S. government matches and gives them up to \$2200 per client for similar reception and placement services that the Canadian sponsors do for each refugee they sponsor and they do it for up to 12 months. United States can benefit from allowing sponsors to pick up the entire cost, excluding healthcare costs, if they are willing and able while the U.S. government concentrates on helping those who do not have a private donor. Even if the U.S. government restricts who can be sponsored by only allowing private sponsors to sponsor people who are already vetted by the UNHCR and the U.S. government, this can be a source of funding to consider.

Appendices

Definition of Terms

American: Legally, a citizen of the United States of America. Conceptually, the term can mean many different things and this is further discussed starting the third last paragraph of “Section IV Background of the Problem.”

Asylum-Seekers: Per UNHCR, “An asylum-seeker is someone who says he or she is a refugee, but whose claim has not yet been definitively evaluated.”²⁵⁵

Complementary Protection: Per the information provided by Goodwin-Gill, McAdams and Mandal:

The term ‘complementary protection’ describes States’ protection obligations arising from international legal instruments and custom that complement—or supplement—the 1951 Refugee Convention. It is, in effect, a shorthand term for the widened scope of *non-refoulement* under international law.²⁵⁶

Daesh: Daesh (or Da’ish) is the terrorist group also known as IS, ISIS, or ISIL (acronyms for “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant”). The group is referred to as “Daesh” by many

²⁵⁵ “Figures at a Glance,” About Us, Asylum Seekers, *UNHCR*, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c137.html>.

²⁵⁶ G. S. Goodwin-Gill and J. McAdams, *The Refugee in International Law, Part 2 Asylum, 6 Protection under Human Rights and General International Law*, 3rd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 285. http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.ebookbatch.GEN_batch:OSAIL01220150316; more on “Complimentary Protection” mentioned on footnote #2 of the above publication: Cf. Mandal, whose study on complementary protection focuses on the gap between UNHCR’s expanded mandate and State practice, and accordingly concentrates on “those aspects of national complementary protection regimes which appear to benefit persons who fall within UNHCR’s mandate”: R. Mandal, ‘Protection Mechanisms outside of the 1951 Convention (“Complementary Protection”)’, *UNHCR Legal and Protection Policy Research Series*, PPLA/2005/02 (Jun. 2005), para. 13.”

world leaders and also within the Middle East. This thesis uses the name “Daesh” to refer to this group in light of the controversies on whether referring to it as “Islamic” (in any portion of its name) contributes in legitimizing the group’s behavior as that of reflecting the religion of Islam. Muslim religious leaders and scholars have noted that there is nothing “Islamic” about that group, in fact, the group’s actions, message, and behavior goes against the teachings of Islam and the Quran.

Freedom of Movement: Per the UNHCR, Freedom of Movement means:

Freedom of movement consists of the right and ability to move and choose one’s residence freely and in safety within the territory of the State, regardless of the purpose of the move. It also includes the right to leave any country and to return to one’s own country. It is closely related to the right to liberty and security of person, which guarantees freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention, and the right to seek asylum in another country. Taken together these rights mean that all persons, including the internally displaced, have the right to:

- Take flight and seek safety in another part of the country (of choice), or to leave the country in order to seek asylum in another country.
- Move freely and in safety within the country, including in and out of camps and settlements, regardless of the purpose of the move.
- Voluntarily return to the place of origin or relocate to another part of the country.
- Not be arbitrarily displaced or forced to return or relocate to another part of the country.
- Not be arbitrarily arrested or detained or forced to reside in specific camps or settlements.

Lack of freedom of movement can have serious consequences for the lives, health and well being of displaced individuals and communities. It not only limits their ability to flee and seek safety from the effects of conflict or serious human rights abuses but furthermore impedes their ability to secure a sustainable livelihood.

Lack of freedom of movement can result in limited access to work, markets, land and basic necessities (food, water, firewood) as well as life-saving public services, such as education and health care. It may also lead to the separation of families and pose obstacles to family reunification. Overall it is likely to result in increased poverty, marginalization and dependency on humanitarian aid.²⁵⁷

²⁵⁷ “Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons. Action Sheet 8. Liberty and Freedom of Movement,” *UNHCR*, <http://www.unhcr.org/4794b4702.pdf>.

