

*This list of “Useful Terms” is taken from the Association of Refugee Health Coordinators (ARHC): Quick Start Guide for State Refugee Health Coordinators developed by the Education and Training Committee of ARHC in November 2008.*

***Disclaimer:** The information in this document is for use as general reference material only, ARHC does not take responsibility for errors or omissions.*

---

## **Useful Terms**

**Adjustment of Status** – procedure allowing certain aliens already in the U.S. to apply for immigrant status (Lawful Permanent Resident); a medical examination performed by an approved civil surgeon is required as part of the application process; refugees are required to apply for adjustment of status one year after arrival in the U.S.

**Administration for Children and Families (ACF)** - the HHS agency responsible for federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities; ORR is part of ACF.

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

**Affidavit of Relationship (AOR)** - a form filed with the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program by refugees, permanent residents, or American citizens to enable persons in countries of first asylum to establish a claim to a relative in the U.S. This form is not used in the application process for an immigrant visa.

**Alien** – a person who is not a citizen or national of the U.S.; term includes Legal Permanent Resident (LPR).

**Amerasian** – refers to certain Amerasians from Vietnam who are admitted to the U.S. as immigrants pursuant to Sec. 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1988 (as contained in Sec. 101(e) of Public Law 100-202 and amended by the 9<sup>th</sup> proviso under Migration and Refugee Assistance in title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100-461 as amended) and “was born in Vietnam after January 1, 1962 and before January 1, 1976 and was fathered by a citizen of the United States.” Amerasians are admitted to the U.S. as immigrants, rather than refugees. They and their immediate relatives are entitled to ORR-funded refugee services and benefits to the same extent as refugees.

**American Council of Voluntary Agencies (ACVA) form** - refers to a form sent by the U.S. Public Health Service quarantine station to the state health department. The ACVA contains demographic and medical information on individual refugees. A sample form is included in File Attachment 4 (Sample ACVA).

## Useful Terms

**Arrival Paper** – the notification form provided by the U.S. Public Health Service quarantine station to the state health department from; also called the ACVA form, Orderly Departure Form, Non-Indochinese Refugee Notification, or Reception and Placement Assurance Form; form contains demographic and medical information on individual refugee arrivals.

**Association of Refugee Health Coordinators (ARHC)** - a national membership organization for state and local Refugee Health Coordinators.

**Asylee** - an alien already in the U.S. or at a port of entry who is found to be unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, or unable to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution because of the alien's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. An asylee has made a formal application for asylum and has been granted asylum by the USCIS or by an Immigration Judge of the Executive Office of Immigration Review of the U.S. Department of Justice. Asylees may also petition for immediate family members who are outside of the U.S. to join them in the U.S. If the petition is approved, their family members are granted derivative asylee status and may join the asylee in the U.S. Asylees are eligible for ORR-funded refugee benefits and assistance beginning on the date of their final grant of asylum.

**Asylum Corps** – corps in USCIS of professional asylum officers who receive special training in international human rights law, conditions in countries of origin, and other relevant national and international refugee law.

**Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)** - private, non-profit organization, based in Washington DC, working to improve communication through better understanding of language and culture. The Cultural Orientation Resource (COR) Center is housed at CAL and works closely with the U.S. government, international organizations, refugee resettlement agencies in the United States, and their representatives overseas to develop and distribute resources about refugee training and resettlement, provide technical assistance regarding refugees' native cultures, languages, and orientation needs, and develop a network of refugee providers who exchange refugee orientation information, concerns, and best practices.

Website: [www.cal.org](http://www.cal.org)

**Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS)** – the HHS agency responsible for health insurance programs for older persons, persons with low income, and all qualified children.

Website: [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)

**Church World Service (CWS)** – a national voluntary agency.

Website: <http://www.churchworldservice.org/Immigration/index.html>

## Useful Terms

**Civil Surgeon** - a physician in the U.S. approved by the USCIS to conduct the medical examination of applicants seeking to adjust status to Lawful Permanent Resident (the terminology for this role when performed abroad is *Panel Physician*).

