Summary: Refugee and Asylee Resettlement in Maryland 2007-2011

(Note: All references to years are for the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1 to September 30.)

Refugee Resettlement

- Between 2007 and 2011, 4,840 refugees from 43 countries resettled in Maryland. Forty-three percent were resettled in Baltimore City, while 29% resettled in Montgomery County, and 11% resettled in Prince George’s County.

- Twenty-one percent of refugee arrivals came from Africa, increasing from 127 in 2007 to 271 in 2011.

- Asian arrivals also increased, from 396 in 2007 to 1,023 in 2011, accounting for 76% of the five-year total. Just two countries—Burma and Bhutan—accounted for nearly half of all Asian arrivals (47% combined).

- Two agencies resettled the majority of refugee arrivals between 2007 and 2011: the International Rescue Committee (78%) and the Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service (13%).

- During this period, the median age at arrival was 25. Forty-seven percent of these arrivals were female and 53% were male.

Asylee Resettlement

- Between 2007 and 2011, 3,572 asylees from 74 countries resettled in Maryland. Most individuals came from Africa (84%), while 11% came from Asia, 1% from the Former Soviet Union, and 3% from other regions—primarily Latin America. The median age was 30. Forty-nine percent were female and 51% were male.

- Fifty-seven percent of asylee arrivals were resettled in Montgomery County, 22% in Prince George’s County, 13% in Baltimore City, and 8% in other counties across the state.

English as a Second Language (ESL) and Vocational Training (VESL)

- Between 2007 and 2011, the average annual enrollment of refugees and asylees in ESL-VESL training programs was 1,344 individuals. The trend for the five-year period shows a large increase in annual ESL-VESL enrollment, from 911 enrollments in 2007 to 1,704 in 2011.

- From 2007 to 2009, the highest enrollments in ESL-VESL training programs were in Baltimore City (41%) and Montgomery County (32%).

Employment

- Between 2007 and 2011, the annual number of enrollments for refugees and asylees in employment services decreased from 1,020 to 949. The average annual number of enrollments was 988.
• Job placements for asylees and refugees over the same five-year period increased from 641 in 2007 to 843 in 2011, with slight decreases in 2009 (735) and 2010 (692). The average number of job placements over the five-year period was 730.

• In 2007, most individuals who enrolled in employment training had at minimum, a high school diploma. In 2008 and 2009, most individuals enrolled in employment training had not completed high school. However, in 2010 and 2011, the majority had again, at minimum, a high school diploma.

• Similar trends were present for annual job placements for refugees and asylees. In 2007, the majority of individuals placed into jobs had at least graduated high school. In 2008 and 2009, the majority had not completed high school. In 2010 and 2011, however, most individuals placed had, at minimum, a high school diploma.

• The average annual employment rate during this period was 74%, peaking at 89% in 2011, rising from 63% in 2007.

• Over the five-year period, average hourly wage correlated positively with education. Refugees and asylees with higher levels of education tended to have higher hourly wages. Whereas the average hourly wage for individuals with no formal education was $8.49/hr, it was $10.88/hr for those with a college degree or above.

• Between 2007 and 2011, the average hourly wage for refugees and asylees increased for all education levels and counties of residence, from $9.17/hr in 2007 to $9.51/hr in 2011. The average wage over the entire period was $9.33.

Public Private Partnership (PPP)

• Between 2007 and 2011, 4,608 refugees and asylees from 78 countries enrolled in Maryland’s Private Public Partnership (“PPP”). Of these, 55% came from Africa, 41% from Asia, 2% from the Former Soviet Union, and 2% from other regions—primarily Latin America. PPP enrollment increased from 692 enrollees in 2007 to 1133 enrollees in 2011.

• The majority of PPP enrollees for the period were asylees (53%). Sixty-three percent of PPP enrollees received services at the suburban Washington Resettlement Center, and 37% received services at the Baltimore Resettlement Center.

• The average length of stay on cash assistance was 5.6 months for PPP enrollees between 2007 and 2011. The length of stay was slightly longer for enrollees at the Baltimore Resettlement Center (5.9 months) than for enrollees at the suburban Washington Resettlement Center (5.4 months).

Health Screenings

• Between 2007 and 2011, more than 5,579 refugees and asylees completed health screenings. The majority of these individuals—97 percent—were from Africa (33%) and Asia (64%). Two percent were from the Former Soviet Union, and 1% were from other regions.

• Of the 5,579 refugees and asylees, 83% were clients of the International Rescue Committee. Forty-four percent resided in Baltimore City, 17% resided in Montgomery County, 25% in Prince George’s County, and 14% in other counties.