

1 District Judge Jamal N. Whitehead  
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

7 PLAINTIFF PACITO; PLAINTIFF ESTHER; CASE NO. 2:25-cv-00255  
8 PLAINTIFF JOSEPHINE; PLAINTIFF  
9 SARA; PLAINTIFF ALYAS; PLAINTIFF  
10 MARCOS; PLAINTIFF AHMED;  
PLAINTIFF RACHEL; PLAINTIFF ALI;  
HIAS, INC.; CHURCH WORLD SERVICE,  
INC.; LUTHERAN COMMUNITY  
SERVICES NORTHWEST,

NOTICE REGARDING PROGRAM OF  
INITIAL RESETTLEMENT

11 *Plaintiffs,*

12 v.

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

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17 *Defendants.*  
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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

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  
 9 Civil Division

10 ERNESTO H. MOLINA  
 11 Deputy Director

12 /s/ Joseph McCarter  
 13 JOSEPH MCCARTER  
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23 *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