Civil Surgeon Locator:

[https://egov.uscis.gov/crisgwi/go?action=offices.type&OfficeLocator.office\\_type=CIV](https://egov.uscis.gov/crisgwi/go?action=offices.type&OfficeLocator.office_type=CIV)

Note: A memo that designates county health department physicians as civil surgeons is included in File Attachment 5 (Civil Surgeon Memo)

**Class A Condition** - a medical condition that renders the alien inadmissible to the U.S. under the INA. From TITLE 42--PUBLIC HEALTH, CHAPTER I--PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, PART 34--MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF ALIENS--Table of Contents

Sec. 34.4 Medical notifications.

- (a) Medical examiners shall issue medical notifications of their findings of the presence or absence of Class A or Class B medical conditions. The presence of such condition must have been clearly established.
- (b) Class A medical notifications. (1) The medical examiner shall report his/her findings to the consular officer or the INS by Class A medical notification which lists the specific condition for which the alien may be excluded, if an alien is found to have:
  - (i) A communicable disease of public health significance;
  - (ii)(A) A physical or mental disorder, and behavior associated with the disorder that may pose, or has posed, a threat to the property, safety, or welfare of the alien or others; or  
(B) A history of a physical or mental disorder and behavior associated with the disorder, which behavior has posed a threat to the property, safety, or welfare of the alien or others and which behavior is likely to recur or lead to other harmful behavior;
  - (iii) Drug abuse or addition;

and diagnosed in a refugee during the overseas medical examination. Class A conditions require approved waivers for entry to the U.S. and require follow-up upon arrival by appropriate medical personnel.

**Class B Condition** - a physical or mental abnormality, disease, or disability serious in degree or permanent in nature amounting to a substantial departure from normal well-being diagnosed during the overseas medical examination; Class B designations indicate a need for follow-up soon after arrival in the U.S. by appropriate medical personnel but are not grounds for inadmissibility to the U.S. under the INA.

**Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)** – compilation of federal rules and regulations.

Search the CFR on the web: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

## Useful Terms

**Community-Based Organization (CBO)** – a non-profit organization that serves needs of the community within which it is located

**Cuban/Haitian Entrant** - refers to (a) Any individual granted parole status as a Cuban/Haitian Entrant (Status Pending) or granted any other special status subsequently established under the immigration laws for nationals of Cuba or Haiti, regardless of the status of the individual at the time assistance or services are provided; and (b) Any other national of Cuba or Haiti (1) Who: (i) Was paroled into the United States and has not acquired any other status under the Immigration and Nationality Act; (ii) Is the subject of exclusion or deportation proceedings under the Immigration and Nationality Act; or (iii) Has an application for asylum pending with the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and (2) With respect to whom a final, non-appealable, and legally enforceable order of deportation or exclusion has not been entered. (Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-422).

**Cultural Orientation (CO)** - overseas CO helps refugees develop realistic expectations about life in the United States; the overseas CO program is funded by the Department of State, Bureau of Populations, Refugees, and Migration. CO is not required for admission to the U.S. as a refugee.

Website: [www.cal.org/co/overseas/](http://www.cal.org/co/overseas/)

**Customs and Border Protection (CBP)** – agency within DHS responsible for enforcement of immigration and customs laws at the air, land, and sea ports of entry to the U.S.; CBP can exclude from the U.S. those aliens found to be inadmissible upon inspection at the port of entry or within 100 miles of the border.

**Date of Entry** - a term for the date on which individuals become eligible for benefits and services. For refugees this is their date of arrival in the U.S. (as recorded on the Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record). For Cuban/Haitian Entrants this is the date they were granted Cuban/Haitian Entrant status, which is typically the date of their parole into the U.S. For asylees this is the date of final grant of asylum (as noted on the approval letter or immigration court order). For victims of a severe form of trafficking it is the date of certification or eligibility (as noted on the certification or eligibility letter), or date they were granted a T visa.

**Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ or DQ)** – the CDC division responsible for reducing morbidity and mortality due to infectious diseases among immigrants, refugees, international travelers, and other mobile populations that cross international borders. In addition, DGMQ is committed to promoting border health and preventing the introduction of infectious agents into the U.S. DGMQ is responsible for 20 Quarantine Stations at U.S. ports of entry and land-border crossings.

Website: [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq)

## Useful Terms

**Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** – the federal agency tasked with leading the unified national effort to secure America; charged with protecting the United States from threats and hazards; also responsible for ensuring safe and secure borders, enforcing the INA, welcoming lawful immigrants and visitors, and promoting the free-flow of commerce. USCIS, ICE and CBP are part of DHS.

Website: [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

**Department of Justice (DOJ)** – the federal agency that enforces federal laws

Website: [www.justice.gov](http://www.justice.gov)

**Department of State (DOS)** – the federal agency with principal responsibility for the foreign policy and international relations of the U.S., including non-military programs and activities of the U.S. Government abroad, and the visa function.

Website: [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

**Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE)** – the CDC Division responsible for prevention and control of TB in the U.S.

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb>

**DS-2053** - a Department of State form required for medical examination of applicants overseas for U.S. visas; this form is in the possession of the refugee on his/her arrival in the U.S. and contains all findings from the overseas medical examination.

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/dsforms/2053.htm>

**Electronic Disease Notification (EDN)** – a web-based system that automates the process by which states or local health officials are notified of the arrival of immigrants with medical or health conditions and refugees (not currently available in all areas). EDN provides relevant overseas medical screening and treatment information for stateside follow-up; EDN is administered by the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine.

**Employment Authorization Document (EAD)** – document issued by USCIS to the alien granting him/her authorization to work in the U.S., or evidence of employment authorization incident to the alien's immigration status.

**Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM)** – a national voluntary agency.

Website: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/emm.htm>

**Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)** – a national voluntary agency.

Website: [www.ecdcinternational.org/](http://www.ecdcinternational.org/)

## Useful Terms

**Health Assessment (aka “Domestic Health Exam” or “Health Screening” or “Medical Screening”)** - the comprehensive assessment of newly arrived refugees; it should include a follow-up of conditions identified overseas; and evaluation and diagnostic services to determine health status and identify health problems; referral for follow-up of identified health problems; education/orientation to local health care services; and linkage with primary health care services. The process varies depending on the state. ORR uses the term “Medical Screening” in the regulations.

**Health and Human Services (HHS)** – the federal agency that administers federal health and social services programs

Website: [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov)

**Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)** – a national voluntary agency.

Website: [www.hias.org](http://www.hias.org)

**I-94** - the immigration document that records each alien’s arrival and departure from the U.S. It identifies the period of time for which the alien is admitted and the alien’s immigrant status

**Immigrant** - a person who is not a U.S. citizen or national who enters the U.S. with the intent to remain for an indefinite period of time or, once in the U.S., is granted permission to do so (see Adjustment of Status).

**Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** – the agency within the Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for enforcement of the immigration laws; ICE detects, detains, and removes from the U.S. aliens unlawfully present in the U.S. and aliens who have otherwise violated the immigration laws.

Website: [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)

**Immigration Status** - the status under the INA under which an alien is allowed to enter and remain in the U.S., and which determines the activities he/she is permitted to engage in while in the U.S. Examples of immigration status include Lawful Permanent Resident, refugee, Cuban/Haitian Entrant, visitor for business or pleasure, student, exchange visitor, specialized worker, temporary agricultural worker, crewmember, and parolee. Aliens physically in the U.S. who lack an immigration status, who violate the terms of their visas, or who overstay their visas are considered unlawfully present

**Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) of 1952** – the Act that, along with other immigration laws, treaties, and conventions of the United States, relates to the immigration, temporary admission, naturalization, or removal of aliens

Website:

<http://www.uscis.gov/propub/ProPubVAP.jsp?dockkey=cb90c19a50729fb47fb0686648558dbe>

## Useful Terms

**Information on Migrant Populations (IMP)** – a CDC data notification system for all refugees and immigrants with Class A/B TB conditions (being replaced with EDN in 2007-08)

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)** – persons who have been forced to flee their homes for the same reasons as refugees, but who have not left their own countries and are therefore not considered "refugees" under the UNHCR Statute (General Assembly res. 428 (v)) or under relevant international or regional instruments.

