

**Date: August 21, 2007**

**To: Salt Lake County Refugee Housing and Services Group**

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**Re: Refugee demographics, services, and transitional housing needs**

### Refugee Demographics

During the past three years (Fiscal year October-September) there have been 1,143 refugees resettled by IRC and 1,150 refugees resettled by CCS, totaling 2,293 new arrivals in Salt Lake County.

Calendar Year	FY2005		FY2006		FY2007*		Total		Combined 3 year		% of total	
	IRC	CCS	IRC	CCS	IRC	CCS	IRC	CCS	Total	Aver.	Cases	Pers.
Cases	154	86	136	120	169	130	459	362	821	274	-----	-----
Persons	379	384	344	342	420	424	1143	1150	2293	764	-----	-----
1-person	76	37	67	41	82	48	225	126	351	117	42.7%	15.3%
2-person	25	16	18	18	21	8	64	42	106	35	12.9	9.2
3-person	15	12	18	14	17	9	50	35	85	28	10.4	11.1
4-person	16	16	16	8	21	11	53	35	88	29	10.7	15.4
5-person	8	10	5	7	14	8	27	25	52	17	6.3	11.3
6-person	5	4	2	5	9	5	16	14	30	10	3.6	7.8
7-person	2	7	2	3	3	12	7	22	29	10	3.5	8.9
8-person	5	2	3	6	2	6	10	14	24	8	2.9	8.4
9-person	1	5	4	3	0	5	5	13	18	6	2.2	7.1
10-person	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	7	7	2	0.9	3.1
11-person	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	4	1	0.5	1.9
12-person	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0.1	0.5

\*The FY2007 include estimates through September 30, 2007.

Refugees came from fifteen different countries, including Afghanistan, Burma, Burundi, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Russia (Meshketian Turks), Somalia, Sudan, and Vietnam. Of the 459 cases for IRC, 133 cases, or 29% were anchored family reunion cases. Of the 362 cases for CCS, 132 cases, or 36% were anchored family reunion cases. It can be expected that family reunion cases have more local support by their own families and the desire to locate housing near family members is preferred. It should also be noted that almost all of the anchored cases are from households with 5 or fewer members.

## Refugee Transitional Housing Unit Needs

Having reviewed the numbers of cases resettled, a set of assumptions are proposed to assist in determining the optimal transitional housing required to meet the needs of newly arriving refugees.

### Assumptions

- 1) The number of refugees resettling in Salt Lake County can be expected to be 400 refugees per year by each of the two resettlement agencies, totaling 800 individuals and approximately 275 cases (households).
- 2) Of the refugees resettling, approximately 75% of all anchored households will choose to live near their anchors in lieu of living in transitional housing units. Assuming this is a reliable estimate, it can be assumed that 39% of all one-person to five-person cases resettled will not participate in the transitional housing.
- 3) Based on assumption 2, it can be expected that approximately 175 cases/year will benefit greatly from a transitional housing program for refugees.
- 4) While 42% of all cases resettled are singles, it constitutes approximately 15% of the total number of individual refugees resettled. It is assumed that these individuals can be matched and doubled up in housing options. Thus, to serve the 117 expected single cases, an estimated 36 two-bedroom units will be required ( $117 \text{ singles} \times .61 \text{ unanchored} / 2 = 36 \text{ two-bedroom units}$ ).
- 5) Approximately 13% of all cases (35) resettled will be two-person households, including either a married couple or a parent and child. To serve the two-person households, an estimated 21 two bedroom units will be required ( $35 \text{ cases} \times .61 \text{ unanchored} = 21 \text{ two-bedroom units}$ ).
- 6) Approximately 10.5 % of all cases (28) resettled will be three-person households. It is assumed that these households, which include either two parents and a child or a single parent and two children, can be served by two-bedroom units. Thus, a total of 17 two-bedroom units are required to meet the needs of three-person households ( $28 \text{ cases} \times .61 \text{ unanchored} = 17 \text{ two-bedroom units}$ ).
- 7) Approximately 11% of all cases (29) will be four-person households and 6% of all cases (17) will be five-person households. It is assumed these households will be adequately served by three-bedroom units. A total of 28 three-bedroom units are required to serve these households ( $46 \text{ cases} \times .61 \text{ unanchored} = 28 \text{ three-bedroom units}$ ).
- 8) Approximately 4% of all cases (10) will be six-person households and an additional 4% of all cases (10) will be seven-person families. It is assumed that none of these families will be anchored and all will benefit greatly from the transitional housing for refugees. These households will require 20 four-bedroom units (20 cases).
- 9) Approximately 3% of all cases (8) will be eight-person households, and a cumulative 4% of all cases (9) will be nine- to twelve-person households. It is assumed none of these families will be anchored and that five-bedroom units will suffice, thus requiring a total of 17 five-bedroom units (17 cases).

10) It is assumed that all households will need the option to remain in the transitional housing for up to 24 months, allowing for entry into public housing programs or as their income levels increase, private housing options.

