



World Refugee Day

June 20, 2015

What is World Refugee Day?

In 2001, the United Nations declared June 20th World Refugee Day, a worldwide celebration. The day honors the courage and determination of families forced to flee their homes due to threat of persecution. This celebration is an opportunity to acknowledge the impact of war on families, bring awareness to the refugee experience, and celebrate the vast contributions refugee families have made in communities across the United States.



Head Start/Refugee Resettlement Collaboration Story

The Champlain Valley Head Start and Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program will be collaborating on their 13th World Refugee Day celebration in Schmanska Park in Burlington, Vt. New Americans from all over the world come

together to play soccer, cane ball, and other sports and games; enjoy local musicians and dancers; eat potluck food together; and celebrate their multicultural festival as a community.

How do Refugees Arrive in the U.S.?

START: Refugee flees from his/her country of origin to a country of asylum.

The refugee registers with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This agency makes sure that the individual qualifies as a refugee fleeing persecution under international law.

The refugee is referred by UNHCR to the U.S. Embassy in the country of asylum, or an authorized Non-governmental organization (NGO) to the U.S. Refugee Program.

An agency contracted with the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) prepares a case file (usually called an "Overseas Processing Entity").

An officer from the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS/USCIS) conducts a detailed, face-to-face interview with the individual to determine if s/he qualifies as a refugee under U.S. Law.

The refugee's case is submitted to the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) for final approval for admission, and the refugee's information is sent to the Refugee Processing Center where the refugee individual or family is accepted by a national resettlement agency and assigned to a local affiliate for resettlement.

Meanwhile, the refugee receives a medical examination and usually some type of cultural orientation to the U.S.

The refugee is met at the airport by staff from a local refugee resettlement agency and taken to an apartment that has been prepared for them.

END: Resettlement agencies provide the refugee with services such as case management, assistance learning English, and help finding a job.

Source: www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/ and www.brycs.org





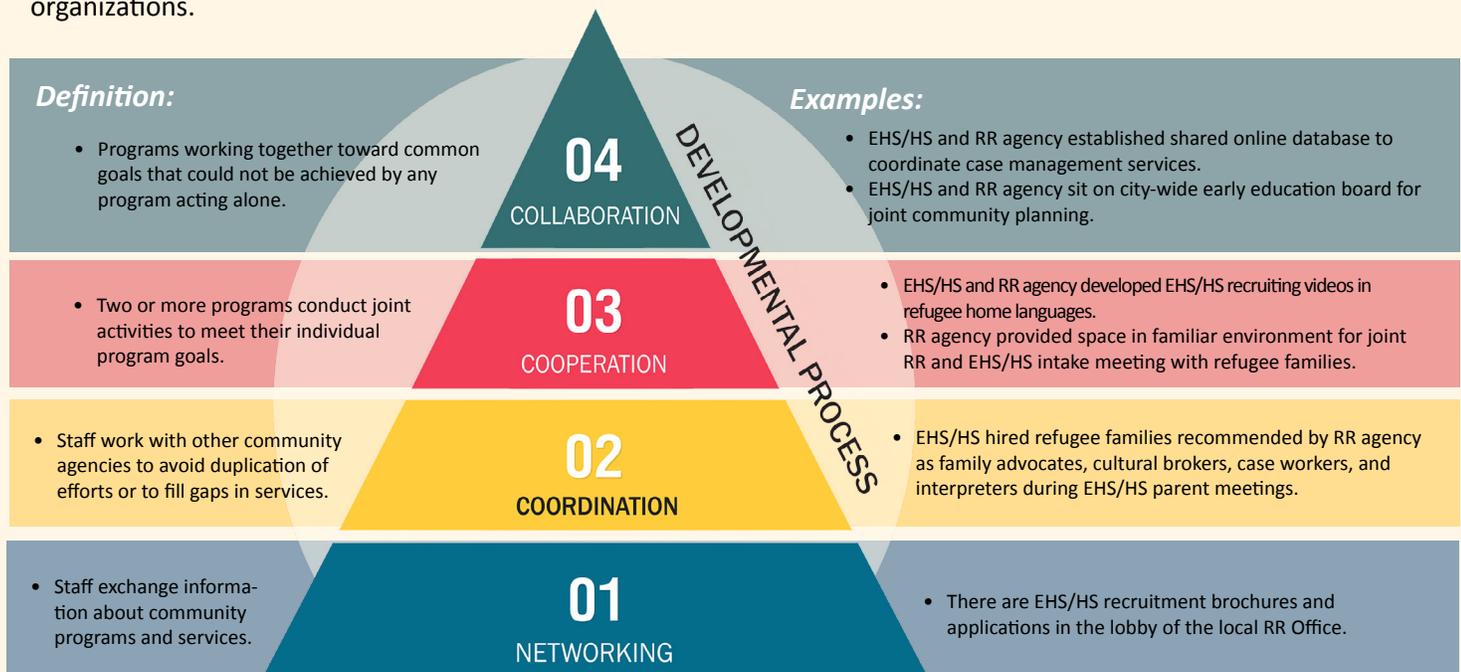
Conversation Starters *(or staff, families, and partners can design program specific questions)*

Strong, effective collaborations are built over time and require a trusting, supportive, and reciprocal relationship. Conversation Starters can help to begin Early Head Start (EHS)/Head Start (HS) and Refugee Resettlement (RR) partnerships and collaborations.

- How can we ensure that emerging populations are reflected in our community assessment?
- How can we share information about our program with partners to identify the overlaps and gaps in services?
- How do we build relationships with refugee families and communities?
- How do we engage in culturally responsive practices in our program?

The Developmental Continuum of Collaboration

Below are different levels of collaboration. Think about how your program is currently engaging with community organizations.



Source: Adapted from The QUILT Project by The OHS EHSNRC

Helpful NCCLR References and other Resources

Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services — www.BRYCS.org

Office of Head Start Early Head Start National Resource Center: Adapted from the QUILT (Quality in Linking Together) Project, through a partnership with the Community Development Institute, the Education Development Center, and the National Child Care Information Center. QUILT was funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, 2002. Adapted from Kagan, S. L. (1991). *United we stand: Collaboration for child care and early education services*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.; Winer, M., & Ray, K. (2003). *Collaboration handbook: Creating, sustaining, and enjoying the journey*. St. Paul, MN: Amherst H. Wilder Foundation.

Office of Head Start National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness. Refugee Families — <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/refugee-families/main-refugee-families.html>

Office of Refugee Resettlement — <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/events>

Share with us your collaboration story: Ncclr@bankstreet.edu