

# Senate Bill 1000

Sponsored by Senator DEMBROW

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Adds new entity eligible to receive grant funds to provide services to refugees and adds new categories of refugees eligible for assistance. Requires Department of Human Services to provide grantees with funding for specified services related to housing. Requires department to hire full-time State Refugee Coordinator and Refugee Housing Coordinator. Appropriates moneys to department to carry out new requirements.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to refugees; creating new provisions; amending ORS 411.139; and declaring an emergency.

2 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

3 **SECTION 1.** ORS 411.139, as amended by section 12, chapter 97, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended  
4 to read:

5 411.139. (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Eligible agency" means an agency that:

7 (A) Has contracted with the United States Department of State under 8 U.S.C. 1522(c) to provide  
8 initial resettlement and case management services to refugees; **or**

9 (B) **Receives funding through a cooperative agreement with the United States Depart-**  
10 **ment of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration to provide reception and**  
11 **placement services to refugees residing in remote areas of this state.**

12 (b) "Refugee" means an individual who is not a United States citizen, who has been in the  
13 United States for 60 months or less and who is any of the following:

14 (A) A refugee admitted under 8 U.S.C. 1157.

15 (B) An asylee admitted under 8 U.S.C. 1158.

16 (C) A Cuban or Haitian entrant as defined in 45 C.F.R. 401.2.

17 (D) A parolee admitted under 8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5).

18 (E) An Amerasian immigrant lawfully admitted to the United States who is described in 8 U.S.C.  
19 1612(a)(2)(A)(v).

20 (F) A victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons and the victim's family members who are  
21 eligible for benefits and services from federal and state programs under 22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(A).

22 (G) An Iraqi or an Afghan citizen who is a principal noncitizen provided with the status of  
23 special immigrant by the United States Department of Homeland Security under:

24 (i) Section 1059(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, P.L. 109-163,  
25 119 Stat. 3444;

26 (ii) Section 1244(b) of the Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act of 2007, P.L. 110-181, 122 Stat. 397; or

27 (iii) Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, P.L. 111-8, 123 Stat. 807.

28 (H) **An individual applying for admission as an asylee under 8 U.S.C. 1158, with priority**  
29

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **given to asylum seekers newly arrived to this state and those at risk of homelessness or who**  
2 **are homeless.**

3 **(I) An individual who has been granted an immigration status that has been approved for**  
4 **refugee services by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.**

5 (2) The Department of Human Services shall award grants to eligible agencies to provide the  
6 following services to refugees residing in this state, for up to 24 months:

7 (a) Assisting refugees with department programs by:

8 (A) Referring refugees to the department within three days of the refugee's arrival in this state;

9 (B) Completing applications for assistance;

10 (C) Transporting the refugee to the initial appointments with the department;

11 (D) Providing to the department all necessary eligibility information known to the eligible  
12 agency; and

13 (E) Coordinating services of the department with other social service agencies.

14 (b) Assisting refugees with:

15 (A) Navigating the health care and mental health systems, including providing assistance in  
16 applying for medical assistance;

17 (B) Accessing housing assistance and finding stable housing;

18 (C) Setting up utilities and paying utility bills;

19 (D) Issues with landlords;

20 (E) Navigating legal or criminal issues including services for victims of crime;

21 (F) Accessing in-home services including parenting assistance, English as a second language in-  
22 struction, medical and psychosocial support; and

23 (G) Navigating the culture of the United States.

24 (c) Providing transportation to appointments.

25 (d) Training refugees on using public transportation.

26 (e) Providing immigration assistance and referrals.

27 (f) Advocating on behalf of refugees regarding domestic violence, federal laws and hate crimes.

28 (g) Providing refugees with interpretation services and assistance with access to language ser-  
29 vices.

30 (h) Providing referrals for refugees to culturally specific support groups and services, including  
31 religious organizations.

32 (i) Pairing refugees with volunteers for English as a second language training and ongoing lan-  
33 guage support.

34 (j) Providing support to refugees in budgeting and achieving financial literacy.

35 (k) Identifying refugees' employment skills and providing referrals to employment skills training  
36 and other job support services.

37 (L) Problem solving with refugees and assisting refugees with life skills development.

38 (m) Ensuring that refugees have access to psychosocial support and emotional wellness educa-  
39 tion.

40 (n) Coordinating medical services for refugees including referring to and coordinating with  
41 agencies that determine eligibility for disability benefits.

42 (o) Providing family preservation services, legal services and social service support for domestic  
43 violence and child welfare issues.

44 (p) Assisting newly arrived refugee children in accessing services to strengthen the children's  
45 academic performance and successful integration into the community.

1 (q) Other services necessary to assist refugees in accessing programs administered by the de-  
2 partment.

3 (3) In addition to the grants provided under subsection (2) of this section, the department  
4 shall provide funding to each eligible agency to be used to:

5 (a) Secure housing with trusted landlords for future refugee arrivals;

6 (b) Provide emergency housing assistance to refugees; and

7 (c) Establish a rental assistance fund to provide a minimum of six months of housing  
8 assistance to newly arriving households to help the households achieve financial stability.

9 (4) The department shall establish a permanent, full-time position for a:

10 (a) State Refugee Coordinator; and

11 (b) Refugee Housing Coordinator.

12 **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
13 ated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of  
14 the General Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, which shall be expended as follows:

15 (1) \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide each eligible agency, as defined in ORS 411.139, with funding to  
16 carry out ORS 411.139 (3)(a).

17 (2) \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide funding to each eligible agency to carry out ORS 411.139 (3)(b).

18 (3) \$\_\_\_\_\_ to hire a full-time State Refugee Coordinator in accordance with ORS 411.139  
19 (4)(a).

20 (4) \$\_\_\_\_\_ to hire a full-time Refugee Housing Coordinator in accordance with ORS  
21 411.139 (4)(b).

22 **SECTION 3.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
23 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect  
24 July 1, 2023.

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