



New American Pathways
HELPING REFUGEES AND GEORGIA THRIVE

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Welcoming, Serving and Advocating for Refugees in 2018: Continued Resilience through the Political Storm

The past year has been a challenging one for refugees and other new Americans in Georgia, and for the organizations that serve them. At New American Pathways (New AP), our donors, volunteers and advocates have provided an incredible outpouring of support – support that has allowed us to weather the storm and invest in key areas that help ensure refugees in Georgia have the services they need to thrive, are received by welcoming communities and have a voice in the issues that impact their lives.

This report provides:

- Information on the key changes in refugee policy over the past year and how they affect Georgia's refugee communities
- An update on how these policies have impacted New AP and what we are doing in response to changes
- Specific ways our supporters can continue to advocate for refugees and immigrants in Georgia

Refugee Policy Changes

In 2017 the Trump Administration issued a series of Executive Orders that temporarily halted refugee arrivals, added additional requirements to the screening process and temporarily banned entrants from certain countries. While these orders have faced court challenges, they still significantly lowered refugee arrivals last year. In FY 2017 the arrival ceiling was set at 110,000 but only a few more than 53,000 refugees actually arrived.

For FY 2018 the Trump Administration set the refugee arrival ceiling in the U.S. at 45,000, the lowest arrival ceiling in history. Due to halts to the program in 2017, increased screening requirements and a lack of staffing in overseas processing, resettlement agencies will not reach the 45,000 ceiling. **The U.S. will resettle fewer than 25,000 refugees this year, lower than any time in the history of the U.S. resettlement program. And now, in September 2018, reports indicate that the administration will set the FY2019 ceiling at 30,000.**

Impact on Georgia's Communities

In Georgia, refugee arrivals are at a third of what they were this time last year. Families waiting to be reunited with loved ones are waiting much longer and, for specific populations like Syrians and Somalis, there is uncertainty as to whether family members will **ever** arrive.

With lower arrivals, refugee-serving organizations are losing funding and reducing staff. Across the U.S., over 50 local resettlement programs have closed since January 2017. While none closed in Georgia, the 18 member organizations of Georgia's Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies (CRSA) collectively lost 65 full-time equivalent positions in 2017 and have experienced more losses this year. This lost capacity translates to fewer services available to the refugee community, which has resulted in a negative economic impact on Georgia's communities.

Refugees make valuable contributions to Georgia communities by filling high-demand jobs, renting vacant apartments, frequenting local businesses and contributing tax dollars. Fewer refugees means less revenue for welcoming communities like Clarkston, Tucker and Stone Mountain. Some local vendors in Clarkston report sales declines of more than 25%. Traditional refugee employers are finding it difficult to fill positions even with significant increases in wages and benefits.



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New American Pathways Update

New AP resettled two-thirds of the refugees we expected in 2017 and we expect to resettle less than half of the refugees we had anticipated delivering to safety this year. Adjusting to significant revenue loss, we have eliminated 6.5 positions in our resettlement, outreach and early employment programs. At the same time, the investments we have made in building a continuum of service, diversifying our funding and increasing outreach have been very successful. Programs serving refugees and immigrants who have been in the U.S. longer are growing, and we have seen an increase in volunteer engagement and individual donors. We are focused on maintaining core capacity in our services for early arrivals and continuing to serve refugees and other new Americans already in Georgia's communities.

Today, more than ever, New American Pathways needs your financial support as we continue to serve and advocate for the lives behind the headlines.

Beyond resettlement, we provide an extensive continuum of holistic services to help refugees and Georgia thrive. We have the long-term services they need to move past safety and stability to pursue their own American dreams and give back to the community. We continue to serve through our cradle-to-career youth services, our English at Home and Vocational Counseling programs, and our civic engagement work.

Here's how you can help:

1. DONATE

- Make [an online donation](#).
- Become a Freedom Circle member by donating \$1000 or more this year. Contact Individual Giving Director Suzanne Baker at s.baker@newamericanpathways.org or 404-844-5202.
- Become a [PathDriver](#) to crowd raise funds through your networks.
- Support our annual [Red, White and NEW](#) benefit event. Save the date for Aug. 17, 2019!

2. ADVOCATE

- Welcome refugees and speak up for them with local, state and federal officials. We need you, your faith communities, families, friends, businesses, organizations, schools and more to reach out to your elected officials and ask them to support the refugee program! Thank officials who continue to stand with refugees. Visit www.votesmart.org and enter your ZIP code to find your officials.
- Register to vote and VOTE.
- Volunteer – by yourself or organize a group. Contact Volunteer Engagement AmeriCorps Member Hannah Johnson at volunteerengagement@newamericanpathways.org for priority service needs.
- Support refugee-owned businesses with your business. Shop and eat in Clarkston.

3. EDUCATE

- Follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), LinkedIn).
- [Subscribe](#) to our monthly newsletters and share them.
- [Sign up](#), and encourage your friends and family to sign up, for our coalition's Action Alerts.
- Combat misinformation – see our annual report, the CRSA fact sheet and other resources that are available on our [website](#).

Together, we can advocate for a robust resettlement program. We can help ensure that Georgia remains a welcoming place that benefits from all the strengths and talents that new Americans bring to Georgia's communities.