



# State Refugee Advisory Council Meeting

Facilitated by:


Office of Maine Refugee Services, Catholic Charities Maine  
& Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine



# Agenda

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- |     |   |                |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 1.  | Welcome & Introductions                       | 10:00-10:05 AM |
| 2.  | OMRS Updates (SRC)                            | 10:05-10:20 AM |
| 3.  | Refugee Health Updates (SRHC)                 | 10:20-10:30 AM |
| 4.  | RIS Updates                                   | 10:30-10:40 AM |
| 5.  | MEIRS Updates                                 | 10:40-10:50 AM |
| 6.  | JCA Updates                                   | 10:50-11:00 AM |
| 7.  | Coffee Break                                  | 11:00-11:10 AM |
| 8.  | Stakeholders Interventions/Community Feedback | 11:10-11:30 AM |
| 9.  | Agency Highlights & Announcements             | 11:30-11:40 AM |
| 10. | Federal Updates                               | 11:40-11:45 AM |
| 11. | Q & A   | 11:45-12:00PM  |
| 12. | Networking and Lunch                          | TO FOLLOW      |



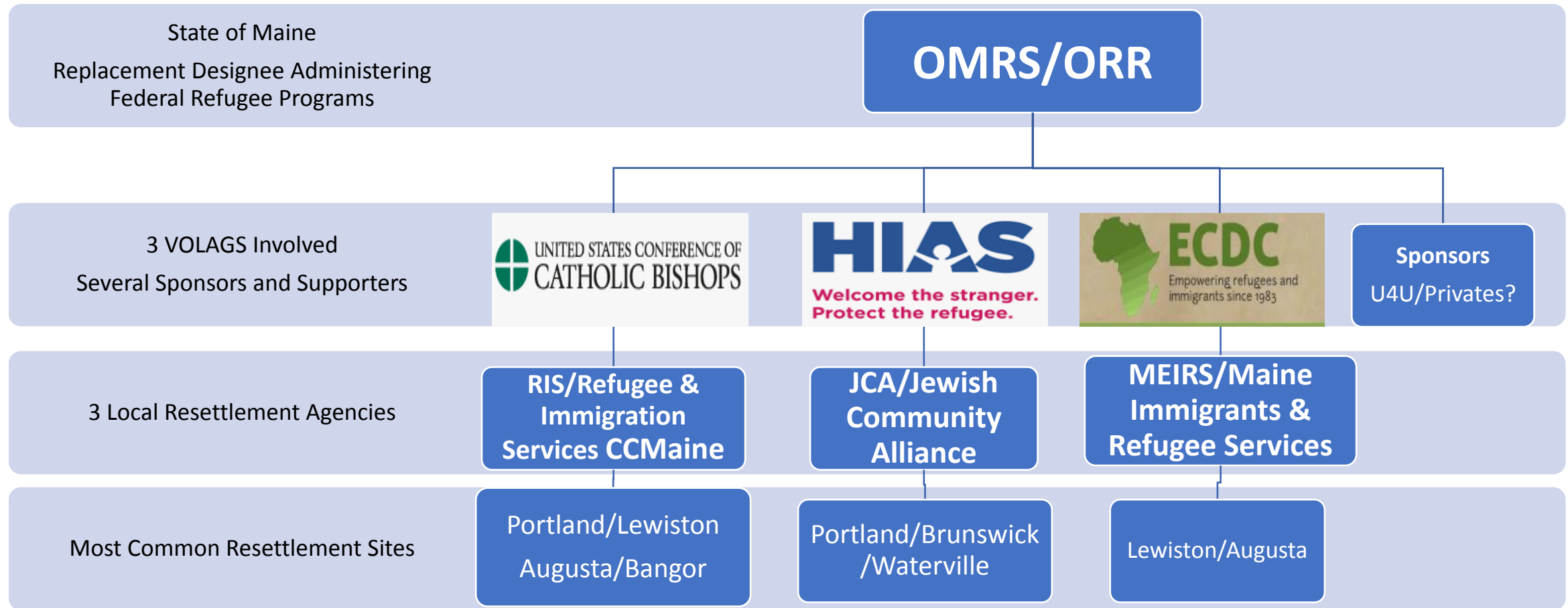


Coordinating Maine's  
refugee resettlement services  
network

# Maine State Refugee Advisory Council FY 23 Quarter 2

**Inza Ouattara,**  
State Refugee Coordinator  
Office of Maine Refugee Services  
Catholic Charities Maine

# Maine's Refugee Resettlement Process Overview

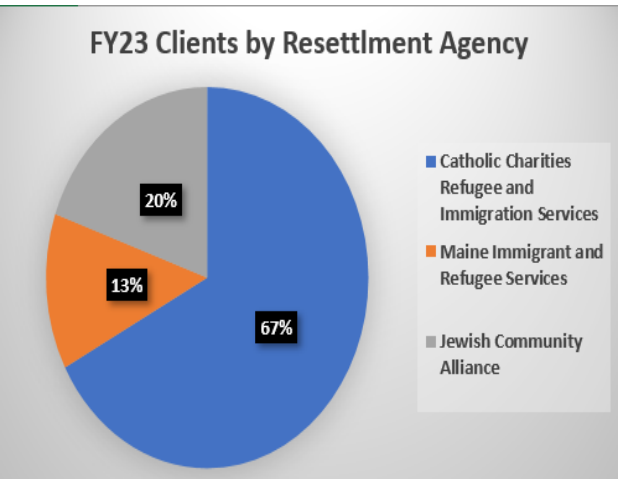
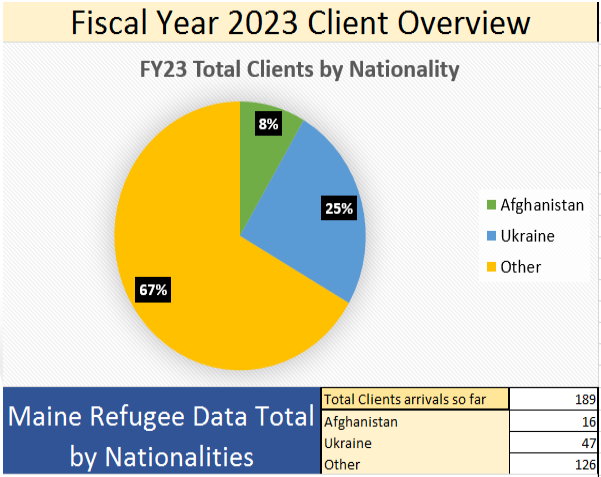


# Maine's Current ORR Eligible Population Data Q 1 & 2

From <https://www.ccmaine.org/omrs/data-and-statistics>

## Ukrainian U4U Updates

- Total Nationwide Sponsor Applications: **216,000**
- Total Nationwide Travel Authorizations: **147, 000**
- Total Nationwide Arrivals: **115,000**
- Total Sponsors from Maine: **340**
- Total Arrivals in Maine: **Over 97**



Total Clients by Program Eligibility			
School Impact		Youth Mentoring	
18 School aged clients	64	Clients	41
Afghanistan	7	Afghanistan	3
Ukraine	13	Ukraine	12
Other	44	Other	26
Employability		SOR	
18-59 Employable	122	60+ Senior Citizens	8
Afghanistan	9	Afghanistan	0
Ukraine	33	Ukraine	4
Other	80	Other	4



# Wilson Fish TANF Coordination Program (WF-TCP/GEAR)

- GEAR case load not including children: **120**
- GEAR case load including children: **345**
- Full-time employed GEAR participants: **27**
- Part-time employed GEAR participants: **9**
- GEAR challenges: childcare, housing, language barriers, transportation