Internally Displayed People (IDP Figures): Per UNHCR:

Internally Displayed People (IDP) are people who have not crossed an international border in search of shelter and safety, but were forcibly displaced / uprooted within their own country by violence.²⁵⁸

Migrants: Below is the definition of “migrants” per the UNHCR:

Migrants choose to move not because of a direct threat of persecution or death, but mainly to improve their lives by finding work, or in some cases for education, family reunion, or other reasons. Unlike refugees who cannot safely return home, migrants face no such impediment to return. If they choose to return home, they will continue to receive the protection of their government.²⁵⁹

Non-refoulement: In the 1951 Convention of Relating to the Status of Refugees, Article 33 enforces that:

Prohibition of expulsion or return (“refoulement”)

1. No Contracting State shall expel or return (“refouler”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.²⁶⁰
2. The benefit of the present provision may not, however, be claimed by a refugee whom there are reasonable grounds for regarding as a danger to the security of the country in which he is, or who, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community of that country.²⁶¹

²⁵⁸ “Figures at a Glance,” About Us, Internally Displaced People, *UNHCR*, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c23.html>.

²⁵⁹ “UNHCR viewpoint: ‘Refugee’ or ‘Migrant’ – Which Is Right?” News and Stories, News, *UNHCR*, July 11, 2016, <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2016/7/55df0e556/unhcr-viewpoint-refugee-migrant-right.html>.

²⁶⁰ “Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Text of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Text of the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Resolution 2198 (XXI) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly with an Introductory Note by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.” *UNHCR*. <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>.

²⁶¹ “Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Text of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Text of the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Resolution 2198 (XXI) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly with an Introductory Note by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.” *UNHCR*. <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>.

“Prima Facie” Refugees: Per UNHCR:

During mass movements of refugees (usually as a result of conflicts or generalized violence as opposed to individual persecution), there is not – and never will be – a capacity to conduct individual asylum interviews for everyone who has crossed the border. Nor is it usually necessary, since in such circumstances it is generally evident why they have fled. As a result, such groups are often declared “prima facie” refugees.²⁶²

Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program: The Canadian Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program allows groups of private Canadian citizens, private communities, private organizations/businesses to sponsor and help settle asylum seekers in Canada with their private funding, time, and effort.

Per the Government of Canada website, the following groups may submit for private sponsorships (verbatim):

Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs):

Incorporated organizations that have signed a formal sponsorship agreement with Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Most current SAHs are religious organizations, ethno cultural groups or humanitarian organizations. SAHs, which may be local, regional or national, assume overall responsibility for the management of sponsorships under their agreement. Organizations entering into a sponsorship agreement with IRCC generally submit several refugee sponsorships a year.²⁶³

Constituent Groups (CGs):

A SAH can authorize CGs to sponsor under its agreement and provide support to the refugees. Each SAH sets its own criteria for recognizing CGs. CGs are based in the sponsored refugee's expected community of settlement and must have their sponsorship application and settlement plan approved by their SAH before the undertaking is submitted to the Resettlement Operations Centre in Ottawa (ROC-

²⁶² “Figures at a Glance,” Asylum Seekers, About Us, *UNHCR*, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c137.html>.

²⁶³ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?* Publications and Manuals, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp>.

O).²⁶⁴

Groups of Five (G5):

Five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents, who are at least 18 years of age, live in the expected community of settlement and have collectively arranged for the sponsorship of a refugee living abroad. The five individuals act as guarantors that the necessary support will be provided for the full duration of the sponsorship. ROC-O assesses individual contributions of group members to the sponsorship. The financial and non-financial aspects are considered collectively, as well as the settlement plan, before the sponsorship is approved. The group's financial commitment must meet the levels established in the Sponsorship Cost Table under section E of the Settlement Plan (PDF, 1.21 MB, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5373AE.pdf>).²⁶⁵

As part of the application package, the sponsoring group will need to include proof that each applicant has been recognized as a refugee by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) or by a foreign state. Only a photocopy of the original document is required. If the document is in a language other than English or French, then a certified translation (in either official language) must be submitted along with the photocopy of the original document.²⁶⁶

