



# Secondary Migration of Refugees

## Collaborating to Ensure Community Integration

*Office of Refugee Resettlement  
Webinar*      September 23, 2014

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# Objectives



- Define secondary migration and its drivers
- Share impacts of secondary migration
- What is a State Refugee Coordinator's role?
- Introduce Welcoming America
  - What is a Receiving Community?
- Introduce One Morgan County (Colorado)
  - What is a nonprofit's role?
- Q and A

# Asking Questions



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Microsoft Office Live Meeting - livemeeting.com - NHMRC July Webinar Practice Session". The browser's address bar shows "Attendees (1) | Voice & Video | Q&A | Meeting". The main content area has a header "Type your question here." and a text input box below it containing the text "No questions have been answered yet.". To the right of the input box is a button labeled "Ask". Three numbered instructions are overlaid on the screenshot with arrows pointing to the corresponding elements:

1. Click on the word "Q&A"
2. Type your question in the top box
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## What is Secondary Migration?



- Refugees move to states other than the state in which they were initially resettled or placed.
- Refugees have the right to relocate at any time to any state upon arrival, but services such as location of housing, assistance with rent, assistance with registration at public schools and application for public benefits are only available through the initial refugee resettlement agency.

## Drivers of Secondary Migration



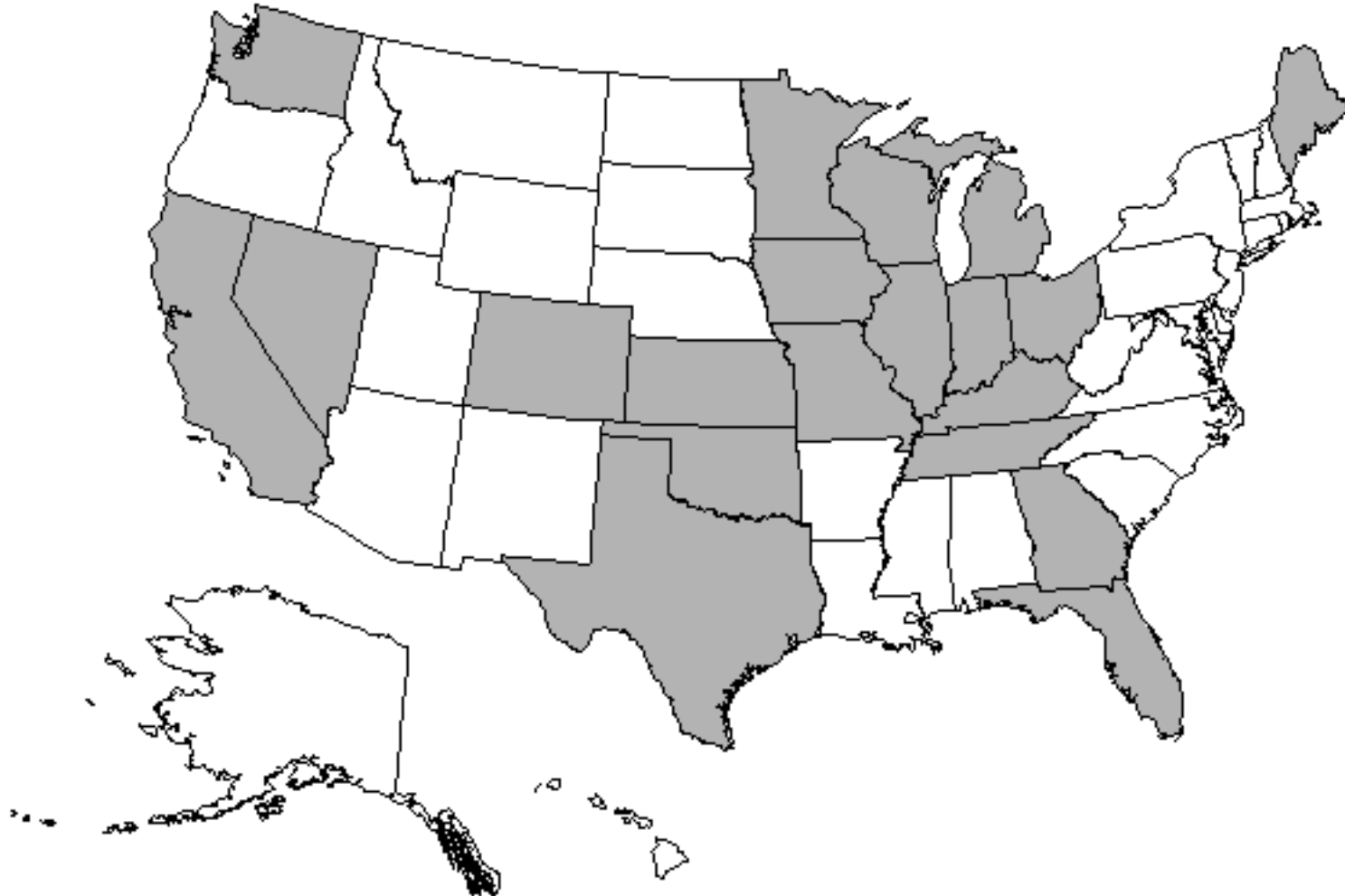
- Join family or friends
- Established ethnic community
- Better job opportunities
- Affordable housing – lower cost of living
- Better public service benefits

# Impacts of Secondary Migration



- Difficult jobs are filled. Example: Meat Packing. There is often high turn-over
- Initial resettlement money does not follow refugees
- There may not be refugee-serving agencies
- May bypass resettlement agencies
- Community not prepared
- Lack of affordable housing, schools, government benefits
- ORR has funding to support communities with secondary migration