# Refugee Assistance Program Updates



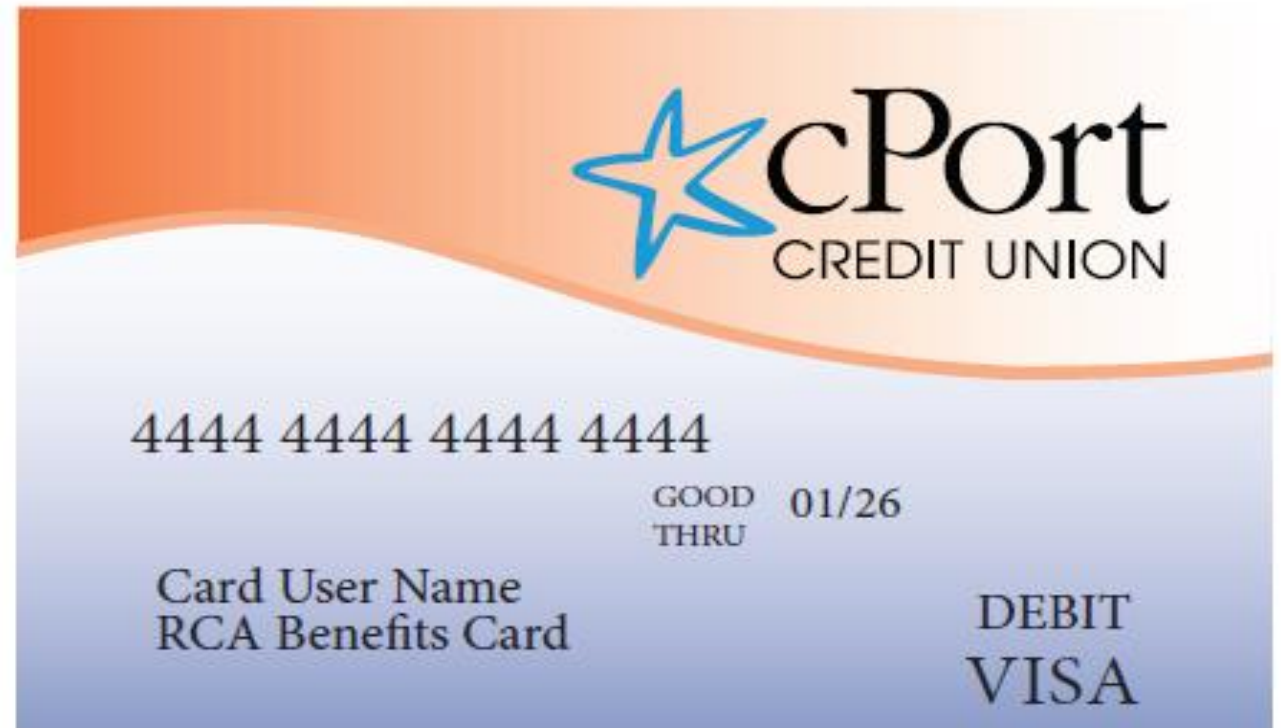
1. RCA News
2. School Impact Grant (RSIG)  
New Partnerships
3. English Literacy Instruction  
New Providers
4. Service to Older Refugee  
(SOR – RIS)
5. Refugee Youth Mentoring  
Grant (YM – GCS + MEIRS)
6. Refugee Support Services  
(RSS – U-RSS + A-RSS + RSS  
Base)



Catholic Charities  
**Office of Maine  
Refugee Services**

# Refugee Cash Assistance Updates

RCA  
Moving from  
checks to Benefit  
Card







Brunswick School Department



## New Partnerships

1. cPort Credit Union
2. USM
3. South Portland Adult Education
4. Brunswick Public Schools
5. Augusta Public Schools
6. New Mainers Public Health Initiative

# OMRS Website [www.ccmaine.org/omrs](http://www.ccmaine.org/omrs)

## Apply for Funding

*Fill out this easy-to-use form to begin the process of applying for Federal Funding to support your service to our refugee communities.*

**Name of Organization:**

**Services Your Organization is Offering that Need Funding:**

- ☐ Medical Screening
- ☐ Mental Health
- ☐ Other, please specify below

**Other (please specify other services not listed above):**

**Amount of Funding Your Organization is Applying for:**

**Brief Explanation of how Your Organization will Use the Funding:**

Submit

## Programs, Grants and Services

The Office for Maine Refugee Services (OMRS) manages federal funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), a department of the U.S. Health and Human Services. Grant funds are sub-awarded to partners across the state for a variety of programs and services. OMRS partners with resettlement agencies, health providers, school districts, community colleges and social service providers to offer comprehensive programming to the newly arrived refugee population in Maine. Programs range from employment services and English language training to health screenings and emotional wellness services to specialized programs for youth and elderly. While the most intense services are offered during the first year after arrival, refugees are eligible for the majority of OMRS-funded programs up to five years after their arrival in the United States.



REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE ▶

DOMESTIC REFUGEE MEDICAL SCREENING AND HEALTH ASSESSMENT ▶

REFUGEE HEALTH PROMOTION ▶

REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES ▶

SERVICES TO OLDER REFUGEES ▶

REFUGEE SCHOOL IMPACT GRANT ▶

YOUTH MENTORING ▶

WILSON-FISH TANK COORDINATION PROGRAM ▶

GEAR (GROWING EMPLOYMENT ACCESS FOR REFUGEES) ▶



# FY 23 Fundings/PLs & DCLs

- **DCL 23 – 13**  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/DCL-23-13-New-USCIS-Parole-Process-CHNV.pdf>
- **DLC 23 – 15**  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/DCL-23-15-Immigration-Legal-Services-for-Afghan-Arrivals.pdf>
- **DLC 23 – 11**  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/dcl-23-11-fy-2023-uhp-rss-formula-allocations.pdf>
- **DLC 23 – 09**  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/DCL-23-09-RSS-ASA-FY2023-Q1-Allocations.pdf>
- **All DLCs can be found here:**  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/policy-guidance/dear-colleague-letter>



Catholic Charities  
**Office of Maine  
Refugee Services**

# Private Sponsorship Program



- The Welcome Corps is a new program that empowers everyday Americans to come together to privately sponsor refugees...
- It is a new pathway to refugee resettlement in the US
- An addendum to the current resettlement pipeline
- A new program to help achieve the goal to resettle 125,000 refugees nationwide
- Starting in April, piloted by 4 states.
- For more information, go to <https://welcomecorps.org/resources/faqs/>

# Refugee Health Updates

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State Refugee Health Coordinator  
Statewide Medical Screening



**Medical Minute**

*from the Desk of the State Refugee Health Coordinator*



**Danielle  
Rodriguez, MSc**

to the  
State Refugee  
Health Coordinator

Office of Maine Refugee Services  
Catholic Charities Maine  
[drodriguez@ccmaine.org](mailto:drodriguez@ccmaine.org)  
207.272.1331

# Introduction

by the State Refugee Coordinator

Inza Ouattara, EdD, MPPM, LSW





## RMS Announcements

# FY23 Humanitarian Parolees

### AFGHAN

- Paroled for urgent humanitarian need for up to 2 years.
- "ORR-Eligible" and can receive medical screening, Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and mainstream social protection benefits (TANF, SNAP, etc.)
- Statuses you may see include "parolee", "SIV", "unaccompanied refugee minor", "spouse or child of a parolee", "parent or legal guardian of a parolee or unaccompanied refugee minor", "special immigrants with conditional permanent residence", "SI/SQ parolees", "refugee", "asylee".
  - Some not in EDN.

### UKRAINIAN

- April 21, 2022 President Biden announced "Uniting for Ukraine"
- Provides Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members who have fled Russia's unprovoked war of aggression opportunities to come to U.S. and stay temporarily with a parole up to 2 years.
- Ukrainians must have a supporter in the U.S. who agrees to provide them with financial support for the duration of their stay.
  - [www.DHS.gov/Ukraine](https://www.DHS.gov/Ukraine)
  - ORR-Eligible and for benefits
    - Some not in EDN.

213,372 applications have been filed YTD, 146,194 approved for travel, 113,339 paroled to the U.S.

## RMS Announcements

# FY23 Humanitarian Parolees

### NICARAGUAN

- Presumptively eligible for a "survivor of torture" (SOT) determination.
- 222 political prisoners to the Ortega regime who have endured severe harassment, intimidation and violence.
- Eligible for rehabilitative, social and legal services under the ORR Survivors of Torture program, irregardless of immigration status

### VENEZUELAN

- October 12, 2022, the DHS announced a new process allowing Venezuelan nationals and their immediate family members to come to the U.S. and stay temporarily on parole up to 2 years.
- Urgent humanitarian reasons and significant public need.
- Venezuelans must have a sponsor and meet other requirements.
  - Not ORR-Eligible for benefits
- Not in EDN because they have not undergone an overseas exam.

Cap of 24,000 parolees nationally.

RMS Announcements

# FY23 Humanitarian Parolees

The rapid influx of new populations put pressure onto resettlement agencies and healthcare systems.

