

District Judge Jamal N. Whitehead

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

PLAINTIFF PACITO; PLAINTIFF ESTHER; CASE NO. 2:25-cv-00255
PLAINTIFF JOSEPHINE; PLAINTIFF
SARA; PLAINTIFF ALYAS; PLAINTIFF NOTICE REGARDING PROGRAM OF
MARCOS; PLAINTIFF AHMED; INITIAL RESETTLEMENT
PLAINTIFF RACHEL; PLAINTIFF ALI;
HIAS, INC.; CHURCH WORLD SERVICE,
INC.; LUTHERAN COMMUNITY
SERVICES NORTHWEST,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, in his official capacity
as President of the United States; MARCO
RUBIO, in his official capacity as Secretary of
State; KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity
as Secretary of Homeland Security;
DOROTHY A. FINK, in her official capacity
as Acting Secretary of Health and Human
Services,

Defendants.

NOTICE REGARDING PROGRAM
OF INITIAL RESETTLEMENT
[CASE No. 2:25-cv-00255]

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CIVIL DIVISION, OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION LITIGATION
P.O. BOX 878, BEN FRANKLIN STATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20044

1 Defendants respectfully submit this notice to inform the Court of a change in the way initial
2 resettlement services are provided to refugees admitted to the United States through the U.S.
3 Refugee Admissions Program.

4 Before January 1, 2026, the Department of State (State) and the Office of Refugee
5 Resettlement, a subagency of Health and Human Services (HHS-ORR), coordinated to provide
6 distinct types of services to refugees in the United States. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1522. State provided
7 refugees, through cooperative agreements with resettlement agencies, initial services such as
8 airport pickup, housing arrangements, and funding for food, transportation, and household
9 necessities. These were known as “Reception and Placement (R&P)” services. R&P services were
10 provided through these cooperative agreements for 30 days and extendable for up to 90 days. HHS-
11 ORR, by contrast, provided longer-term services to refugees such as cash and medical assistance
12 which refugees may access for up to four months, as well as refugee social services including case
13 management, assistance with finding employment, and English language learning which they can
14 receive for up to five years from their date of ORR eligibility.

15 On September 30, 2025, the President of the United States issued a determination that, in
16 order administer refugee resettlement in a manner that is consistent with national interest, uses
17 taxpayer dollars efficiently, protects of the integrity of the U.S. immigration system, and supports
18 refugees, the responsibility for administering the program of initial resettlement grants and
19 contracts shall be transferred to HHS-ORR. 90 Fed. Reg. 49007 (Oct. 31, 2025). Pursuant to that
20 authority, effective January 1, 2026, all services authorized under section 1522 are provided by
21 HHS-ORR. *See* Office of Refugee Resettlement, *ORR Begins the Program of Initial Resettlement*,
22 <https://acf.gov/orr> (last visited Jan. 8, 2026). HHS-ORR has designated the benefits and services
23

1 that replace R&P services the “Program of Initial Resettlement.” ORR will provide services under
 2 this program along with its longer-term cash and medical assistance and refugee social services.
 3 More details on services to refugees is available at: <https://acf.gov/orr/programs/refugees>. State
 4 thus is no longer responsible for the provision of initial resettlement services to refugees after their
 5 arrival to the United States; rather HHS-ORR is now responsible for doing so.

6 January 9, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

7 BRETT A. SHUMATE
 8 Assistant Attorney General
 Civil Division

9 ERNESTO H. MOLINA
 10 Deputy Director

11 /s/ Joseph McCarter
 JOSEPH MCCARTER
 12 ILANA KRAMER
 JASON ZUBATA
 13 Trial Attorneys
 U.S. Dept. of Justice, Civil Division
 14 Office of Immigration Litigation
 P.O. Box 878, Ben Franklin Station
 15 Washington, D.C. 20044
 Phone: (202) 746-8537
 16 Email: Joseph.A.McCarter@usdoj.gov

17 *Attorneys for Defendants*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that, on January 9, 2026, he caused a copy of this notice to be served on counsel for Plaintiffs via the ECF system.

/s/ Joseph McCarter
JOSEPH MCCARTER
Attorney for Defendants