Based on these assumptions, the optimal amount of transitional housing units required in a two year period includes:

Unit size	Year 1	Persons Served	Year 2	Persons Served	Total units	% total units	Total persons	% total persons
2-bedroom	74	165	74	165	148	53.2%	330	28.5%
3-bedroom	28	123	28	123	56	20.2%	246	21.2%
4-bedroom	20	130	20	130	40	14.4%	260	22.5%
5-bedroom	17	161	17	161	34	12.2%	322	27.8%
Total:	139	579	139	579	278	-----	1,158	-----

### **Refugee Support Services**

IRC and CCS currently provide a set of *core services* during the first 90 days for resettling refugees arriving in Salt Lake County.

1) Pre-arrival Activities: a) training and orientation to refugee anchor relative (for family reunion cases), b) identification and securing of appropriate affordable housing, c) conducting home safety check, and d) furnishing home with appropriate furniture, beds and household goods.

2) Basic Services Upon Arrival: a) meet refugee(s) at airport and transport to housing (or temporary lodging if housing still not secured), b) provide appropriate and seasonal clothing as need to refugee individual/family, and c) provide culturally appropriate and ready-to-eat food plus one-days' worth of additional food supplies and staples.

3) Intake and Orientation (within 5-day window of arrival): a) conduct intake interview, and b) conduct housing and personal safety orientation.

4) Benefit Application (within 7-day window of arrival): a) apply for social security card, b) apply for cash assistance as appropriate, c) apply for food stamps, d) apply for medical assistance, and e) (if needed) secure medical appointment for Class A (acute/serious) physical conditions.

5) Employment/Service Plan Development (within 10-day window of arrival): a) Develop resettlement plan for each employable and non-employable refugee, b) start employment referrals for employable refugee(s), c) start service referrals for non-employable refugees, and d) make ESL referrals.

6) Health (on-going within 30-day window of arrival): a) health screening completed (appointment usually in place before arrival), b) referrals for immunizations required for adjustment of status and school enrollment, and c) if Class A medical conditions exist, referral to appointment and assessment.

7) Community Orientation (on-going within 30-day window of arrival): a) orienting refugee(s) about role of agency and client, public services, public transportation, basic

hygiene, and availability of publicly supported refugee services, b) information on permanent resident status and family reunion process, and c) explanation of legal requirements (local, state, and federal and refugee specific) and registration of children for school.

8) Other Services (on-going within 30-day window of arrival): a) home visits, b) provide transportation for job interview and job training, c) provide pocket money, d) provide food allowance and cash assistance, and e) arrange and provide interpreter services as needed.

In addition to the core services, during the first 6 months of the refugees' life in Salt Lake County other support services provided include employment (Match Grant Program), case management, health service coordination, interpreter services, basic English skills, youth programs, and immigration services:

1) Employment: Employment caseworkers assist with regular job searches, resume writing when appropriate, aiding in competing new hire paperwork and benefit enrollment, and conflict intervention. Employment caseworkers also provide 2-week, and 30, 60, 90 day employee and employer follow-ups. Match Grant provides cash assistance from the two agencies to refugees working in lieu of requesting TANF cash assistance.

2) Case Management Services: Assigned refugee caseworkers follow up on an as-needed basis with housing, general orientations, identifying and linking clients with needed services, conducting home visits, and providing conflict intervention.

3) Health coordination: The health caseworker makes doctor appointments, provide interpretive services to medical service providers, and coordinate follow-up specific services as needed.

4) WIC Coordination: Expecting refugees and woman with infants are referred into the Womans, Infants and Children (WIC) program, assisted in signing up, making appointments, having interpreters available, taught how to use vouchers, and arranging follow-up appointments.

5) Interpretation: Interpreter services are coordinated as needed for health and social service appointments.

6) Basic English Skills: Refugees are referred into ESL classes in the community, but also provides basic literacy classes for those with basic English skills.

7) Youth Program: IRC's youth program provides refugees youth with experiential learning opportunities through a 12-week program, utilizing volunteers, interpreters, other youth and parents.

8) Immigration: IRC and CCS staff provide travel documents, replacement immigration documents, family reunification petitions, green cards, citizenship, and conduct citizenship preparation classes.

By providing transitional housing opportunities to newly arrived refugees, affordable housing options will be in place during the critical adjustment period facing the refugee household. It usually takes a minimum of 18 months for refugee families to get to the top of the list for public housing. Providing affordable housing and supportive services during this period will greatly facilitate a successful transition as the families build skills, adjust to American life, become employed and build earning power through employment advancements.

Between the 18 to 24 month transitional housing period, ongoing psychosocial case management is warranted. This continued support is not only important for crisis prevention and early intervention, but for providing essential guidance to families in making the transition to a more independent life. During this time many additional services could be implemented, such as home maintenance and “good renters” practices, continued cultural orientations, and preliteracy English Language support for example.

Both IRC and CCS will need to secure additional financial assistance to increase their case management capacities to facilitate this process.