Set up a monthly SRHC consultation:  
[drodriguez@ccmaine.org](mailto:drodriguez@ccmaine.org)

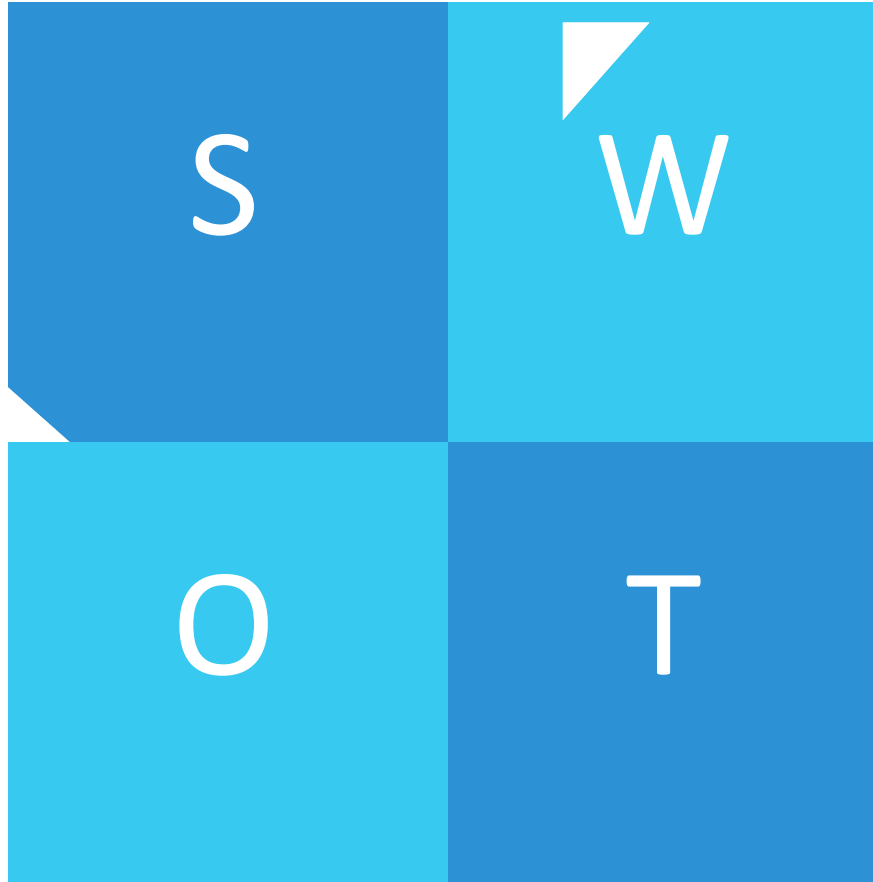
# Private Sponsorship

## STRENGTHS

- Increased public-private sponsorship means more resources
  - More community involvement
- Reaching the presidential determination

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Long term relationships with sponsors that resettlement agencies' time-limited funding limits
- Community buy-in and building good will around resettlement
  - Expansion of affiliates into new communities



<https://welcomecorps.org/>

## WEAKNESSES

- Lack of communication and coordination for medical care
- Geographic limitations for available and contracted medical screening clinics
- Unfamiliarity with applying for benefits
- Multiple private sponsor groups will make disease reporting and meeting other public health requirements challenging to monitor
- Fall-back plan will be resettlement agencies
- Key states have not yet been identified and allowed to develop systems to provide supports
- CLAS standards for interpretation cannot possibly be met
- Only one person in the sponsor group is required to be trained

## THREATS

- Sponsorship breakdown
- Exploitation of vulnerable populations
- Varying sponsorship levels
- Volunteers not following rules or best practices and weak grievance processes for refugees
- Potential for isolation
- Public perception of program could deteriorate if too chaotic
- Resettlement agencies risk losing support w/ volunteers

# Recommendations

### INDIVIDUALS WITH KNOWN MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Recommend that individuals with known medical conditions or who are medically fragile are not placed into the private sponsorship pilot (e.g. persons w/ class B other status). This includes people who are pregnant, and individuals taking medications.

### EDN JURISDICTION

Recommend that PRM and CDC confirm transfer of data which is used to determine EDN jurisdiction for private sponsorship to ensure records are assigned to the right state.

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RESPONSE

Recommend that individuals arriving from regions with active outbreaks (i.e. Uganda/Ebola) are not placed into private sponsorship pilot until the outbreak is resolved.

### SPONSOR PLANNING

Sponsors should have the same standards as resettlement agencies for connection to key programs within the first 90 days after arrival, including medical screening, health insurance and primary care.

### SPONSOR TRAINING

- What is the purpose of the medical screening and how is it different than primary care.
- Trauma-informed care.

### GEOGRAPHY AND PLACEMENT

Recommend states are given the opportunity on an annual basis to share red / yellow / green areas of the state that signify levels of capacity for resettlement in order to set realistic expectations.



# Domestic Medical Screening

## As of FY23, components include:

### MEDICAL HISTORY / COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL EXAMS

- All body systems
- EDN used to access overseas medical history
- Worksheet available from OMRS as guideline.

### ESTABLISH PRIMARY CARE

- Refugees must establish a PCP home, ideally with the provider clinic conducting the medical screening

### VACCINATIONS

- ORR Policy Letters - SRHC working on a visual reference for different populations
- CDC Domestic Medical Screening Guidelines

### REFERRAL TO SPECIALISTS

- To address concerns identified with need for specialty care.

### MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND REFERRAL

- Provided through Behavioral Health Network

### LAB TESTS

- CDC Immigrant and Refugee Health Domestic Medical Screening Guidelines
- State of Maine recommendation

Orientation the U.S. Healthcare System and to the transportation route to medical appointments is covered under Refugee Health Promotion for Resettlement Agencies.



RMS Annoucements

# FY23 Humanitarian Parolees

[https://careref.web.health.state.  
mn.us/](https://careref.web.health.state.mn.us/)

## HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

Maine CDC representatives issued a press release on February 9 announcing that the risk for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) remains high in Maine.

No cases of the strain have been detected in humans in the U.S. and recent detections of influenza in birds in Maine present a low risk to the public.

Maine CDC will continue to monitor. [maine.gov/dacf/hpai](https://maine.gov/dacf/hpai)

## GONORRHEA W/ RESISTANCE AND REDUCED SUSCEPTIBILITY TO MULTIPLE ANTIBIOTICS

Massachusetts recently identified a novel strain of multidrug-non-susceptible *Neisseria gonorrhoea* with resistance or reduced susceptibility to all drugs that are recommended for treatment in the U.S. (ceftriaxone, cefixime, azithromycin, ciprofloxacin, penicillin, tetracycline). This is the first isolate identified in the U.S. showing resistance or reduced susceptibility to all drugs that are recommended for treatment.

No cases reported in Maine as of February 7th.

Gonorrhea continues to be a concern with cases rising nationally and in Maine.

- Cases of gonorrhea in Maine increased 34% between 2021 (n=462) and 2022 (n=620).

# Disease Notifications

## VARICELLA IN TANZANIA (VARICELLA VACCINE SHORTAGE)

The CDC has notified SRHCs on February 17th that there are potential varicella exposures in refugees from Tanzania.

- Very contagious disease caused by varicella-zoster virus.
- Medical providers should refer to overseas vaccination records in EDN and follow CDC guidance for age appropriate vaccines.



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# Resettlement Agencies & Community Partner

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# Refugee & Immigration Services