**International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** - intergovernmental agency with a permanent mandate founded in international law, on a worldwide basis to help victims of conflicts and internal violence, whoever they may be.

Website: [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

**International Organization for Migration (IOM)** - the intergovernmental organization that arranges refugee travel and travel loan to the U.S.; provides cultural orientation briefings and/or medical screenings in some locations.

Website: [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)

**International Rescue Committee (IRC)** – a national voluntary agency.

Website: [www.theirc.org](http://www.theirc.org)

**IOM Bag** - the large white plastic bag issued to refugees at the time of travel to the U.S. in order to carry medical and other documents, including the OF-157, immunization records, and overseas chest X rays.

**Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA) (now OPE)** – see Overseas Processing Entity; former term for this function.

**Lawful Permanent Resident (also called Permanent Resident) (LPR)** – an alien granted permission by DHS/USCIS to remain permanently in the U.S., evidenced by I-551 (green card). After one year in the U.S., refugees must apply for adjustment of status to LPR. After one year in the U.S., asylees are permitted to, but are not required to, apply for adjustment of status to LPR. After five years in LPR status (four years for refugees), the LPR may file an application for naturalization to become a U.S. citizen. LPRs who obtained LPR status by marriage to a U.S. citizen are eligible to apply for naturalization in three years.

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)** – a national voluntary agency.

Website: [www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org)

## Useful Terms

**Match Grant Program** – the ORR discretionary grant program that provides grants to VOLAGs to resettle newly arriving refugees and assist them in becoming economically self-sufficient within the first 4-6 months in the U.S. without access to public assistance. The Matching Grant Program requires a match from private funds or donated goods and services to partner with monies provided by ORR.

Website: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/match\\_grant\\_prg.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/match_grant_prg.htm)

**Medicaid** - a state administered program, jointly funded by the states and federal government, that provides medical coverage to eligible persons based on age, income, and/or disability status. Eligible groups include children, adults with dependent minors, and SSI recipients. Each state sets its own guidelines regarding eligibility and services.

**Migrant** - generally understood to be an economic migrant who has been “engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a national”; the term also encompasses undocumented migrants. The term “migrant” should be understood to include cases where the decision to migrate has been taken freely, for “personal convenience,” without any external compelling factors such as ethnic or civil strife or any environmental destruction.

**Mutual Assistance Association (MAA)** – a non-profit, community-based organization promoting successful refugee resettlement comprised of refugee populations. Generally, MAAs are small grass-roots organizations that work in specific communities and geographic areas. ORR encourages states to give special consideration to MAAs in contracting refugee services.

**Non-immigrant** – a foreign national who seeks temporary entry to the U.S. for a specific purpose (e.g., persons on student, business or tourist visas).

**Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA)** – the HHS Office responsible for promoting the health of people worldwide by advancing HHS' global strategies and partnerships.

Website: [www.globalhealth.gov/globalhealth/refugee/index.html](http://www.globalhealth.gov/globalhealth/refugee/index.html)

**Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)** - the HHS agency responsible for the domestic refugee resettlement program, refugees, asylees, Amerasians, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, victims of trafficking, survivors of torture, unaccompanied alien children, Lawful Permanent Residents who have held one of these statuses in the past and Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders, as well as the repatriation of U.S. citizens.

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

**Optional Form 157 (OF-157) (replaced by DS-2053)** – the DOS form for medical examination of applicants overseas for U.S. visas. No longer in use; the DS-2053 replaced the OF-157.