# Top 20 States for Secondary Migration FY2013



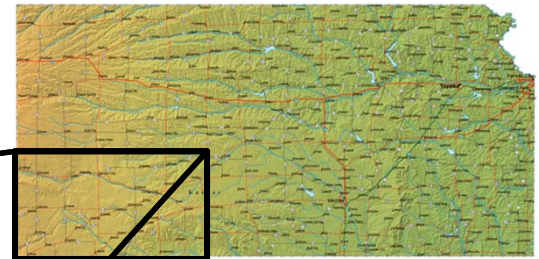
# State Refugee Coordinator's Role



- Minnesota leads nation in secondary migration: 2,000 initial resettlements + 2,000 secondary migrants each year
- Gus Avenido meets with school leadership, housing providers, benefits providers, English as second language (ESL providers), and law enforcement to plan a strategy
- Community Connectors are hired as liaisons for community stakeholders



# State Refugee Coordinator's Role: Kansas



Garden City



Dodge City



Liberal



WELCOMING  
AMERICA



▲ *Building a Nation of Neighbors*

## What is a Welcoming City or County?

Welcoming America defines a Welcoming City or County as a community that:

**PLANS:** All relevant sectors, such as government, business, non-profit, and others are engaged to work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration.

**COMMITTS:** Commitments are made to institutionalize strategies that ensure the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers.

**BUILDS COMMUNITY:** Newcomers and long-time residents are engaged to find common ground and shared leadership.

**COMMUNICATES:** Messages of unity and shared values permeate the community through the media, through the voice of leaders, and among residents.

**SUSTAINS:** Policies and practices are considered in order to ensure that interactions between new and longer-term Americans remain positive ones and the community's economic vitality remains strong.

# Engaging the Receiving Community

## Leadership

Engage credible, mainstream leaders to help foster a positive climate.

## Contact

Foster meaningful connections between U.S. born and foreign-born.

## Communications

Provide an alternative to divisive rhetoric about newcomers through messages that speak to unity, common values, and shared contributions.

# Uniting Parents at Schools



- **Fostering bilingual dialogues at diverse schools to bring together parents and build unity and involvement.**
- **Create a comfortable environment and start by discussing cultural differences**
- **Break into small groups and discuss topics such as:**
  - **Why is it important for parents to have cross-cultural interactions?**
  - **What is working well at the school to unite parents?**
  - **What can you do as an individual and what can groups of parents do to further unite the school?**

WELCOMING




Building a Nation of Neighbors

# Welcomingrefugees.org

WELCOMING  
*Refugees*

- Learn Connect Share Your Story About the Project Blog



**LEARN** >

A Welcoming Rhode Island Dialogue

**Upcoming Events**

**SUN 9/15** National Welcoming Week EVENT

**WED 10/9** Welcoming Institute: Leaders Building Community Support for Refugees EVENT

[more](#)


**Latest Resources**

Building Meaningful Contact with Refugees & Receiving Communities: 2 Good Practices ARCHIVED WEBINAR

Using Dialogue to Build Understanding and Welcoming for Refugees ARCHIVED WEBINAR

[more](#)



**From the Blog**



Welcoming Refugees -- Welcome to our new website!

Everyday, those who work in the resettlement field see fi

[more](#)



Share your stories about connecting refugees and receiving communities with us, so that we can feature them in our archive »



Uniting Cultures to Celebrate the Mosaic of Our Community

## OneMorgan County

There are thousands of immigrants who call Morgan County home. We are all neighbors, co-workers, friends and family. OMC's work is aimed at helping to make the transitions associated with immigration more efficient so that each of us in our many roles, whether we are immigrants or receiving community members, have an increased chance of reaching our highest potential for the betterment of ourselves and for our community.

has no authority to make decisions about refugees relocating to Morgan County.

**OneMorgan County does network with refugee resettlement agencies to communicate our community's needs and bring additional resources to the area to address the challenges of secondary migration.**



**VISION:** We celebrate a secure, vibrant and thriving community transformed and enriched through cultural diversity



To be a viable entity acknowledged by the community as an essential partner

To serve a greater proportion of the community

**MISSION:** OneMorgan County fosters relationships among diverse people and organizations to strengthen the inclusive nature of our community.

# Key Strategies of Collaboration



- **Strategy One:** Information Sharing at State and Community Levels
- **Strategy Two:** Refugee-Focused Services
- **Strategy Three:** Integration of Mainstream Services for Refugees
- **Strategy Four:** Partnering with refugee community-based organizations as service providers



# Where are you in your collaboration?

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>Current Partnership Profile</b>	<b>Share information about programs</b> available to families. (i.e. meet with cross-service provider staff routinely to share information, produce a newsletter or brief about the needs and services available to refugees, information and referral efforts in the city for refugees, etc)	<b>Staff from your agencies work on projects together</b> to improve each other's services. (i.e. received a grant that supports multiple agencies individual work, improved outreach awareness efforts together, etc.)	We have <b>changed some rules in the community for serving refugees.</b> (i.e. targeted families are first-in-line for services, staff from service providers are co-located, hours or locations of services have changed to be more convenient, etc)	We have <b>changed the "system" of services that affect or support refugees</b> in our community. (i.e. significant funding has been redirected, staff from separate agencies are cross-trained, governing bodies of organizations have adopted policy changes, etc.)
<b>Refugee Agency</b>				
<b>Labor</b>				
<b>TANF</b>				
<b>Our summary of current strengths and limitations of partnership efforts</b>				

# Q and A: Asking Questions



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## Resources for More Information



### **Office of Refugee Resettlement**

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/)

### **Welcoming America**

[welcomingamerica.org](http://welcomingamerica.org)

### **One Morgan County**

[onemorgancounty.org](http://onemorgancounty.org)