

Refugee Resettlement

Executive Order 13888

Committee of the Whole

January 7, 2020

September 26, 2019
Presidential Executive
Order 13888
*“Enhancing State and
Local Involvement in
Refugee Resettlement.”*

- This Executive Order requires local governments to provide written consent to the federal government prior to any refugees being resettled in the county.
- The Executive Order only applies to individuals arriving through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.
- Refugee resettlement agencies must submit their plans for helping refugees to the U.S. Dept of State by the end of January.
- Executive Order goes into effect June 2020.

Refugees

- People who have been forced to flee their home countries due to violence or persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.
- The Dept of State, Dept of Defense, Dept of Homeland Security, FBI, and National Counter Terrorism Center conduct thorough background screenings of all refugees prior to their resettlement in the U.S.
- The U.S. Department of State administers the Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). More than 70% of these refugees are women and children.
- People selected to resettle through USRAP have legal, permanent status in the United States, authorization to work immediately upon arrival, and a pathway to citizenship after five years.

Refugee Admissions
Program (USRAP)-
*Established by the
Refugee Act of 1980*

- Since 1980 refugees have successfully resettled across the U.S. with the help of communities, volunteers, local non-profits, and faith-based organizations.
- Refugees resettled in Minnesota in the last five years:
 - FY2019: 848
 - FY2018: 663
 - FY2017: 1,003
 - FY2016: 3,059
 - FY2015: 2,166
- [Fiscal Impact of Refugee Resettlement](#)

Refugee resettlement agencies- *work closely with states and local officials and community stakeholders.*

- Existing laws require consultations with relevant state and local government officials, including the state refugee coordinator, state refugee health coordinator, local governance, public health, social services, public safety, and public education.
- That being said, the authority to place refugees in specific states and localities lies solely with the U.S. Dept of State.
- Minnesota has 5 local resettlement agencies that contract with the State of Minnesota:
 - ✓ Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota
 - ✓ Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota
 - ✓ Arrive Ministries
 - ✓ Minnesota Council of Churches
 - ✓ International Institute of Minnesota

Refugees- *Goodhue County*

- Goodhue County has seen 2 refugee resettlements since 2009
 - ✓ 1 in 2010 from Haiti
 - ✓ 1 in 2011 from Iraq
 - ✓ [MN Dept of Health Statistics](#)
- The Federal government controls the number of refugees allowed into the U.S.
- For FY2020, admissions cap is at the lowest number in U.S. history so a large increase in refugees settling in Goodhue County is not expected.
- In Minnesota, refugees contribute over \$227 million annually in state and local taxes annually.
- Consent only relates to the initial placement of individuals. After placement, refugees have the right to relocate to any community, however, funding provided to support their initial resettlement would not follow them to a jurisdiction which has not offered consent.

Options *for Goodhue County*

- Option 1:
Continue current practices and have the Board Chair or County Executive consent to initial refugee resettlement in Goodhue County, as per the terms of the Executive Order.
- Option 2:
Have the Board Chair or County Executive ***not*** consent to initial refugee resettlement in Goodhue County, as per the terms of the Executive Order.
- Option 3:
Do not respond- Net effect of Option 2 without an actual response.
- Option 4:
Respond or consent at a later date.

Additional –
Sources for Information

Questions?

Resources in attendance:

Rachele King

State Refugee Coordinator
MN Dept of Human Services

John Meyers

Director of Refugee Resettlement
Catholic Charities of Southern MN

Additional –
Sources for Information

- U.S. Department of State
<https://www.state.gov/state-and-local-consents-under-executive-order-13888/>
- Minnesota Governor Walz- State consent to the federal government for refugee placements.
https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2013888_MNGovernorConsent_tcm1055-413054.pdf
- Minnesota Attorney General Ellison- Request for preliminary injunction of the Executive Order.
https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/Communications/2019/12/13_RefugeeResettlement.asp
- Minnesota Department of Health
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/rih/stats/index.html>