Tracy Moore, LCSW Program Director  
Charles Mugabe Assistant Director



# Who We Serve

## Resettlement & Placement Services

Refugee

Afghan Placement & Assistance

Special Immigrant Visa

## Refugee Support Services

Asylee

Secondary Migrant

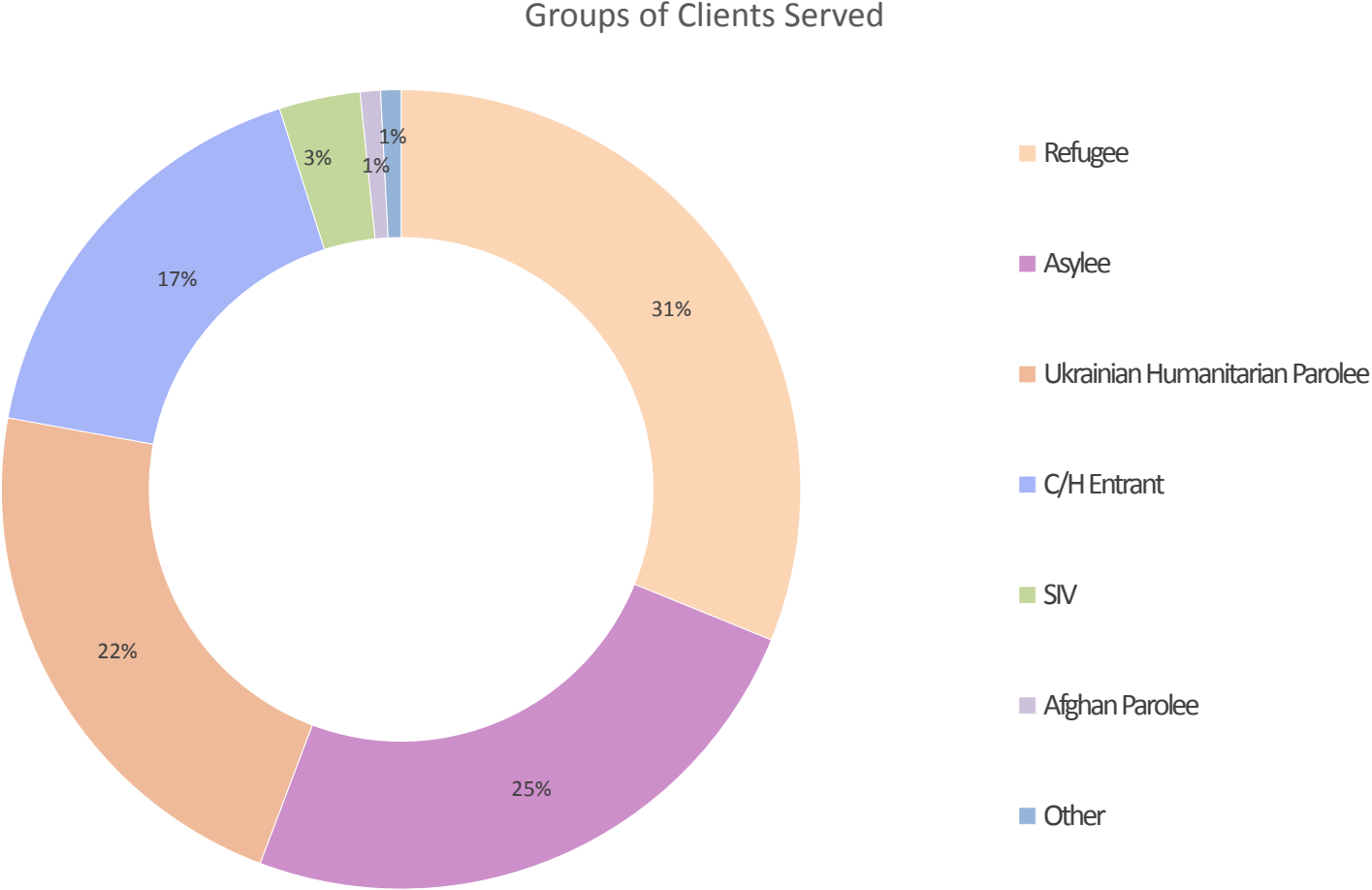
Victims of Trafficking

Cuban-Haitian Entrant

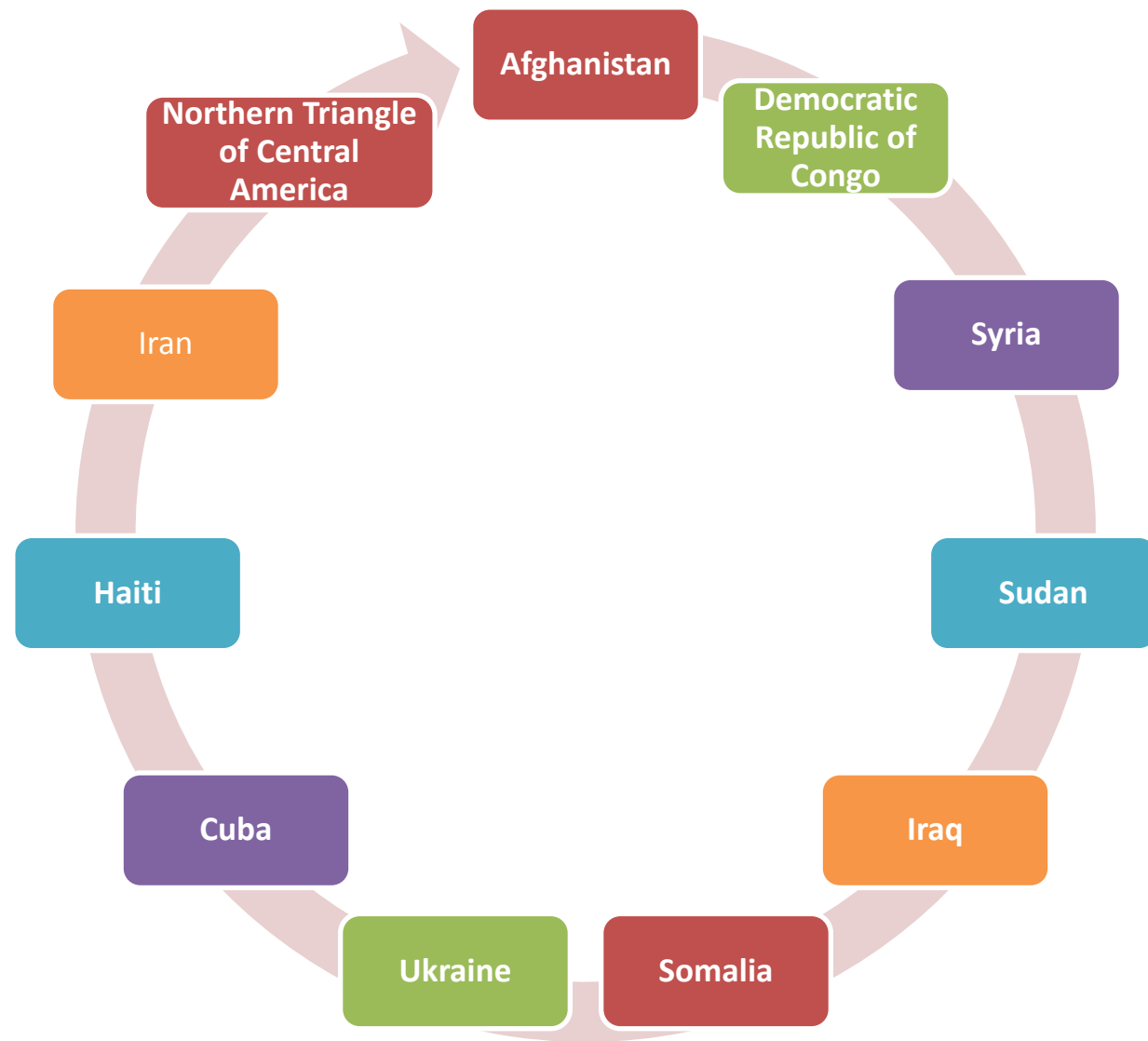
Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee



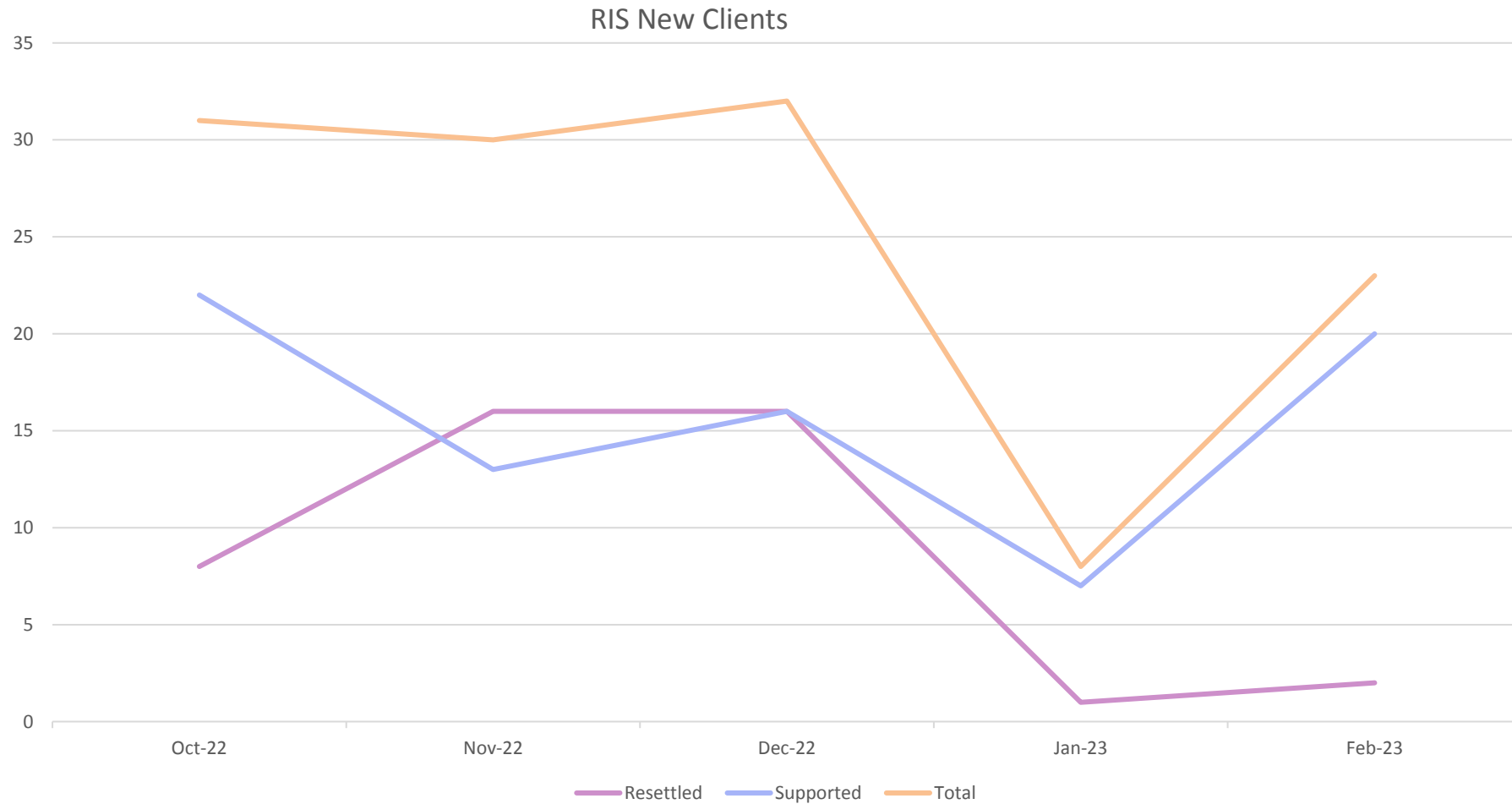
# A Look at Who We Are Serving in FY23



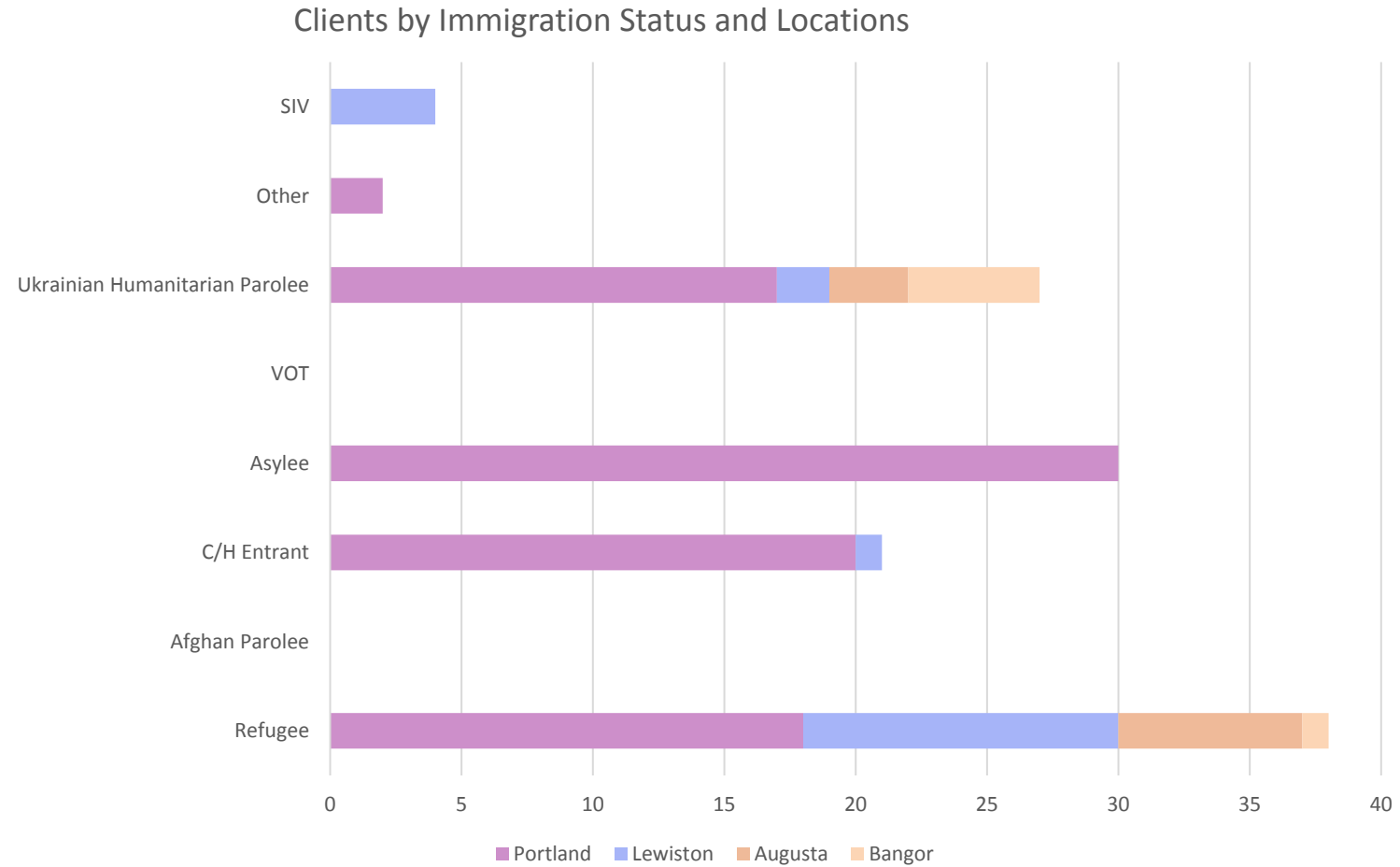




# When did clients come?



# Where are clients going?

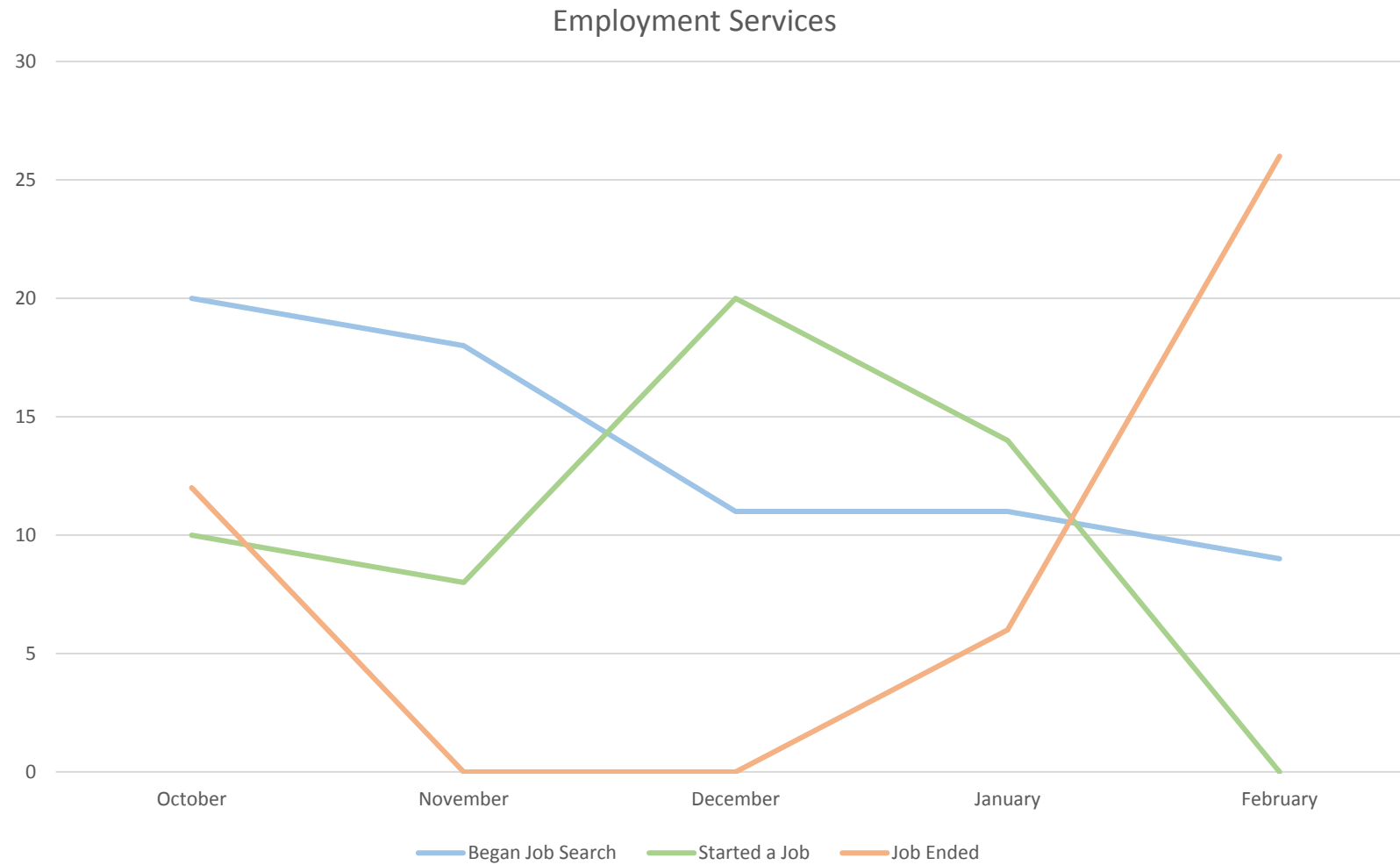


# FY23 to Date

- We are expecting to resettle approximately **200 individuals** among Portland, Lewiston & Augusta sites
  - **43 refugee arrivals** so far, or about 21% of projection
- Bangor Site is open and expects to resettle up to **50 individuals** throughout the year.
  - **13 refugee arrivals** so far, or about 25% of projection
  - Currently serving 10 Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees
  - 1 Cuban-Haitian Entrant
- We continue to experience increased numbers of asylees & CHE.
- Refugee pipeline becoming more efficient



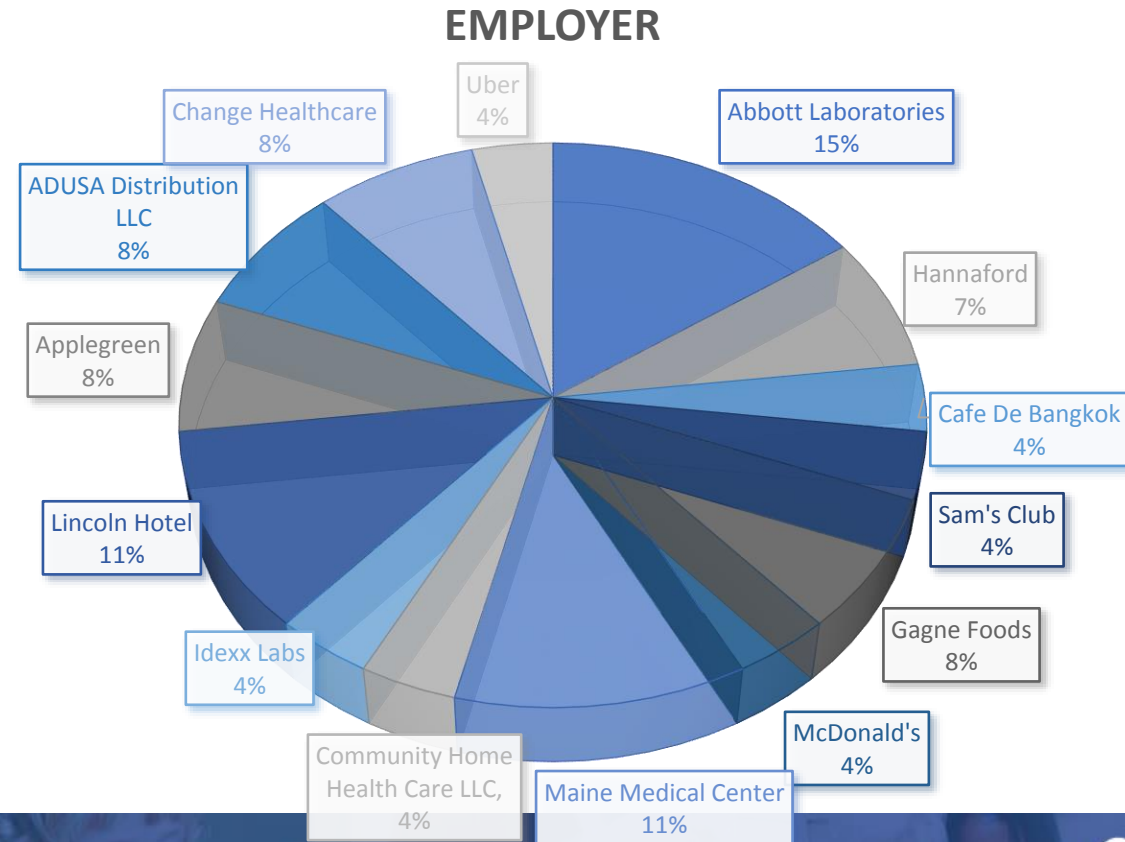
# Self Sufficiency



# Employment Services

## FY 23

- 52 clients placed in jobs
- 74 new employable adults (18-64 years old) this quarter





# Successes & Challenges

- All clients remain permanently housed, excepting CHE. Over 50% of CHE housed.
- 52 clients were placed in jobs
- Successful partnerships in Bangor
- Affordable housing crisis
- Abbott Lab layoffs, 26 RIS clients lost job
- Manufacturing jobs slowed significantly
- Emergency benefits ending, increased food insecurity among newcomers





# Thank you!

Tracy Moore, LCSW Program Director  
[tmoore@ccmaine.org](mailto:tmoore@ccmaine.org)

Charles Mugabe Assistant Director  
[cmugabe@ccmaine.org](mailto:cmugabe@ccmaine.org)





# Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services

Rilwan Osman, LMSW-cc  
Executive Director

Abdikadir Negeye, MLS  
R&P Program Manager

## LOCATIONS

256 Bartlett St. Lewiston, ME 04240

217 Main St. Suite 100, Lewiston, ME 04240



# MEIRS UPDATES

- ❑ MEIRS allocated to resettle 100 refugees for the FY23
- ❑ No Arrivals for FY23, Staff are trained and ready for new arrivals
- ❑ Served 16 U4U for FY23
- ❑ Employed: 24 of out 53 employable are employed
- ❑ 4 U4U are you currently employed
- ❑ 22 People were laid off from Abbott in January
- ❑ All APA/U4U are housed
- ❑ Challenges (the biggest experienced during the quarter): Housing, transportation, Childcare, recent layoffs from Abbott



# MEIRS APA LEGAL UPDATES

## **61 Asylum applications submitted**

- ☐ 26 Cases approved
- ☐ 25 Pending decisions
- ☐ 10 Submitted applications/pending for interviews

## **13 SIV/COM Cases submitted**

- ☐ 6 Cases Approved

## **Family Reunifications**

- ☐ 14 Family reunification applications submitted
- ☐ 2 EAD application submitted



# MEIRS U4U LEGAL UPDATES

- ❑ 13 Employment authorization submitted
- ❑ 5 Approved and received employment authorization
- ❑ 7 Pending employment authorization
- ❑ 1 U4U Applied asylum

# BridgeMentoring Program

- ❑ 13 APA enrolled in our mentoring program
- ❑ 2 Mentors

We are looking for mentors, if you are interested in mentoring new refugees, please email us at [bridgementoring@meirs.org](mailto:bridgementoring@meirs.org)



# JCA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT & NEWCOMER PROGRAMMING

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# SIOBHAN WHALEN, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

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## JCA IS PROUD TO WELCOME NEW STAFF

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- Kevin Lumenello, Reception and Placement Case Worker
- Inna Cherednichenko, Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee Initial Services Case Worker



# ARRIVALS FY2023: REFUGEE RECEPTION & PLACEMENT PROGRAM

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- 20 individuals
  - 7 SIVS from Afghanistan
  - 5 Refugees from Syria
  - 8 Refugees from DRC
- 6 clients out-migrated for family reunification
  - 2 Refugees from DRC
  - 4 SIVS from Afghanistan



# ARRIVALS FY2023: REFUGEE RECEPTION & PLACEMENT PROGRAM

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- Of the 14 individuals who remain in Maine, folks are residing in the following cities/towns:
  - Waterville
  - Augusta
  - Lewiston
  - Biddeford
- Only 3 are in temporary housing
  - Plans to move to permanent housing in Lewiston, within 1 week

# ARRIVALS FY2023: REFUGEE RECEPTION & PLACEMENT PROGRAM

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- Before the end of March, JCA will welcome:
  - 6 people from Syria, housing secured
  - 6 people from Afghanistan, housing secured
  - 5 people from Iraq, search continues
  - 6 people from DRC, search continues

# ARRIVALS FY2023: UKRAINIAN HUMANITARIAN PAROLEE INITIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

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- 18 individuals
  - 16 in Auburn
  - 2 in Portland
- All of whom are living in permanent housing

# CHALLENGES Q1 FY23

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- Housing
  - General Assistance Maximums
  - Property Management companies creating barriers to permanent housing
    - Credit Score over 690
    - Monthly income 3 times the monthly rent
- Transportation
  - Providing opportunities for driver's education and low-cost vehicles



# AFGHAN COMMUNITY OF MAINE

- Updates



# UPDATES

- Afghan Community of Maine is serving Afghan refugees and evacuees in Greater Portland, Lewiston/Auburn, and Augusta/Waterville since 2021 to respond of the influx of newly arriving evacuees. In September 2022 we had election and new Board President- Shamayel Kargar; Treasurer – Rona Seyid, -Secretary...
- In few weeks we will open doors of our new Center in Westbrook
- We plan to utilize our Center for :
  - 1) English Classes;
  - 2) Employment related services with support of Workforce Boards, we will help with outreach and cultural orientations;
  - 3) Skills trainings – cooking, sewing, repair and remodeling houses, daycare;
  - 4) Youth engagement and mentoring;
  - 5) Wellness and emotional support;

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  - 6) Cultural Orientation; Celebration and observing Holidays.



- Funding:
  - Actively researching to apply for funding to support our activities;
  - Needs of our community:
  - Affordable Housing;
  - Access to transportation
  - Food security – reduce of SNAP and inflation rate, community members are having hard choice between payment of rent or covering the cost of food.
  - To run our ESL classes, we need volunteer ESL teachers.
  - Driving classes, many arrivals got their DL, but there are still sizeable group many women who did not get DL yet.
  - Getting professional jobs for those who came here with employment and educational background. Majority started with survival jobs that does not take them anywhere.
-

# Connecting unique talents with resources

- Afghans are known for their entrepreneurial talents, since the invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet Union in 1980, and resettlement of Afghan refugees in the US, many of Afghans were successfully integrated and become business owners.
  - Afghan Community of Maine is planning to provide educational services on financial literacy, first home buyer, establishment of private business, and connect recent arrivals with established resources to develop their financial integration into Maine's economy.
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# Refugee & Immigrant Team Members at Tyson Foods



Portland, ME

MARCH 8, 2023

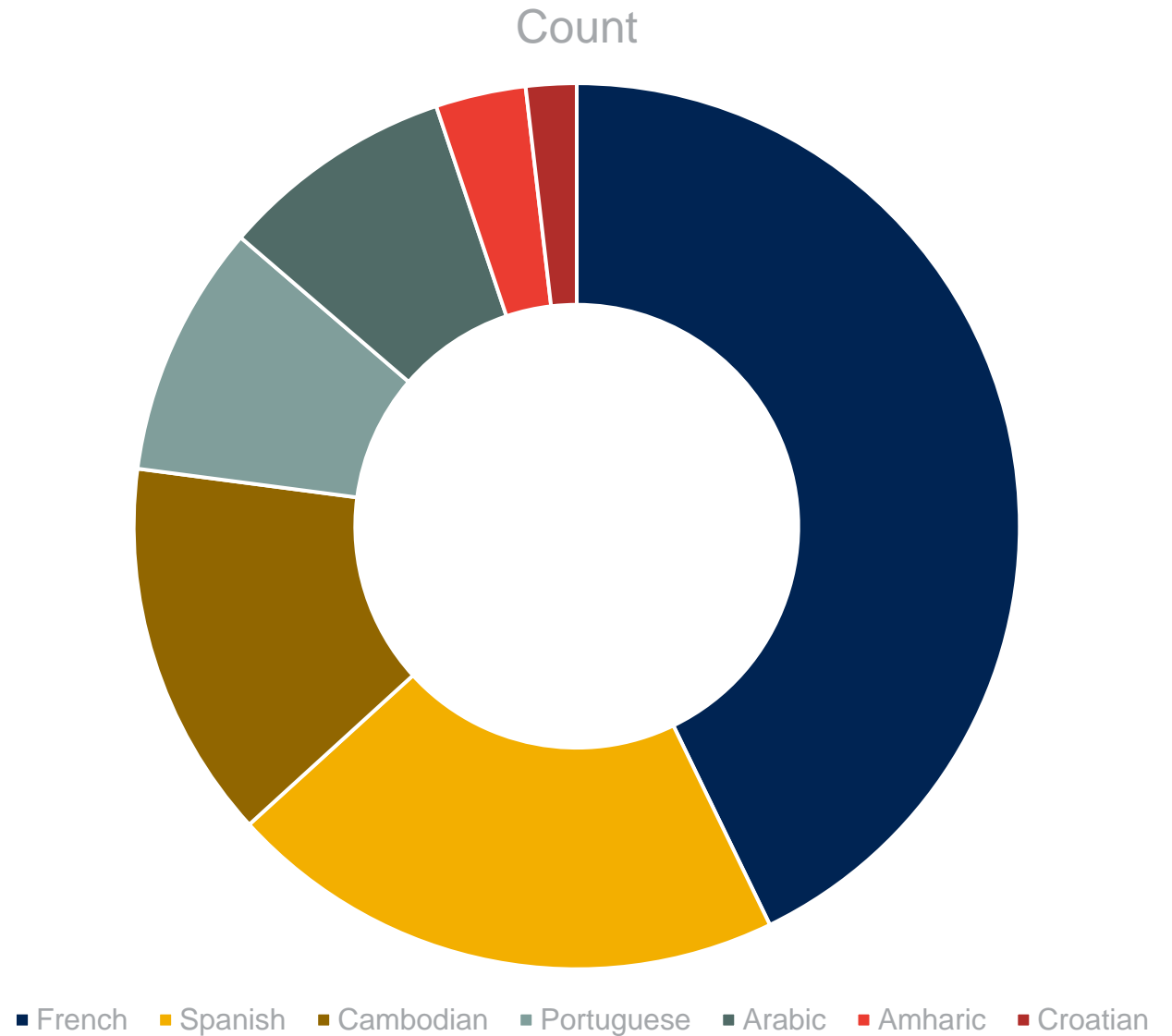
**THE PROTEIN COMPANY™**

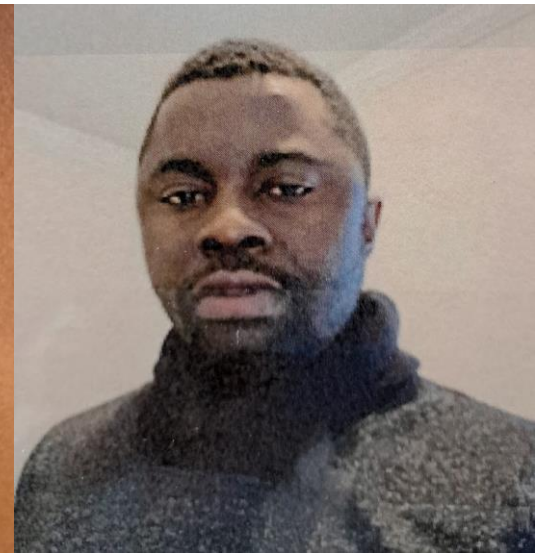


# Our Vision

- To be #1 Employer of Choice in the Area
- Provide Career Development & Advancement
- Inclusive in Ethnicity, Gender & Spiritual Background

# Spoken Languages





# Success Stories

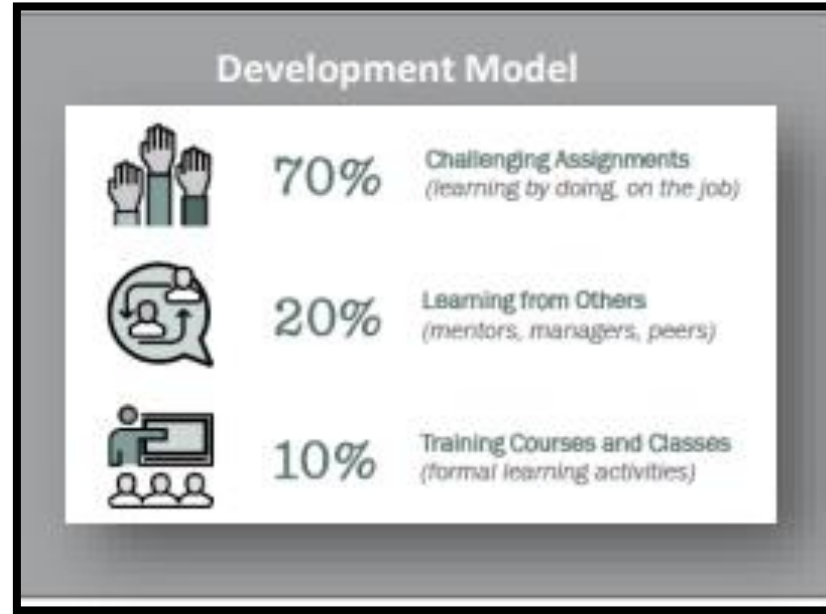
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|--------------------|----------------------------|
| • Besim Musliu     | Senior Production Manager  |
| • Dung Ahlemeyer   | General Manager Production |
| • Boban Erakovic   | General Manager Production |
| • Samuel Conde     | Learning Manager           |
| • Henrique Malonda | Production Supervisor      |



# Challenges

- Housing
- Childcare
- Language Barriers





# Resources Offered

- Tuition Free Education:  
Upward Academy: ESL & Guild
- Career Development & Advancement:  
Training Team
- Language Barriers:  
Interpreters/Translation Resources



# ***FAMILIES*** **FORWARD**

***A Program of Fedcap Inc***







- Families Forward is a program of Fedcap Inc.
- The program is offered in partnership with Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence (OFI) for people enrolled in its **TANF/ASPIRE** program



# Program Mission

*To help families in Maine  
achieve a  
more economically  
secure future  
through employment,  
training & education and  
community resources.*







## Referral & Enrollment

- Participant completes eligibility for TANF with OFI
- Fedcap receives electronic referrals from OFI to our case management system
- Participant completes a program orientation
- Participant is assigned to a Career Specialist



