

Tennessee Office for Refugees

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

To: Representatives of local government
Chairperson, Budget Committee (of city council or county legislative body)
Chairpersons, House and Senate Committees on State and Local Government
Local Refugee Resettlement Program Directors

From: Holly Johnson, State Refugee Coordinator



Date: November 10, 2015

Re: Quarterly report on refugee resettlement for the period 7.1.2015 – 9.30.2015

Herein, please find information on actual arrivals for the period of this report.

Tennessee remains a very strong and welcoming state for refugees fleeing persecution in their homelands. **Thank you** for your continued support and concern for the well-being of refugees in your community. Please contact me (hjohnson@cctenn.org or (615) 354.5700) or your local refugee resettlement agency(ies) if you have any questions. Local agency contact information is below.

Agency	Contact Person	Address	Phone	Email
Bridge Refugee Services - Chattanooga	Marina Peshterianu	4791/A Hal Drive Chattanooga, TN 37416	423-954-9288	marinapesh@aol.com
Bridge Refugee Services - Knoxville	Marina Peshterianu	7035 Middlebrook Pike Suite A Knoxville, TN 37909	865-540-1311	marinapesh@aol.com
Catholic Charities - Nashville	Kellye Branson	2806 McGavock Pike Nashville, TN 37214	615-259-3567	kbranson@cctenn.org
Nashville International Center for Empowerment	Gatluk Thach	417 Welshwood Drive Suite 100 Nashville, TN 37211	615-315-9681	gatluk@empowernashville.org
World Relief - Memphis	Steve Moses	2181 Union Avenue Memphis, TN 38104	901-569-9797	smoses@wr.org
World Relief - Nashville	Tim Patterson	1655 Murfreesboro Pike Suite G Nashville, TN 37217	615-833-7735	tpatterson@wr.org



This report serves to meet the reporting requirements under the Refugee Absorptive Capacity Act (Public Chapter No. 316).

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Anticipated Arrivals:

The U.S. Department of State allocates refugees based on where the resettlement agency is located. In FFY (federal fiscal year) 2016, refugees have been (preliminarily) allocated to programs in the counties below. Actual arrivals may vary. The local refugee resettlement programs and the Tennessee Office for Refugees (TOR) have met with state and local officials and collectively believe that the programs and these counties have the capacity to successfully resettle refugees.

FFY 2016:

Davidson/Rutherford/Williamson	1,350
Hamilton	85
Knox	215
Shelby	200

Actual Arrivals:

For the period of this report, actual new arrivals to counties were as follows:

Davidson	378
Hamilton	42
Knox	84
Rutherford	25
Shelby	60

Age Breakdown:

The age breakdown for these arrivals is as follows:

Minors	251
Employable adults	327
Seniors	11

Letters of Agreement:

The agreements for FFY 2016 are unchanged from FFY 2015.

Information Requests:

For the period of this report, TOR received requests for data from students (undergrad and graduate) and multiple requests for information from Representative Ragan. TOR also received media inquiries about the misreported "10,000 Syrians coming to Tennessee" (Note: UP TO 10,000 will be coming to the US – only a very small fraction of those will come to Tennessee) and questions related to the Chattanooga shooter (Note: he was never a refugee and was therefore never served by our office or any of our partners). Finally, we received many inquiries from the public on how they could help the Syrians if/when they get here.

No complaints were received.