Refugee Program Definitions

1. "Adjustment of status" is the process by which a person inside the United States becomes a lawful permanent resident. The person's immigration status is "adjusted" to that of a lawful permanent resident. People who have been granted refugee, asylee or Cuban/Haitian Entrant status can apply to adjust to permanent resident status one year after that status was granted.

2. "Afghan Special Immigrant" is an immigrant from Afghanistan who enters the U.S. with a special immigrant visa. Most Afghan Special Immigrants worked as interpreters and translators for the U.S. in Iraq. Afghan Special Immigrants are not refugees and enter the U.S. as lawful permanent residents. They are eligible for assistance and services like refugees.

3. "Alien" is any person who is not a citizen or national (owes permanent allegiance) of the U.S.

4. "Amerasian" is an alien who is residing in Vietnam and who establishes to the satisfaction of a consular officer or an officer of the USCIS after a face-to-face interview, that the alien:
   a. Was born in Vietnam after January 1, 1962, and before January 1, 1976, and was fathered by a citizen of the United States (a "principal alien")
   b. Is the spouse or child of a principal alien and is accompanying, or following to join, the principal alien; or
   c. Is the principal alien's natural mother (or is the spouse or child of such mother), or has acted in effect as the principal alien's mother, father, or next-of-kin (or is the spouse or child of such an alien), and is accompanying, or following to join, the principal alien.

5. "Asylee" is an alien granted asylum by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or the Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR). An asylee is a person who seeks asylum in the United States (U.S.) based on a well-founded fear of persecution if he or she returns home and is already present in the U.S. when he or she requests permission to stay. An asylee is eligible for benefits to the same extent as a refugee.

6. "Cuban/Haitian Entrant" is (a) Any individual granted parole status (by DHS) as a Cuban/Haitian Entrant (Status Pending) or granted any other special status subsequently established under the immigration laws for nationals of Cuba or Haiti, regardless of the status of the individual at the time assistance or services are provided and (b) Any other national of Cuba or Haiti (1) Who:(i) was paroled into the United States and has not acquired any other status under the INA; (ii) is the subject of exclusion or deportation proceedings under the INA; or (iii) has an application for asylum pending with (DHS); and (2) With respect to whom a final, non-appealable, and legally enforceable order of deportation or exclusion has not been entered.

7. "Employability plan" is an individualized written plan for a refugee registered for employment services that sets forth a program of services intended to result in the earliest possible employment of the refugee.

8. "Employable" means any refugee, except a refugee who provides documentation that he or she is:
   a. Below the age of sixteen;
   b. Over the age of sixty-four;
c. Under the age of nineteen and a full-time student in a secondary school or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training;
d. The sole caregiver for a child under one year of age or other fully dependent person;
  or
e. Unable to work for physical or mental health reasons.

9. “Employment services” are the services designed to enable an individual to obtain employment and to improve the employability or work skills of the individual.

10. “Entry Date” is the date the individual entered the U.S. in an eligible status, or the date an eligible status was granted if it was granted in the U.S.
   a. The entry date for an asylee is the date asylum status was granted in the U.S.
   b. The entry date for individuals from Cuba or Haiti is the date documentation of status was issued by the United States citizenship and immigration services (USCIS).
   c. The entry date for an adult victim of a severe form of trafficking is the certification date from the department of health and human services, office of refugee resettlement (ORR).
   d. The entry date for a minor victim of a severe form of trafficking is the eligibility date from the letter issued by the ORR.
   e. The entry date for a child with an interim assistance letter is the eligibility date from the letter issued by the ORR.
   f. The entry date for Iraqi and Afghan individuals holding special immigrant visa status is the date the individual entered the U.S. or the date special immigrant status was granted in the U.S.

11. “Family self-sufficiency plan” is a plan that addresses the employment-related service needs of the employable members in a family for the purpose of enabling the family to become self-supporting through the employment of one or more family members.

12. “Green card” is a term often used to refer to a document granting lawful permanent residence status in the United States. Lawful permanent residents have the right to live and work indefinitely in the United States, as well as to petition for certain family members to attain permanent resident status. Lawful permanent residence is also the first step towards becoming a citizen of the U.S. (“naturalizing”). There are a number of different ways to become a lawful permanent resident of the U.S., including through a family member, through an employer, through the diversity lottery, or applying for it after being granted asylum or refugee status.

