

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE MEMORANDUM
#01-2020

DATE: January 13, 2020
TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members
FROM: Heather Geyer, City Manager *Hmg*
SUBJECT: CR-30 – Supporting the Initial Resettlement of Refugees

PURPOSE

City Council is considering CR-30, a resolution supporting the initial resettlement of refugees.

BACKGROUND

On September 26, 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order 13888. This executive order mandates a 90-day timeframe in which the U.S. Department of State must implement a new State and local consent process for refugee resettlement. Within the executive order, the U.S. Department of State was directed to include language requiring a state or locality to provide consent to receiving refugees within their jurisdictions. The consent process was incorporated into the annual notice of funding for resettlement agencies (RAs) that wish to participate in the initial resettlement of refugees in the United States. A joint request is being made by Lutheran Family Services of the Rocky Mountains, International Rescue Committee and the African Community Center. The request is included in Attachment 1.

RAs will be required to obtain a letter of consent from each state and locality before they can place a refugee or family within its jurisdiction. Written consent is required as part of each RA's funding proposal to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. RA's funding proposals must be submitted no later than January 21, 2020, though written consents may be submitted on a rolling basis both before and after submission of an RA's proposal.

Governor Polis signed a state consent on December 16, 2019; a copy of this consent is included in Attachment 2.

To date, the communities considering the request include the following:

- Adams County (consent provided)
- Broomfield County (on January 14th agenda)
- Boulder County (consent drafted and will be signed on January 17th)
- Douglas County (consent provided)
- Jefferson County (consent provided)
- Arvada (on January 6th consent agenda)
- Denver (consent provided)
- Thornton (consent being considered on January 7th)
- Westminster (status not known at time of publication)
- Federal Heights (status not known at time of publication)
- Wheat Ridge (on January 13th consent agenda)
- State of Colorado (consent provided)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of CR-30 at the January 13, 2020 Council meeting.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct financial impact on the City of Northglenn associated with this action.

STAFF REFERENCE

For additional information, please contact Heather Geyer, City Manager, at hgeyer@northglenn.org or 303.450.8706.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Request for Consent
2. Consent by Governor Polis

CR-30 – Supporting the Initial Resettlement of Refugees

Memo

DATE: Monday, January 6, 2020

TO: Northglenn Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Ethiopian Community Development Council's African Community Center (ACC), Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountain Refugee and Asylee Programs (LFS) and the International Rescue Committee in Denver (IRC).

SUBJECT: Refugee Resettlement in Northglenn – Request for Consent

On Monday, January 6, 2020 representatives from the International Rescue Committee, representing the above-mentioned resettlement agencies (RAs), will apprise the Northglenn City Council of a recent Executive Order issued by President Trump wherein state and local governments are given new authority regarding initial refugee resettlement within their jurisdictions.

Background:

- Executive Order (EO) 13888 issued September 26, 2019, mandates a 90-day timeframe in which the U.S. Department of State must implement the new state and local consent requirements.
- RAs will be required to obtain a letter of consent from each municipality where they intend to initially place a refugee individual or family.
 - Written consent is required as part of each RAs' funding proposal to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.
 - Consent must be obtained no later than January 26, 2020
- Prior to EO 13888, RAs were required to provide consultation to communities where 25 refugees were resettled annually. However, there was no requirement for each jurisdiction where a refugee individual or family could potentially be placed to provide explicit consent.

U.S. Refugee Admissions Programs

- RAs partner with the U.S. Department of State and Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) to provide services to refugees approved for resettlement through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.
- Since the passage of the 1980 Refugee Act, the United States has safely resettled over 3 million refugees.
- The U.S. accepts a limited number of refugees each year. The president, in consultation with Congress, determines the authorized target for refugee admissions through a Presidential Determination. Applicants for refugee admission to the U.S. must satisfy the following criteria:
 - The definition of a "refugee" as determined by U.S. government officials.
 - Be among those refugees determined by the President to be of special humanitarian concern to the U.S.
 - Be otherwise admissible under U.S. law.
 - Not be firmly resettled in any foreign country.

Role of a resettlement agency

In addition to partnering with PRM, ACC, LFS and IRC also partner with the Colorado Refugee Services Program under the Colorado Department of Human Services to provide holistic services that promote refugees' successful integration in Colorado communities.

In Colorado, refugees can access RA services for up to five years after their arrival.

RA services include: Case management, health navigation and medical case management, job readiness training and job placement services, ESL enrollment, cultural orientation, psychosocial support programs, youth services, financial literacy, digital literacy programs, family stabilization, immigration services, school enrollment and community integration.

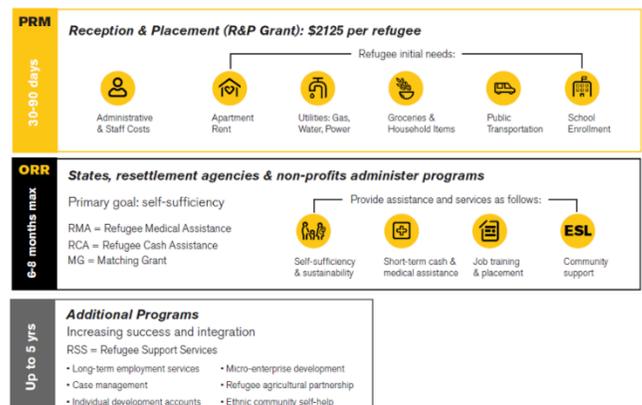


Figure 1: Funding for resettlement agencies and service timeline

Refugees in Colorado and Northglenn

- Since the Refugee Act of 1980, Colorado has welcomed more than 60,000 refugees. Currently, immigrants, refugees and other refugee-eligible populations comprise roughly 10% of Colorado's population.
- Over the last two fiscal years approximately 15 refugees have been initially placed in Northglenn. Of these individuals, the majority of them came from Afghanistan as Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIVs).
- According to a report by the New American Economy, there are 84,251 (10.9%) immigrants living in Congressional District 7 with a spending power of \$1.9 billion.
- Immigrants currently make up 29.2% of the construction workforce and 16.6% of manufacturing workforce in District 7.