## Useful Terms

**Orderly Departure Program (ODP)** – the program between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Vietnam that established a legal emigration program for those seeking family reunification, or those of special interest to resettlement countries (e.g., former political detainees, Amerasians); program was established to provide an alternative to the dangerous boat departures.

**Overseas Processing Entity (OPE)** – funded by DOS/PRM to prepare the necessary casework for persons eligible for consideration by the USCIS under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and, for those approved, to provide assistance in completing the additional requirements for refugee admission under Section 207 of the INA. In addition, the OPE forwards the necessary data on all DHS-approved cases to the Refugee Processing Center (RPC) for distribution to Reception and Placement agencies according to procedures established by PRM. Many also provide cultural orientation.

**Panel Physician** – a physician, appointed by the U.S. Consul and per the INA, who conducts the medical examination of the alien overseas (the terminology for this role when performed in the U.S. is *Civil Surgeon*)

**Parolee** – an alien who has been given permission to enter the U.S. under emergency or humanitarian conditions or when that alien's entry is considered to be in the public interest or for significant public benefit. Parole does not constitute a formal admission to the U.S. and confers temporary status only. Absent a change in or adjustment of status, parolees must depart the U.S. when the conditions supporting their parole cease to exist. There are several types of parole, including parole authorized as part of an overseas parole program (such as the U.S. has with Cuba), port-of-entry parole, deferred inspection parole, advance parole, humanitarian parole, or public interest parole.

Under the INA a parole is not an admission to the U.S.

**Permanent Resident** – see Lawful Permanent Resident

**Port of Entry** – any location in the U.S. or its territories that is designated as a port of entry for aliens and U.S. citizens; refugees are generally limited to entering the country through those ports of entry with staffed Quarantine Stations

**Population, Refugees, and Migration [Bureau of] (PRM)** – the Department of State bureau responsible for formulating policies on population, refugees, and migration, and for administering U.S. refugee assistance and admissions programs.

Website: [www.state.gov/g/prm/](http://www.state.gov/g/prm/)

## Useful Terms

**Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Program** – ORR program under which states have the option of entering into a partnership agreement with local resettlement agencies for the operation of a public/private refugee cash assistance (RCA) program. The partnerships facilitate the successful resettlement of refugee by integrating cash assistance with resettlement services and ongoing case management. Through these public/private RCA programs, States are permitted to include employment incentives that support the refugee program’s goal of family self-sufficiency and social adjustment in the shortest possible time after arrival.

**Quarantine Station (Q-Station)** - the station at a major port of entry charged with preventing the importation and spread of communicable disease into the U.S.; quarantine officers inspect arriving aliens and review medical documents, copies of which are forwarded to appropriate health authorities in the resettlement location.

Website: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/quarantine\\_stations.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/quarantine_stations.htm)

**Reception and Placement (R&P)** - the initial resettlement services provided by voluntary agencies (VOLAGs) and their affiliates through cooperative agreements with the Department of State, to refugees upon their arrival in the U.S. These initial services cover basic food, clothing, shelter, orientation, referral, and other services for the first 90 days after the refugee’s arrival in the U.S.

**Refugee** - any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The term “refugee” is distinguished from “asylee” in that “refugee” refers to individuals admitted into the U.S. under Section 207 of the INA and determined to be refugees before arriving in the U.S., while asylees are aliens in the U.S. who are determined to meet the legal definition of “refugee” in Section 101 (a) 42 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and are granted asylum in the U.S.

*Note: For the purposes of the Refugee Health Program, the term “refugee” is generally inclusive of all persons eligible for ORR-funded refugee benefits and assistance, including asylees, victims of trafficking, and Cuban/Haitian entrants.*

**Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)** - temporary cash assistance provided by ORR to needy refugees who arrive in the U.S. with no financial resources and are not eligible for other assistance programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI); this cash assistance is paid entirely from federal funds and is available only for eight months following arrival in the U.S.

