

## Refugee Resettlement Consent Letters

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on behalf of

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Dear

County Partner,

The

Colorado Department of Human Services, through the Colorado Refugee Services Program, serves refugees in our state, helping them find safety, security and opportunity and accelerating their ability to achieve economic security so that they may more quickly give back to the communities that welcomed them. Colorado has a proud legacy of being one of the top performing states in refugee resettlement outcomes, such as employment, and we know that our communities benefit from the skills refugees contribute. For instance,

for every \$1 the state invests in refugees, we receive \$1.23 back in state and local tax revenue. We uphold our values of humanitarianism, freedom, and opportunity through welcoming refugees who fled persecution, war and violence, and our State is stronger through their contributions, both economic and civic.

I

am writing today in regards to recent changes in the refugee resettlement program and to offer assistance in regards to compliance with Executive Order 13888, issued on September 26, 2019. As you may already be aware, this order requires that refugees be initially placed in areas where ***both state and local government have granted consent.***

This is an addition to current placement considerations, which include factors such as employment opportunities and available services.

[Governor](#)

[Polis signed consent](#) for the State

of Colorado. In addition, Senate Bill 2019-230 passed State Legislature last year, codifying the Colorado Refugee Service Program into law and demonstrating our State's cumulative commitment to refugee resettlement.

**EO**

***13888 requires that local government executives also sign consent forms in order for refugees to be initially placed in localities.***

The

White House, through the Departments of State and Health and Human Services, has tasked refugee resettlement agencies with the process.

**Consent**

**letters indicating participation in the refugee resettlement program need to be submitted by January 21, 2020.**

I encourage you to meet with the local resettlement agencies spearheading this process as soon as possible (International Rescue Committee and Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains), if you have not already, so that they can provide you information and support you through the process.

When

state and local governments consent, we can ensure that the placement of refugees in our state continue to be driven by factors that will help accelerate their integration process. Submission of these letters will be one more indicator of the cooperation and coordination that exists that makes resettlement so successful in our communities. Below is sample language and resettlement agency contacts. The Department of Human Services is working alongside you to ensure we continue to welcome refugees successfully into Colorado. I also invite you to reach out directly to the Acting State Refugee Coordinator, Noyes Combs, at [noyes.combs@state.co.us](mailto:noyes.combs@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

Michelle  
Barnes  
Executive  
Director

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