13. "Illegal alien" (or "undocumented immigrant") is defined as someone who enters or lives in the United States without official authorization, either by entering without inspection by the department of homeland security (DHS), overstaying his or her visa, or violating the terms of his or her visa.

14. "Immigrant" is a general term for a person who goes to a new country with plans to settle there permanently. This term includes legal immigrants, refugees, asylees and lawful permanent residents.

15. “Individual employability plan” is an individualized written plan for a refugee participating in Refugee Social Services (RSSP) or Targeted Assistance Program (TAP) services that sets forth a program of services intended to result in the earliest possible employment of the refugee.

16. "Iraqi Special Immigrant" is an Iraqi immigrant who enters the U.S. with a special immigrant visa. Most Iraqi Special Immigrants worked as interpreters and translators for the
U.S. in Iraq. Iraqi Special Immigrants are not refugees and enter the U.S. as lawful permanent residents. They are eligible for assistance and services like refugees.

17. “Lawful permanent resident (LPR)” is an alien who has been granted the privilege to live and work in the United States permanently. Refugees, asylees and Cuban/Haitian Entrants may apply to adjust to this status one year after their status was granted.

18. “Mandatory participant” is any employable refugee receiving Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) who resides in a county receiving a Refugee Social Services Program or Targeted Assistance Program allocation from ODJFS.

19. “Matching Grant Program” is a voluntary employment services program a refugee may participate in through the resettlement agency. When participating in this program (usually during the first four months after arrival), a refugee agrees not to apply for or receive public cash assistance. A refugee may access Food Assistance and Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance, if the refugee meets the income standard test. Matching Grant activities can count toward FSET hours.

20. “Mutual Assistance Associations (MAA)” is a non-profit, community-based organization promoting successful refugee resettlement comprised of refugee populations. Generally, MAAs are small grass-roots organizations that work in specific communities and geographic areas.

21. "Nonimmigrant" is an alien who is allowed to enter the United States for a specific purpose and for a limited period of time (e.g., tourist, student, business visitor).

22. “Office of Refugee Resettlement” (ORR) is the federal agency responsible for the national refugee program. ORR provides funds to states and counties in the form of grants for services provided.

23. “Reception and Placement (R&P) grants” is money given to a resettlement agency through an agreement with the U.S. Department of State to meet the essential needs of refugee families for the first 30 days upon their arrival in the U.S. This money pays for the first month rent and utilities, furnishings, and a few days of food. Refugees are given some of this money to help with clothing and other expenses during their first month in the U.S. This money is other unearned income and is excluded from all budgets on CRIS-E screen AEFMI.

24. "Refugee" is someone outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to or have the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution, on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion. A refugee comes to the United States from a country other than their own. Many refugees spend time in refugee camps prior to coming to the U.S., some as long as fifteen or more years. Asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, Amerasians, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants, and certified victims of human trafficking are considered classes of refugees. For the purposes of this document, unless noted otherwise, “Refugee” means refugees and all classes of refugees.

25. “Resettlement agency” is a local affiliate or subcontractor of a national voluntary agency (VOLAG) that has entered into a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement with the United States Department of State or other appropriate federal agency to provide for the reception and initial placement of refugees in the U.S.

26. “Secondary migrant” is a refugee who was originally resettled in another state before moving to Ohio.
27. "United States citizen" Individuals are United States citizens if they were born in the United States or were naturalized as citizens. For purposes of qualifying as a United States citizen, the United States is defined as including the fifty states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, and nationals from American Samoa and Swain's Island.

28. "United States Citizenship and Immigration Services" (USCIS). Formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the USCIS is the Federal agency responsible for determining which applicants qualify for refugee status and are admissible to the U.S. as refugees under U.S. law.

29. “Victim of a severe form of trafficking” (VSFT) is an alien defined under the Trafficking Victim Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and is eligible for benefits to the same extent as a refugee. Severe forms of trafficking in persons means:

   a. Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained eighteen years of age; or,

   b. The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or service, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

30. “Voluntary Agency (VOLAG)” is a national voluntary agency that has entered into a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement with the United States Department of State or other appropriate federal agency to provide for the reception and initial placement of refugees in the U.S.

31. “Voluntary participant” is a refugee who lives in a county receiving a Refugee Social Services Program (RSSP) or Targeted Assistance Program (TAP) allocation, whose entry date is fewer than five years before the application date and who is not required to participate in RSSP or TAP as a condition of receipt of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) or who does not receive RCA.