Immigrant Household Income	\$2.5B
Taxes Paid	\$608.0M
— State & Local Taxes	\$181.1M
— Federal Taxes	\$426.9M
Total Spending Power	\$1.9B

Figure 2 Source: New American Economy, *Immigrants and the Economy in: Colorado District 7*

What does consent mean?

- Northglenn will continue to allow RAs to initially place newly-arrived refugee individuals and families within their jurisdiction.
- Northglenn City Council will pass a resolution which provides consent to the initial resettlement of refugees within their jurisdiction. A copy of Northglenn's consent resolution will be shared with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

Will refugees still be able to live in Northglenn if consent is not provided?

- Yes. The Executive Order will prevent RAs from initially placing refugees in your community and from providing them with services during their first 90 days in the U.S. However, refugees arrive in the U.S. with legal status and freedom of mobility and could decide to self-place in your city.

Benefits of providing consent

- Many refugees have chosen to make Northglenn their home—some of them have family members they are hoping to be reunited with. If consent is provided and a family member of a Northglenn resident is approved to come to the U.S., RAs would be able to place the newly-arrived individual in the city where their family member is already residing.
 - If consent is not provided, RAs would not be able to place the reuniting family member in the same city where their loved one is currently residing.
- Providing consent will allow RAs to serve refugees in your community and to provide vital services that allow newly-arrived refugees to learn about their community, find employment and become self-sufficient.
 - If consent is not provided, RAs will not be able to provide services to newly-arrived refugees in your community during the first 90 days they are in the U.S.
- RAs regularly provide technical assistance to communities where refugees are resettled. Technical assistance ranges from providing training to police, fire and other first responders about working with refugee populations to providing support to school districts, health clinics and other providers as they work to provide trauma-informed, and culturally and linguistically appropriate services. Additionally, RAs work very closely with faith organizations, civic groups and individuals to help them learn about their new neighbors and how they can play a role in the resettlement process.

We respectfully request that Northglenn City Council consider passing a resolution that would provide consent for Ethiopian Community Development Council's African Community Center, Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountain Refugee and Asylee Programs and the International Rescue Committee in Denver to initially place refugees within the city of Northglenn's jurisdiction.



COLORADO
Governor Jared Polis

December 16, 2019

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo
US Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Secretary Alex M. Azar II
US Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Azar:

I am writing in response to your Executive Order on Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement dated September 26, 2019. I would like to assure you that Colorado will continue to assist and resettle more refugees in our communities as long as people around the world are displaced from their home countries.

Since 1980, Colorado has welcomed individuals and families fleeing persecution, war, and violence from all over the world through the United States Refugee Admissions Program. Having a robust refugee program ensures that we are upholding our American values of humanitarianism, freedom, and opportunity. Not only is investing in refugees the compassionate and humane thing to do, refugees contribute to our economy in ways that benefit all Coloradans. For every dollar Colorado invests in refugees, we receive a \$1.23 return on investment in tax revenue, and four new Colorado jobs are created for every refugee who is resettled in our State.

I would like to assure you that Colorado is committed to refugee resettlement and is eager to assist and support refugees' successful integration into our communities. Last year, on a bipartisan basis, the Colorado State Legislature passed Senate Bill 19-230, which codifies Colorado's Refugee Services Program. This law demonstrates our State's commitment to refugee resettlement, and I am proud to reinforce Colorado's commitment by submitting this consent letter.

Because our State understands the benefits that the refugee program and refugees bring to our nation and local communities, I consent to continue our refugee resettlement program in Colorado. I understand my written consent on behalf of the State of Colorado will be publicly released by the Department of State.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Governor



SPONSORED BY: MAYOR LEIGHTY

COUNCILMAN'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-30
Series of 2020

Series of 2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHGLENN CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE INITIAL RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES

WHEREAS, by definition, refugees are individuals who have been forced to flee their home country due to persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group;

WHEREAS, the City of Northglenn has welcomed refugees in prior years for purposes of resettlement;

WHEREAS, resettlement is the last resort for refugees who cannot return to their home country and cannot rebuild their lives where they first fled;

WHEREAS, the United States government operates the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and mandates extensive vetting for every refugee resettled to the United States;

WHEREAS, the City of Northglenn is currently the home of resettled refugees who may be joined by family members from which they have been separated;

WHEREAS, refugees have a significant net positive effect on the local economy;

WHEREAS, local businesses have hired refugees as employees to help grow their businesses and refugee entrepreneurs provide jobs and generate economic activity that benefits the City of Northglenn; and

WHEREAS, refugees contribute to the social and cultural richness of the City of Northglenn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. In response to Executive Order 13888 "On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement," the City Council of the City of Northglenn consents to the initial resettlement of refugees and shall expressly confirm so in writing to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration upon passage of this resolution.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution will be transmitted to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

DATED, at Northglenn, Colorado, this _____ day of _____, 2020.

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor

ATTEST:

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney