

## **Appendix B Glossary of Terms**

**Affiliate Agency or Local Resettlement Agency:** An affiliate of a national VOLAG that is responsible for the resettlement and placement of a certain number of refugees in the state of Virginia. Under contract with the Department of State, the agency must provide a number of services to the refugee (e.g. housing, clothing, furniture, food, cultural orientation, and case management) during the first 90 days following his or her arrival into the United States

**Alien:** A person who is not a citizen or a national of the U.S.

**Amerasian Act:** Public Law 97-359 (Act of 10/22/82) provides for the immigration to the United States of certain Amerasian children. In order to qualify for benefits under this law, an alien must have been born in Cambodia, Korea, Laos, Thailand, or Vietnam after December 31, 1950, and before October 22, 1982, and have been fathered by a U.S. citizen.

**Amerasian (Vietnam):** A person of American and Asian descent, especially one whose mother is Asian and whose father is American. The term is used primarily with reference to children fathered in Asia by American servicemen. Amerasians born in Vietnam after January 1, 1962, and before January 1, 1976, who were fathered by a U.S. citizen, are eligible for benefits and services from the VRRP program. These Amerasians – along with their spouses, children, and parents or guardians when they arrive with them in the United States, who also qualify for VRRP – are issued immigration visas under the authority of Public Law 100-202 (and the amendments to it in P.L. 100-461, P.L. 101-167, P.L. 101-513, and P.L. 101-649).

**Applicant for Asylum:** A person living in the United States who does not want to return to his/her country because of fear of persecution and has requested, but has not yet received, asylum from the United States by filing form I-589 with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. An applicant for asylum is not eligible to receive benefits and services from the VRRP program until he/she has received an official letter granting asylum status.

**Asylee:** An individual who has been granted asylum by an immigration court or by the Department of State Citizenship and Immigration Services,

**Asylum:** Protected status given to non-citizens who are in the U.S. or at a border and demonstrate that they qualify under the refugee definition. A person granted asylum is referred to as an “asylee,” or more generally as a “refugee.”

**Case Management Services:** The determination of which services to refer a refugee to, the referral to such service(s), and tracking of the refugee’s participation in such service(s).

**Comprehensive Resettlement Plan (CRP):** A plan required for all refugees receiving services from contract service providers that includes an assessment of the refugee’s

overall needs, interests and aptitudes, present abilities, previous education, work experiences, language ability, and potential barriers to self-sufficiency. In addition, the plan includes service strategies to address needs and overcome barriers to the achievement of self-sufficiency, including employment services, English language training, transitional cash and medical assistance, and other support services. Additionally, the CRP includes input from the refugee being served

**Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program:** A program created by Congress under the Title V of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 that provides federal reimbursement to participating States for cash and medical assistance to Cuban and Haitian entrants under the same conditions and to the same extent as such assistance and services are made available to refugees. Also considered entrants for the purposes of federal reimbursement are Cuban and Haitian nationals who are paroled into the U.S. or are subject to exclusion or deportation proceedings, or applicants for asylum.

**Discretionary Grant Program:** Funds from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for social service programs that address critical unmet needs and/or benefit refugees throughout the state by strengthening economic self-sufficiency, family stability, or community integration. ORR designates discretionary money for specific purposes and relies on the Office of Newcomer Services to administer the funds in Virginia. These grants have allowed ONS and its contract service providers to be more flexible and creative in order to meet needs that are not covered by other categorical Office of Refugee Resettlement funds.

**Domestic Health Assessment:** The initial medical screening that a refugee receives at a local health department within the first thirty days of arrival in the United States. It is designed to eliminate health-related barriers to successful resettlement while protecting the health of the U.S. population.

**Economic Self Sufficiency:** The ability of a refugee or refugee family unit to earn an income that will allow the family unit to support itself without the receipt of a cash assistance grant.

**Employment Authorization Document (EAD):** A document issued by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services that proves as evidence that the holder is authorized to work in the United States. U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and conditional residents do NOT require an EAD to work in the U.S.

**English Language Training (ELT):** Any type of training program or tutoring service which is designed to help the refugee improve his/her English speaking, reading, writing, comprehension, and cultural competency skills. In the Refugee program, the primary goal and focus of ELT is employment and job readiness. ELT is sometimes referred to as English as a Second Language (ESL), however, ELT is broader in scope, including a wider variety of methods for language acquisition, than the typical ESL classroom setting.

**Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS):** The new health care program in Virginia that has replaced the Children's Medical Security Insurance Plan (CMSIP). Like CMSIP, FAMIS is designed to meet the health care needs of Virginia's uninsured children between the ages of 0 through 18 years, in working families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private health insurance. Some of the components of FAMIS are: a simplified eligibility process, a new benefits package with cost sharing, employee sponsored health insurance, and a centralized processing site. The program is administered by the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS).

**Immigrant:** An alien who is lawfully granted the privilege of residing in the U.S.

**Matching Grant Program:** Funded by Congress since 1979, this program provides an alternative approach to State-administered resettlement assistance. Matching grants of \$2,000 per refugee are awarded to national voluntary resettlement agencies that agree to match the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) grant with \$1,000 of cash and in-kind contributions with a minimum of 20 percent in cash. The program's goal is to help refugees attain self-sufficiency within four months after arrival without accessing public cash assistance.

