Texas Office for Refugees

TEXAS OFFICE FOR REFUGEES

Refugee Services in Texas

CREATE. ERADICATE. TRANSFORM.

Texas Office for Refugees

TXOR was established in 2021, as the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Replacement Designee for Texas

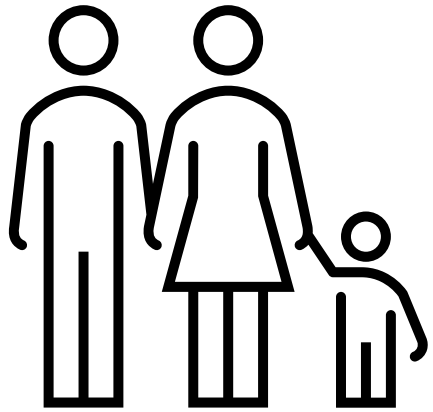
Primary Roles Include:

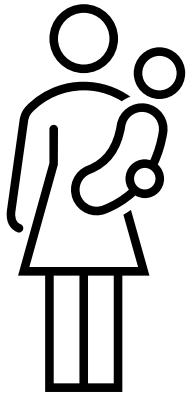
1. Administration of Programs
2. Technical Assistance and Training
3. Community Engagement
4. Monitoring and Evaluation of Programs

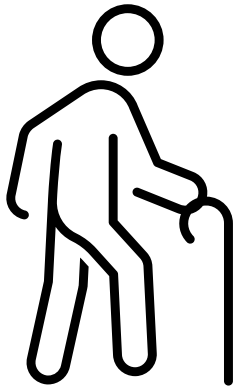
My role as Community Outreach Specialist is to understand the needs for refugees statewide and help our team produce solutions.

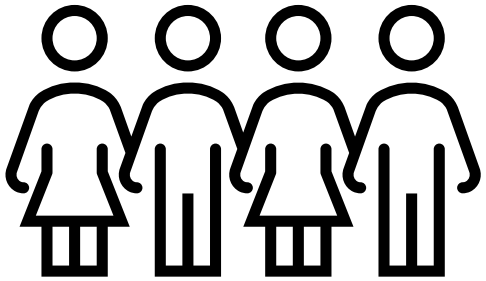
Office of Refugee Resettlement Eligible Populations

- ✓ Refugees
- ✓ Asylees
- ✓ Cuban and Haitian Entrants
- ✓ Amerasians
- ✓ Lawful Permanent Residents
- ✓ Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants
- ✓ Unaccompanied Refugee Minors
- ✓ Victims of Human Trafficking