Website: [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/benefits/cma.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/benefits/cma.htm)

## Useful Terms

**Refugee Corps** - corps in USCIS of officers dedicated to the adjudication of refugee applications at overseas locations; Refugee Corps officers are based in Washington, DC, but travel overseas for 50% of the year.

**Refugee Council USA (RCUSA)** - coalition of U.S. non-governmental organizations focused on refugee protection.

Website: [www.rcusa.org](http://www.rcusa.org)

**Refugee Health Coordinator (RHC)** – state or local person responsible for administration of refugee health programs and services within their jurisdiction.

**Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)** – funding for temporary medical assistance provided by ORR to needy refugees who arrive in the U.S. with no financial resources and are not eligible for other assistance programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Medicaid; this medical assistance is paid for entirely from federal funds and is available only for eight months following arrival in the U.S.

**Refugee Processing Center (RPC)** – center operated by the U.S Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. The RPC mission is to provide the necessary technical, data and refugee processing support to assist DOS/PRM in achieving its annual U.S. Refugee Admissions Program objectives. At the RPC and at Overseas Processing Entities (OPEs), an interactive computer system called the Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS) is used to process and track the movement of refugees from various countries around the world to the U.S. for resettlement under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

Website: [www.wrapsnet.org/](http://www.wrapsnet.org/)

**Refugee Resettlement Program** - federally-funded program for the resettlement in the U.S. of refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, Amerasians, and Victims of Trafficking, LPRs who have held one of these statuses, and Unaccompanied Alien Children, administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/about/divisions.htm>

**Refugee Social Services (RSS)** – intensive social services provided to help refugees obtain employment, achieve economic self-sufficiency, and realize social adjustment. Programs that administer RSS services are funded through ORR, which provides both state grants and direct-service grants. The programs provide employability and other services which may include employment assistance, job training, English language training, and social adjustment. Refugees and other ORR eligible populations are only eligible for this program for the first 60 months from their date of entry.

**Request for Evidence (RFE)** – upon application by alien to DHS/USCIS for an immigration benefit, request by USCIS for additional or missing evidence such as medical information.

## Useful Terms

**Resettlement Agency (VOLAG)** – see Voluntary Resettlement Agency.

**Returnees** - refugees or internally displaced persons who have returned to their place of origin.

**Special Immigrant (Iraqi and Afghani)** - refers to Iraqi and Afghan aliens granted special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who are eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of such Act for a limited period.

**Sponsor** – the person or organization that assists an applicant in their admission to the U.S. The term "sponsor" in the immigration sense often means to bring to the U.S. or "petition for". In the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program the voluntary agencies that have cooperative agreements with the Department of State are the sponsors of the refugees they resettle.

**State Coordinators of Refugee Resettlement (SCORR)** – national membership organization for State Refugee Coordinators.

**State Letter** – a letter to provide policy guidance to the field on a specific subject; issued by the director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement; most recent state letters may be found on the ORR website.

Website: [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/policy/orr\\_policy.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/policy/orr_policy.htm)

**State Refugee Coordinator (SRC)** – person designated as responsible for administration of ORR programs within a state

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** – the federal agency, which is comprised of three centers, that carry out the agency's mission of providing substance abuse and mental health services; the Refugee Mental Health Program (RMHP) is within the Center for Mental Health Services.

Website: <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/cmhs/SpecialPopulations/refugmhnew.asp>

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** - federally-administered program that provides assistance for individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled and have limited income and resources as established under title XVI of the Social Security Act.

Website: <http://www.ssa.gov/ssi/>

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** - state-administered program, jointly funded by the states and federal government, that provides cash assistance and work opportunities to needy families with dependent children. States are granted wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs.

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/>

## Useful Terms

**Trafficking Victim (Victim of a Severe Form of Trafficking in persons)** - individual who is subjected to (1) Sex Trafficking, which is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act [any sex act, on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person], in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years; or (2) Labor Trafficking, which is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. Victims of trafficking are eligible for ORR benefits and services and other federal benefits provided they have been certified as a victim of trafficking by ORR.