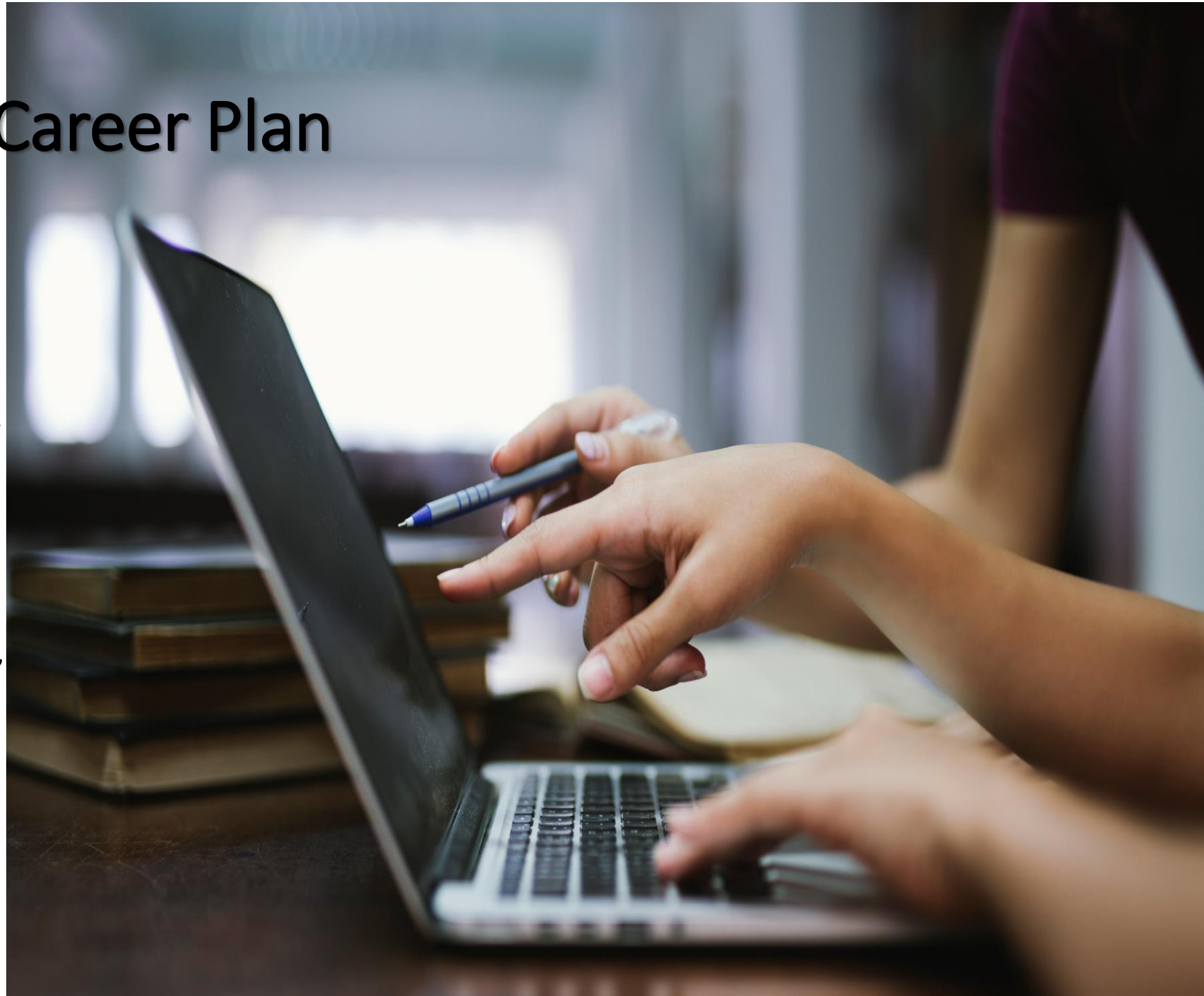
# Assessment & Career Plan Development

Each participant is assigned a Career Specialist

Assessment consists of

- Comprehensive intake interview
- CASAS
- CareerScope if applicable

Results are used to develop a career plan based on the participant's skills, interests and need areas.



# Program Opportunities

- Power of Possible, Career Development Program
- Industry OnRamps
- Internships
- Education and Job Skills Training
- Parents as Scholars (PaS)
- Fedcap Academy
- Job Search Assistance
- Statewide and Local Hiring Events
- Follow-up Services and Career Celebrations
- Health and Wellness Services



# Power of Possible – Career Development Program

- Interactive online and in-person classes
- Define interests and work preferences
- Identify personal strengths and skills
- Into to Maine Job Link and MDOL resources
- Create resumes and cover letters
- Practice interviewing
- Career Exploration and Industry Speakers
- Learn about further education and training
- Get prepared and supports for next steps







### **Learn more about Careers in Maine's growing industries**

- Manufacturing & Health Care
- Information Technology

# Industry OnRamps

### **Classes starting every month**

- Hybrid classes
- Learn with peers across the state
- Classes for English Language Learners
- Guest Speakers and Industry Experts
- Career Counseling and Case Management



# Internships

## Benefits

- Explore areas of interest before committing to a training or educational program
- Build marketable skills through hands-on work experience
- Complete a requirement for an educational program
- Get feedback and coaching in a supportive environment

## Non-Profit and Government Partners

- Child Care Centers, Nursing Homes and Hospitals, Community Centers and Cultural Organizations
- Shelters and Housing Organizations, Animal Welfare and Environmental Organizations
- Mental Health and Recovery Centers, Churches and Religious Organizations
- State of Maine, Department of Health and Human Services

## Positions

- Event Coordinator, Receptionist, Social Media Coordinator, Office Support.
- Bookkeeping, Maintenance, Driver, Animal Shelter Support, Child Care Assistant
- Computer Lab Support, Translator, Recreation Assistant. Farmer's Market Assistant





# Education and Job Training:

**Assistance pursuing further education and/or job training to meet your career goals:**

- **Adult Education**
  - GED, Diploma programs and High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) preparation
  - Workforce Certificate Programs
- **Career Training Programs for Maine's growing industries**
  - Certificates and Credentials
  - Apprenticeship Programs
  - On-the-Job Training Opportunities
- **College - Post Secondary Degree Programs**





# Parents as Scholars (PaS)

Parents as Scholars (PaS) program is unique to Maine. It provides parents who are eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) with cash assistance and support services while they attend a two-year or four-year post-secondary degree program.

## **Eligibility :**

- Does not hold a bachelor's degree that can be used to gain employment
- Requires skill development to earn 85% of Maine's median wage
- Applicant must demonstrate ability to complete all classes for graduation
- The degree selected will result in family sustaining wage
- will secure employment with earnings to support your



# Cultural and Language Supports

- **Project GEAR with Catholic Charities** offering cultural supports and case management for new refugees.
- **Interpreter Services and Multi-Lingual Staff** with Orientation and Program information sessions offered every week in multiple languages.
- **English Language Classes**
  - Introductory ESOL classes onsite with Fedcap Instructors
  - Online ESOL through EnGen platform and tutoring with Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center
  - Partnerships with Adult Education





## Engagement = Progress

- Engagement equals the hours each week participants spend preparing to reach their career goals
- Participants requirements are different, and different factors apply
  - One Parent Family with child under six (6) = **20 hours**
  - One Parent Family child over Six (6) = **30 hours**
  - Two Parent Family without childcare = **35 hours combined**
  - Two Parent Family with childcare = **55 hours combined**





# Supports Available

Participants are eligible for supports to assist them with reaching their career goals

- Every participant receives a list of the available Work Supports, which includes
  - Transportation
  - Childcare
  - Clothing for work or interviewing
  - Vehicle Registration and Insurance
  - Vehicle Repairs
  - Others
- Based on a participant's career plan, staff prepare requests for work supports which are submitted to OFI for approval

# Fedcap Academy

An online learning platform with more than 10,000 job readiness and industry courses:



- Only an email address is needed to enroll
- Requires a computer and internet access
- Self-paced and available for use at your convenience (24/7)
- Everyone starts with Workplace Fundamentals
- You can add additional courses to build skills for high demand industries
- Available to you even after you get a job to upgrade your skills

Email [fedcapacademy.maine@Fedcap.org](mailto:fedcapacademy.maine@Fedcap.org) for support



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned dress, is shown from the waist up. She is looking upwards with her head tilted back, her arms slightly out to the sides. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with soft, glowing clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The image is partially framed by a white curved shape on the right side.

# Health and Wellness Services

For participants experiencing major life challenges such as domestic violence, homelessness, disabilities, medical conditions and others to promote greater family stability, health and wellness. Services may include:

- More tailored and individualized services
- Measured steps with flexible schedules
- Referrals for Medical, Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder Providers and others
- Referrals to Vocational Rehabilitation
- Referrals to Domestic Violence, Housing and Legal Advocacy Services
- Coordination with medical or other providers
- Help with Social Security Income (SSI) applications
- These services are available at any time when challenges arise



# Career Ready and Follow Up Services

Once Career Ready, the following services are available:

**Job Search Assistance:** Our Placement Specialists work employers throughout Maine to provide you with access to job opportunities. If you are ready for employment, you will be assigned a Placement Specialist who will provide you with 1:1 job search assistance based on your career goals.

**Hiring Events:** Our Opportunity Centers conduct monthly online and in-person Hiring Events with employers from their local communities.

**Retention Services:** Follow up services are provided for a minimum of 180 days. These are monthly check-ins with a Placement Specialist to discuss job satisfaction and remediate any. Participants are invited to attend monthly Career Celebration events.



# Contact Us

**Francis Hanley**

Director of New Mainer Services

Fedcap Inc. - Serving Maine

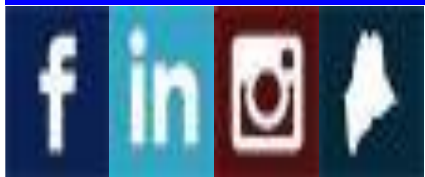
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# FEDERAL & STATE UPDATES



Maine.gov

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Lisa Rafonelli and Jason McGrath, ORR Partners



# U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

# Q & A

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***Please note:*** *If we don't have time to address your questions during the presentation's Q & A session, please put your questions in the chat box, or email [mmailander@ccmaine.org](mailto:mmailander@ccmaine.org)*

***THANK YOU!***







# Thank you!

NEXT SRAC MEETING IS  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2023  
10AM TO 12PM IN  
LEWISTON ME