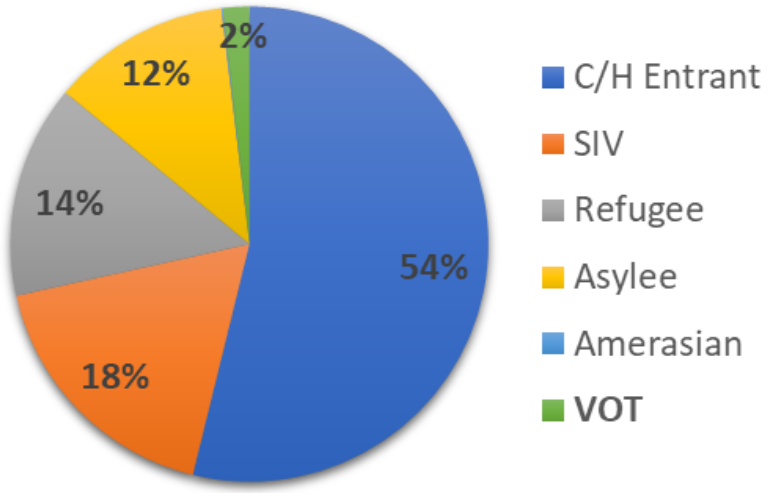




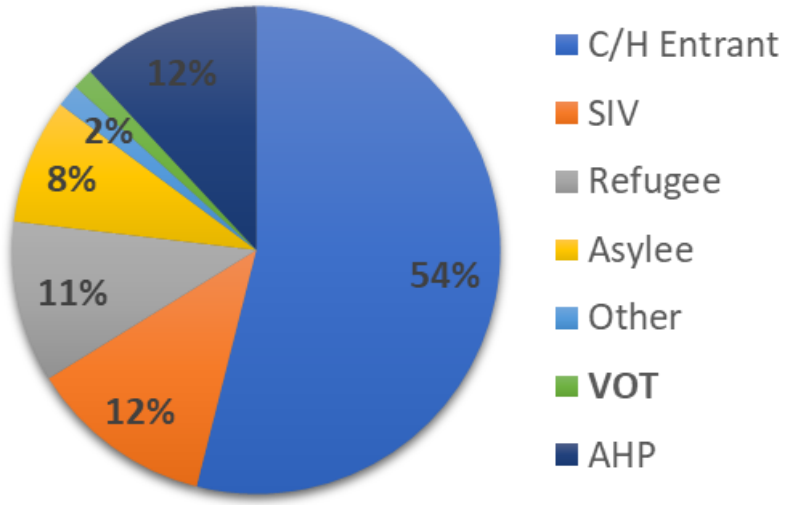


TXOR Population Arrivals

Not Including FY22



Including FY22



ORR Programs + Services

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)	Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)	Civics Instruction
Digital Inclusion Services (DIS)	Driver's Education	Education Services
Employment Services (EMP)	Integration Services	Pre - HSE
Professional Recertification	Refugee Youth Mentoring	Social Adjustment Services
Services for Older Refugees	Vocational Training	Women's Empowerment Program

*Please note, that not all agencies will provide all services listed.

Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)

- Provides refugees with cash assistance the first 8 months after receiving an asylum approval
  - This is currently being extended to a 12-month model to better support clients as they work toward self-sufficiency.
- Clients cannot be co-enrolled in other cash assistance programs while in RCA, such as the Matching Grant program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), etc.

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

- Provides refugees with medical assistance throughout the first 8 months after the date of eligibility

Employment & Education Services

Service providers can assist these populations with:

- ❑ Job Readiness
- ❑ Job Placement and Upgrades
- ❑ Vocational Training and Professional Recertification
- ❑ On-the-Job Training

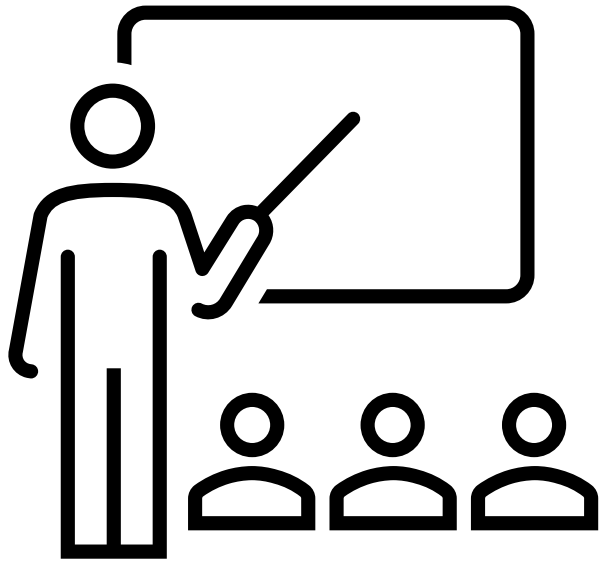
- ❑ English Language Instruction
- ❑ Digital Inclusion
- ❑ Pre-High School Education

TEXAS OFFICE FOR REFUGEES

Social Adjustment Services and Integration Services

Social Adjustment Services:
Strengths-based case management, including assistance in applying for federal and state support programs, obtaining health care to address both physical and mental health needs, access to emergency services, and orientations for cultural adjustment

Integration Services:
- ❑ Citizenship
- ❑ Civics
- ❑ Women's Empowerment
- ❑ Youth Mentoring
- ❑ Services to Older Refugees
- ❑ Driver's Education