Website: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/anti\\_trafficking.htm#\\_ftn1](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/anti_trafficking.htm#_ftn1)

**Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC)** – refers to unaccompanied minors placed into ORR custody until his/her reunification with family members or sponsors in the U.S. or until he/she is removed to his/her home country by DHS immigration officials.

Website: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/unaccompanied\\_alien\\_children.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/unaccompanied_alien_children.htm)

**Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URMP)** - assists unaccompanied minor refugees and entrants in developing appropriate skills to enter adulthood and to achieve economic and social self-sufficiency; administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Website: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/unaccompanied\\_refugee\\_minors.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/unaccompanied_refugee_minors.htm)

**Undocumented Immigrant (or Undocumented Alien)** - a person who is not a U.S. citizen or national, who has entered the U.S. (or has remained in the U.S.) and is not in a legal immigration status under the INA and lacks proper immigration documentation.

**United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)** – international organization, headquartered in Geneva that, with host country authorization, provides services (directly or indirectly) in refugee camps including protection, assistance, medical services, registration of camp population, and referral for possible resettlement in the U.S. or other refugee-receiving country.

Website: [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)** – a national voluntary agency.

Website: <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/refugeeprograms.shtml>

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS, formerly INS)** - agency within the Department of Homeland Security that adjudicates applications for immigration benefits under the INA including employment authorization, refugee travel document and advance parole, adjustment of status, and naturalization.

Website: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

## Useful Terms

**U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)** – a national voluntary agency.

Website: [www.refugees.org](http://www.refugees.org)

**Unlawfully Present Alien** – includes undocumented aliens, aliens who violate the terms of their visas, and visa overstays.

**Visa Medical Examination** – also called overseas medical examination; the physical and mental examination the immigrants and refugees coming to the U.S. complete as part of the visa application process to identify the presence or absence of certain disorders that could result in exclusion from the U.S. under provisions of the INA.

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/health.htm>

**Voluntary Resettlement Agency (VOLAG)** – (aka “Resettlement Agency”) Public or private agencies that provide initial reception and placement services to newly-arriving refugees under cooperative agreements with the Department of State. Currently, the Department of State has such agreements with nine national agencies and one state government agency (Iowa). Local affiliates of these national agencies may be referred to as VOLAGs and are responsible for providing initial R&P services covering basic food, clothing, shelter, orientation, referral, and other services for the first 90 days after arrival for refugees. They often serve as providers of other services, including RSS, TAG or Matching Grant.

Web resource: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/partners/voluntary\\_agencies.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/partners/voluntary_agencies.htm)

**Wilson/Fish Alternative** - an alternative to traditional publicly-administered programs or public/private partnerships for providing assistance to refugees; this program is delivered through public or private nonprofit agencies and provides integrated services and cash assistance such as interim financial assistance, case management, social services and may include medical assistance to refugees and eligible populations. The Wilson/Fish Projects provide such integrated services and cash assistance to refugees to increase their prospects for early employment and self-sufficiency, and to reduce their level of welfare dependence. States that determine that a public/private RCA program or publicly-administered program modeled after its TANF program is not the best approach for the state, may choose instead to establish an alternative approach under the Wilson/Fish program. If a state withdraws from all or part of the refugee resettlement program, a public or private nonprofit organization may apply to operate refugee programs in the state under the Wilson/Fish program.

**World Health Organization (WHO)** – directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system; responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

Website: <http://www.who.int/en/>

## **Useful Terms**

**World Relief (WR)** – a national voluntary agency.

Website: [www.wr.org](http://www.wr.org)

**Worldwide Refugee Admission Processing System (WRAPS)** – the Department of State’s interactive computer system used to process and track the movement of refugees from various countries around the world to the U.S. for resettlement under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

Website: [www.wrapsnet.org/](http://www.wrapsnet.org/)