Community Sponsors (CSs):

Any organization (for-profit/not-for-profit, incorporated/non-incorporated) located in the community where the refugees are expected to settle can make an organizational commitment to sponsor. Community Sponsors must undergo financial and settlement plan assessments by ROC-O each time they wish to sponsor. Like G5s, Community Sponsors must demonstrate that the organization is willing and able to commit funds toward the sponsorship in line with the levels established in the Sponsorship Cost Table under section E of the Settlement Plan and Financial Assessment (IMM 5515) (PDF, 1.28 MB, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5515E.pdf>).²⁶⁷

²⁶⁴ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

²⁶⁵ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

²⁶⁶ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

²⁶⁷ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

As part of the application package, the sponsoring group will need to include proof that each applicant has been recognized as a refugee by the UNHCR or by a foreign state, unless the refugee you wish to sponsor is a Syrian or Iraqi refugee. Only a photocopy of the original document is required. If the document is in a language other than English or French, then a certified translation (in either official language) must be submitted along with the photocopy of the original document.²⁶⁸

A SAH, a CG or a CS has the option of formalizing a partnership with an outside party to share in the delivery of settlement assistance and support. Partnerships may be formed with individuals (e.g., a family member of the sponsored refugee living in Canada) or other organizations. The partner-co-sponsor-is expected to sign the sponsorship undertaking and discharge the responsibilities that were agreed to in the settlement plan.²⁶⁹

Refugees: Per the text of The 1951 Convention Relating To The Status of Refugees And Its 1967 Protocol, a refugee is someone who:

Owing to well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.²⁷⁰

Stateless People: Per UNHCR:

Stateless people are those that have no nationality. Statelessness occurs because of discrimination against certain groups; redrawing of borders; and gaps in nationality laws. Without a nationality, one cannot live the same life as someone with a nationality. Examples are:

- They can't get certain ID cards if you have no nationality;

²⁶⁸ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

²⁶⁹ Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – 2. Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. 2.3 Who May Submit a Private Sponsorship?*

²⁷⁰ “The 1951 Convention Relating To The Status of Refugees And Its 1967 Protocol. Signing On Could Make All The Difference,” August 2001, 2. *UNHCR*, <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/protection/globalconsult/3bbdb0954/signing-difference.html>.

- They can't open a bank account without certain ID cards;
- They can't fly/board an airplane without certain ID cards/ passport;
- They can't enroll in a university without proof of nationality.

If a stateless person wanted to do any of the above, they have to either do it illegally which can often lead to unsafe and undignified situations.²⁷¹

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): As noted on the UNHCR website:

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) leads and co-ordinates international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. It also has a mandate to help stateless people. It was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly.²⁷²

United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP): USRAP is a U.S. interagency effort across multiple government and non-governmental partners within and outside of United States. Below is a list of agencies that are part of USRAP and their verbatim definition from the USCIS webpage on USRAP.²⁷³

- Department of State/Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) – PRM has overall USRAP management responsibility overseas and has lead in proposing admissions ceilings and processing priorities.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – UNHCR refers cases to the USRAP for resettlement and provides important information with regard to the worldwide refugee situation.
- Resettlement Support Centers (RSC) – Under cooperative agreement with the Department of State, RSCs consist of international organizations or non-governmental organizations that carry out administrative and processing functions, such as file preparation and storage, data collection and out-

²⁷¹ "Ending Statelessness," *UNHCR*, <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/stateless-people.html>.

²⁷² About Us, *UNHCR*, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c2.html>.

²⁷³ "The United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) Consultation & Worldwide Processing Priorities– United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) Partners & Their Roles," *U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/refugees/united-states-refugee-admissions-program-usrap-consultation-worldwide-processing-priorities>.

processing activities.

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – Within DHS, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has responsibility for adjudicating applications for refugee status and reviewing case decisions; the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) screens arriving refugees for admission at the port of entry.
- Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) – ORR administers domestic resettlement benefits for arriving refugees.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Department of State contractors serve primarily as the travel agent for the USRAP and the OPE in certain locations.
- Non-Governmental Organizations – Provide resettlement assistance and services to arriving refugees.

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