**Medicaid:** A medical assistance program established under Title XIX of the Federal Social Security Act to enable states to provide medical care to public assistance recipients and medically needy persons: i.e. persons of low income who can meet their maintenance needs but have insufficient income to provide the cost of medical care. The program is financed by state and federal funds.

**Mutual Assistance Association (MAA):** An incorporated refugee organization that addresses the social service needs of the refugee population. An MAA is based upon the principle of self-help. It is intended to fill gaps in existing community services. An MAA serves as a bridge in promoting the refugee's successful resettlement and acculturation in the American community. The composition of the organization or governing board is comprised of not less than 51 percent refugees or former refugees and includes both refugee men and women.

**Non-citizen:** Any person who is not a citizen of the U.S., regardless of his/her specific immigration status.

**Office of Newcomer Services (ONS):** The office within the Department of Social Services that is responsible for the administration and oversight of the Refugee Resettlement Program in the state of Virginia.

**Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR):** The agency within the federal Department of Health and Human Services responsible that is responsible for the administration of the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program. ORR manages the grants that provide the funding for refugee programs administered by ONS. These include the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Program, the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) Program, Refugee Social Services (RSS) Program, the Targeted Assistance Program

(TAP), the Refugee Medical Screening Program, the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program, and two discretionary grant programs.

**Parolee:** For the purposes of the Refugee Resettlement Program, this usually refers to a Haitian or Cuban who has been paroled into the United States or granted parole status as a Cuban/Haitian Entrant.

**Reception and Placement:** The first phase of the resettlement process after a refugee arrives in the United States. Each refugee is assigned to an American private voluntary agency that, working under a cooperative agreement with the Department of State, provides sponsorship and initial resettlement services during the first three months following the refugee's arrival. These services include housing, essential furnishings, food and other basic necessities, clothing, and additional orientation to life in America.

**Refugee:** A person who is outside his/her country of nationality and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unwilling to avail him/herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. The generic term "refugee" includes asylees, parolees, Cuban-Haitian entrants, and persons paroled into the country for humanitarian reasons or otherwise inadmissible aliens allowed to enter the U.S. under emergency conditions, or because entry serves an overriding public interest.

**Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212):** The legislation that created the refugee resettlement program 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 Cash Assistance (RCA):** A time-limited cash assistance program for refugees who meet the TANF program income eligibility standards but do not meet a categorical requirement.

**Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA):** A time-limited medical assistance program for refugees who meet the income eligibility standards for Medicaid or FAMIS but do not meet a categorical requirement.

**Refugee Social Services (RSS):** Refugee specific employment services provided to refugees to assist them in becoming self-sufficient. Services include employment counseling, English language training, job placement and vocational training, and limited support services.

**Secondary Migrant:** A refugee or entrant who moves into Virginia after initial resettlement in another state in the U.S.

**Service Contract Provider:** An agency or organization under contract with the Virginia Department of Social Services, Office of Newcomer Services, to provide specified services to refugees/entrants.

**Spend down (Incurred Medical Expense Spend down):** A provision of the Medicaid and RMA programs for those who meet all of the eligibility requirements except for income. Similar to an insurance policy deductible, an applicant can make up for the difference between their countable income and the medically needy income limit by listing any medical bills that they incur during the “spend-down period.” If the entire difference is met, then the individual is determined to be eligible for the remainder of the period.

**State Refugee Coordinator(SRC):** The individual designated by the Governor to administer and guide the Virginia Refugee Resettlement Program. The SRC has coordinative and oversight responsibility for all activities related to the delivery of federally funded refugee services in Virginia.

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI):** A federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues that is designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people whose income and resources are below a certain level. It provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

**Targeted Assistance Program (TAP):** A federal refugee employment program offered in geographic areas with unusually large refugee populations in relation to the overall population and high use of public assistance.

**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF):** A program that provides temporary financial assistance to eligible families with children. The family receives a monthly cash payment to meet their basic needs. To be eligible, a family must be financially needy and must meet certain other requirements.

**Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM):** A refugee child who arrives in the U.S. unaccompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or other close adult relative. URM children are placed in foster care programs managed by either Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) or the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and receive services that mirror states’ domestic foster care programs.

**Victim of Human Trafficking:** The Trafficking Victims Violence Prevention Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines and classifies human trafficking into two main categories: sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

- Sex trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of eighteen years old.
- Labor trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. Such violations might include domestic services, manufacturing, construction, migrant laboring and other services

obtained through subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

**Virginia Initiative for Work Not Welfare (VIEW)**      The TANF work component

**Virginia Newcomer Information System (VNIS):**      A computer data base that contains refugee demographic data; ONS contractor service delivery data; and program outcome data, such as entered employment.

**Voluntary Agency (VOLAG):**      A national non-profit organization that enter into a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the Department of State to provide initial reception and placement services to refugees. Affiliates of five of the national VOLAGs resettle refugees in Virginia: Church World Services, Episcopal Migration Ministries, International Rescue Committee, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.