Legal Services

Many of these service providers will offer legal aid to their clients for free, including services such as:

1. Lawful Permanent Residency
2. US Citizenship/Naturalization
3. Cuban Adjustment
4. Refugee and Asylee Adjustment
5. Asylum Processing
6. T Visa, U Visa, & VAWA
7. Unaccompanied Minors
8. Refugee Family Petitions
9. Refugee Travel Documents

Federal and State Assistance

Medicaid

- A joint federal and state program that helps low-income individuals and families pay for the costs of medical and long-term custodial care
- Clients can call 2-1-1 to find out eligibility and where the closest benefits office is to them

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- SSI is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and few resources
- SSI is for people who are 65 or older and for anyone who is blind or has a permanent disability, even children

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- SNAP benefits can be used to purchase food from a grocery store
- Clients are given money each month on a plastic card call the Lone Star card, which works like a debit card

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

- TANF provides financial and medical assistance to in need dependent children and the parents or relatives with whom they are living
- Eligible TANF households receive monthly cash and Medicaid benefits.

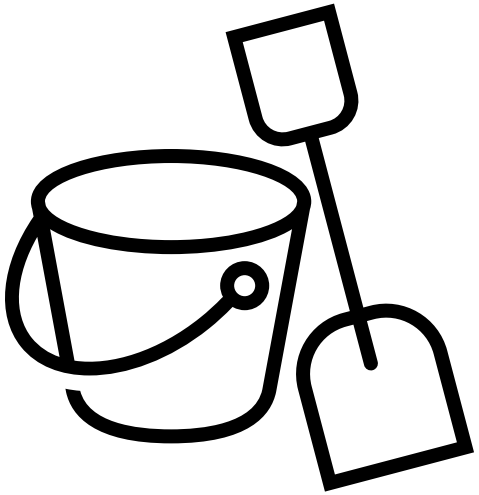
Unaccompanied Minors

ORR serves unaccompanied minors through two distinct programs

1. URM – Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program
2. UC – Unaccompanied Children Program

These programs serves some of the most vulnerable minors (under the age of 18) in the world that immigrate/migrate to the United States without parents/custodians:

- Fleeing persecution
- Escaping violence
- Running from abuse



Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program

URM Eligible Populations

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors may come from any of the following ORR-eligible populations:

- ✓ Refugees
- ✓ Asylees
- ✓ Cuban or Haitian entrants
- ✓ Certain Minors with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- ✓ Victims of Human Trafficking
- ✓ U-Status recipients
- ✓ Paroled Unaccompanied Afghan Minors

URM Program Services

- Financial Support
- Case Management
- Educational Supports
- English Language Training
- Career/College Counseling and Training
- Mental Health Services
- Assistance Adjusting Immigration Status
- Cultural Activities
- Recreational Opportunities
- Support for Social Integration
- Cultural and Religious Preservation

Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program

Unaccompanied Child (UC) Definition:

1. Has no lawful immigration status in the United States
2. Is under 18 years of age
3. Has no parent or legal guardian in the US able to provide care and custody

UC Program Services

- Classroom Education
- Mental and medical health services
- Case management
- Recreation
- Reunification Services

Victims of Trafficking (VOT)

Historically, Texas has served around **812** VOTs (From 2006 - present)

37% **63%**

Top 3 Nationalities
Honduras (**36%**)
Mexico (**21%**)
El Salvador (**13.67%**)

Top 3 Cities serving VOTs
Houston (**45**%)
Austin (**15**%)
Dallas (**6**%)

Top Programs
RCA Texas (**45%**)
Social Adjustment Services (**23%**)
Employment (**19%**)
ELI - English Language Instructions (**5%**)

Top Organizations serving VOTs
YMCA International Services - Houston
Refugee Services of Texas - Austin
Refugee Services of Texas - Houston
Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston
Catholic Charities of Dallas

Victims of Trafficking (VOT)

Refugee Services of Texas – Survivors of Trafficking Empowerment Program (STEP)

Amarillo, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and the Rio Grande Valley

