

## **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.

**Case Management Services:** The determination of client service need, assistance with services including 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. The CRP is prepared with the refugee

**Refugee Medical Screening:** The initial medical health assessment 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):** Virginia's health care program that replaced the Children's Medical Security Insurance Plan (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).

**Matching Grant Program:** Funded by Congress since 1979, this program provides an alternative approach to State-administered resettlement assistance. The program's goal is to assist refugees attain self-sufficiency within four months after arrival without accessing public cash assistance. National voluntary resettlement agencies that agree to match the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) grant with cash and in-kind contributions provide Matching Grant Program services.

**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 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, Division of Community and Volunteer 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, Program, the Refugee Cash Assistance Program, Refugee Social Services Program, the Targeted Assistance Program, the Refugee Medical Screening Program, the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program, two set-aside grant programs, and one discretionary grant program.

**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 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 (i) who meet the income eligibility standards for Medicaid or FAMIS but do not meet a categorical requirement and (ii) who become ineligible for Medicaid due to increased employment income and are with the eight-month RMA eligibility period.

**Refugee Social Services Employment Program (RSSEP):** 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. Services are provided by local non-profit agencies under contract with the Virginia Department of Social Services, Office of Newcomer Services

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

**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.

**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). URM services mirror states' domestic foster care programs.

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

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

**Voluntary Agency (VOLAG):** A national non-profit organization that enters into a cooperative agreement with the Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration to provide initial reception and placement services to refugees.