Memorandum

DATE April 18, 2014

TO Members of the Budget, Finance & Audit Committee: Jerry R. Allen (Chair), Jennifer S. Gates (Vice Chair), Tennell Atkins, Sheffie Kadane, Philip T. Kingston

SUBJECT International Rescue Committee Dallas

The Monday, April 21st Budget, Finance and Audit Committee agenda will include a briefing on International Rescue Committee Dallas. The briefing will be presented by Debi Wheeler, Executive Director of International Rescue Committee Dallas.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Jeanne Chipperfield
Chief Financial Officer

Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
   A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
   Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
   Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
   Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
   Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
   Ryan S. Evans, Interim First Assistant City Manager

   Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
   Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
   Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
   Charles M. Cato, Interim Assistant City Manager
   Theresa O'Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager
   Shawn Williams, Interim Public Information Officer
   Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager

"Dallas-Together, we do it better!"
IRC Beginnings

1933: The American branch of the European-based International Relief Association (IRA) founded at the suggestion of Albert Einstein to assist Germans suffering under Hitler. Refugees from Mussolini's Italy and Franco's Spain are later assisted.

1975: The IRC opens in Dallas, Texas

2003: The IRC opens in Abilene, Texas
What We Do

For more than 80 years, the IRC has been a leader in humanitarian aid and emergency relief and helps provide a fresh start in the U.S. for refugees.

- Advocacy
- Anti-trafficking
- Emergency Relief
- Protection of Human Rights
- Post-conflict Development
- Rehabilitation
- Immigration Assistance
- Resettlement Services
A refugee is a person who is outside of his or her country and is unable or unwilling to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution.
Five types of persecution
Race  Religion  Nationality
Social Group  Political Opinion
DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Voluntary Repatriation

Local Integration

3rd Country Resettlement
United States Refugee Program

• The United States accepts a limited number of refugees each year for resettlement.

• For FY 2014, the President authorized the admission of up to 70,000 refugees (maximum).

• Projected new refugees:
  • The IRC in Dallas - 645
  • The IRC in Abilene - 175
FY2014 Arrival Ceilings

- Europe and Central Asia: 1,000
- East Asia: 14,000
- Near East/South Asia: 33,000
- Africa: 15,000
- Latin America/Caribbean: 5,000

Subtotal: 68,000
Unallocated Reserve: 2,000
TOTAL: 70,000
Refugee Populations

Burma: Chin, Karen, Karenni
Refugee Populations

Iraq

Iran

Bhutan
General Path of Refugee Resettlement in US

Overseas Processing → Volag Assignment → Reception & Placement → Ongoing Program Placement

Source: GAO
General Path of Refugee Resettlement in US

**Overseas Processing**
Refugees are approved and processed by Department of State (State Dept.) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

**Voluntary Agency (volag) Assignment**
Refugees are matched to one of nine national-level volags that have multiple local affiliates.
Why Dallas?

• Welcoming community
• Clean, safe and enriching environment
• Access to mainstream and social services
• Public transportation
• Economy
The IRC in Dallas

- Access & Legal Rights
- Community Integration & Development
- Economic Empowerment
- Education and Learning
- Health & Wellness
- Resettlement
• Job readiness workshops
• Cultural Orientation
• Community Orientation
• Vocational training
• Vocational coaching
• Women’s support groups
• American Sign Language
• Medical case management
Financial Assistance

• R&P – first 30 days
  • Rent and utilities
  • Household supplies and furniture
  • Grocery assistance
  • Transportation
  • Pocket money
• SNAP – first four months
• Medicaid – first eight months
Financial Assistance

• Enrollment in Employment Services includes:
  • Rent and utilities up to 120\(^{th}\) day
  • Pocket money - $200 per adult
  • Public transportation assistance
Economic Self Sufficiency

• “to provide for the effective resettlement of refugees and to assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the United States”

—Refugee Act

ORR definition: earning a total family income at a level that enables a family unit to support itself without receipt of a cash assistance grant
How do we get to economic self-sufficiency?

**Employment Services may include:**

- Vocational Skills Training
- Vocational ESL
- Job Search
- Resume Creation
- Interview Training
- Computer Literacy
- Education Counseling
- Career Development
- Job Upgrades
- Microenterprise
- Individual Development Accounts
Employment in Dallas

• 2 programs serving more than 300 refugees per year
• 6 Employment Specialist
• Employment team fluent in Arabic, Burmese, Chin, French, Kirundi, and Swahili,
• 90% self-sufficient by 180th day
Volunteer Opportunities

- Family Mentor
- Donations Assistant
- Donation Drives
- Special Events
- Internships
- Interpretation
- Clerical/Administrative
- Donate
To get involved please contact:

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Rescue.org/Dallas