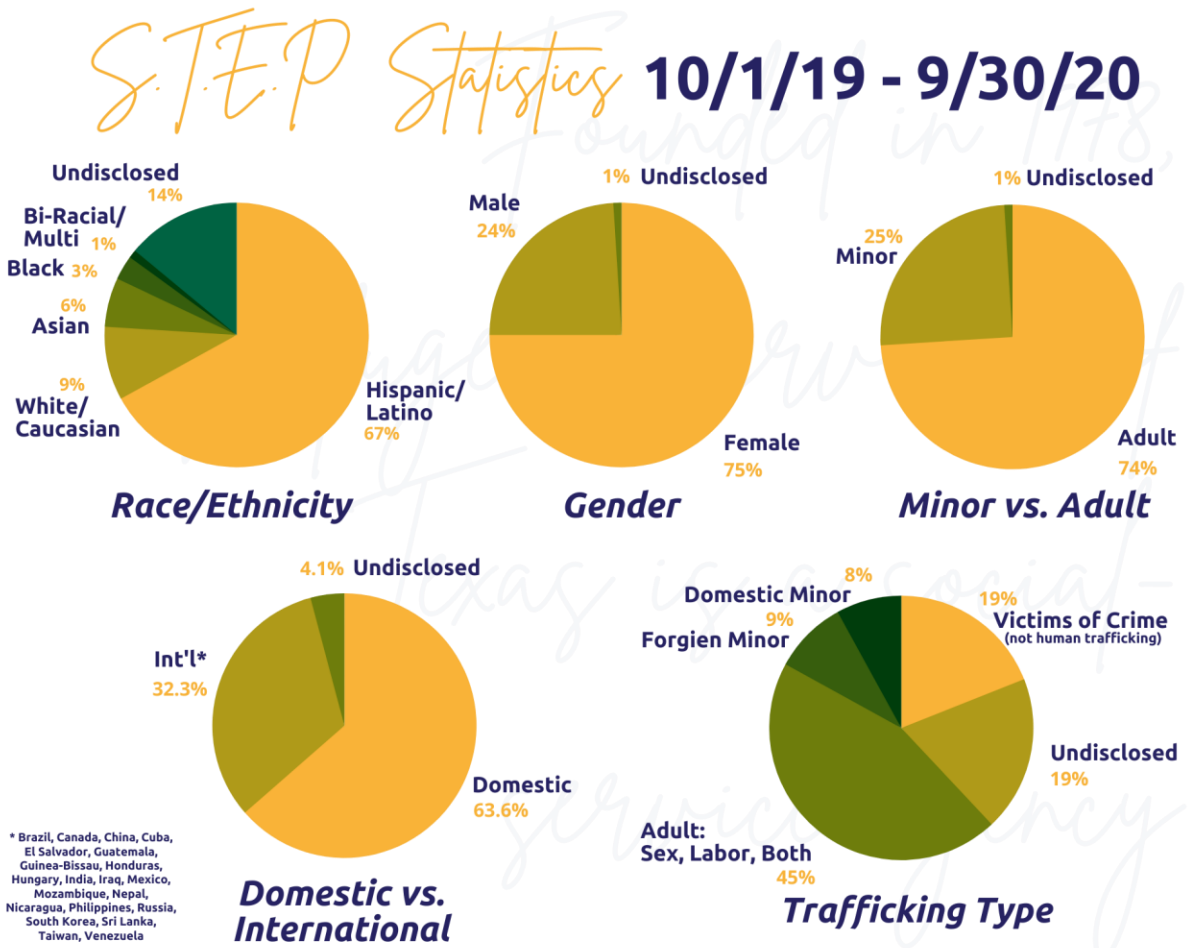
STEP serves the following groups:

- ✓ Victims of human trafficking
- ✓ Victims of labor and sex trafficking
- ✓ Adults and Minors

Services provided:

- Human trafficking screenings
- Crisis management and safety support
- Basic needs assistance
- Counseling services
- Emotional support
- Applications for public benefits
- Community outreach and trainings

Victims of Trafficking (VOT)



Q&A