

**Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
Programs to Strengthen Marriages and Families:**

REFUGEE HEALTHY MARRIAGE PROGRAM

US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) Refugee Healthy Marriage Program (RHMP) in Albany, NY, Boston, MA, Bowling Green, KY, Colchester, VT, Erie, PA, Kansas City, MO, and Raleigh, NC.

PURPOSE: The Refugee Healthy Marriage Program aims to strengthen refugee marriage through education, training, resource development, and local capacity building.

In Albany, Boston, Bowling Green, Colchester, Erie, Kansas City and Raleigh, USCRI works in partnership with the Institute for the Development of Emotional and Life Skills (IDEALS) and its subsidiary organization, the National Institute for Relationship Enhancement (NIRE) to adapt and deliver the internationally recognized Relationship Enhancement[®] program to married refugee couples and individuals preparing for or considering marriage. USCRI affiliates at each site offer an array of marriage-related educational opportunities and reference materials tailored to meet the particular needs of the local refugee community.

GRANT RECIPIENT: US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

PROJECT PERIOD: September 30, 2006-September 29, 2011

PROJECT FUNDING: \$780,000

CREATING STRONG FAMILIES

PURPOSE: The Creating Strong Families program is designed to support and enhance family relationships among refugee families in Wisconsin, starting in the first year, with Hmong and Somali refugee groups residing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and five counties in northeast Wisconsin—Outagamie, Winnebago, Brown, Sheboygan and Manitowoc.

Adapting a motivational training program developed by Thai Vue, Executive Director of La Crosse Area Hmong MAA, a train-the-trainer program, and customizing the training for Hmong and Somali couples. After training a cadre of trainers, agencies in these locations will work with local trainer couples to recruit and work with 250 couples annually. The 40 hour training will take place over two weekend-long sessions with 10 couples in each session (with child care provided). The aim of the project in the following years is to share this program across the entire refugee population in the state, customizing it to each different refugee culture and language.

GRANT RECIPIENT: WI Dept. of Workforce Development: BMRLS

PROJECT PERIOD: September 30, 2006 to September 29, 2011

PROJECT FUNDING: \$247,500 per year

REFUGEE MARRIAGES GROW HEALTHY IN CONNECTICUT

PURPOSE:

This program has the overarching goal of improving refugee couples' abilities to form and sustain healthy marriages and family relationships. The program will serve CT refugees in the Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury areas.

The program will utilize group educational workshops designed to help couples recognize and build on their strengths while also addressing personal challenges. The program will also use extended marriage activities such as mentoring, workshops, booster sessions, and social events to reinforce and integrate the skills and concepts learned in the marriage education sessions, and to provide new information needed to continue growing healthy families and marriages among our program graduates.

Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services will collaborate with the International Institute of Connecticut, and Interfaith Refugee Ministry.

GRANT RECIPIENT(S): Catholic Charities, Inc. – Archdiocese of Hartford

PROJECT PERIOD: September 30, 2006 to September 29, 2011

PROJECT FUNDING: \$250,000 per year

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEE COUPLES (ARC)

PURPOSE: ARC, initiated in 2004 with Office of Refugee Resettlement funding, originally provided healthy marriage and family enrichment services to refugees, Amerasians, and victims of human trafficking from Vietnam. With new funding, the program will expand its target population to include Cambodians and Laotians, and will extend its service area to the Gulf Coast.

A culturally and linguistically-appropriate model in Vietnamese is available for replication. The models in Cambodian and Laotian will be available in six months.

Four sites: Atlanta, GA, Philadelphia, PA, Camden, NJ and Orange County, CA have organized workshops, presented by PREP-certified facilitators. Workshops address danger signs, communication, conflict resolution and commitment.

Full time staffs are being recruited for two sites: New Orleans and Biloxi/Bayou La Batre and the same model will be replicated to these sites.

GRANT RECIPIENT: Boat People SOS, Inc.

PROJECT PERIOD: September 30, 2006 to September 29, 2011

PROJECT FUNDING: \$250,000.00/per year

STRENGTHENING REFUGEE MARRIAGES IN METROPOLITAN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

PURPOSE: This program helps to strengthen marriages and family relationships within refugee communities through a network of refugee-serving agencies in the Atlanta area.

JF&CS provides healthy marriage training, technical assistance and pass through funding to eight refugee-serving agencies: Catholic Social Services, the Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc. International Rescue Committee, Just Cause, the Persian Community Center, Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta, the Russian American Federation, and Women Watch Afrika, Inc. Each agency provides customized marriage and family strengthening workshops to refugee couples within the specific ethnic communities they each serve. The program also trains refugee couples to act as mentors in their ethnic communities.

GRANT RECIPIENT: Jewish Family & Career Services, Inc.

PROJECT PERIOD: September 30, 2006 to September 29, 2011

PROJECT FUNDING: \$249,925 per year

THE FAMILY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (HOUSTON)

PURPOSE: This Family Enrichment program helps strengthen marriages and family relationships within refugee communities.

In Texas, Alliance provides technical assistance and collaborates with three community-based organizations to develop healthy marriages among refugees. Family Wellness curriculum focuses on strengthening familial communication, building skills for conflict resolution, plus identifying and resolving financial-related marriage stressors. Family Wellness Coordinators organize workshops to train mentor couples that then train

couples within their respective communities. Alliance also educates teens on the characteristics of healthy relationships and administers online pre-marital inventories.

GRANT RECIPIENT(S): Alliance for Multicultural Community Services, Somali Bantu of Greater Houston, Multi-Ethnic Community Center and Catholic Charities.

PROJECT PERIOD: September 30, 2006 to September 29, 2011

PROJECT FUNDING: \$250,000 per year

THE CAMBODIAN FAMILY

PURPOSE: Our Refugee Marriage Education program teaches principles of good relationships, builds communication skills, and helps to strengthen marriages within refugee communities.

Our four partner agencies collaborate in training refugee communities within Orange County, California. Our trainings reach married couples, couples about to be married, and teenagers and their parents. Our training models include the 7 Habits for Marriage, Relationship Enhancement, and Active Relationships for Young Adults. We train our participants in their family homes, in our centers, and in churches and temples.

- *Catholic Charities of Orange County* focuses on the Vietnamese community.
- *East African Community of Orange County* focuses on the African communities.
- *St. Anselm's Cross-Cultural Community Center* focuses on Vietnamese and Middle Eastern communities.
- *The Cambodian Family* focuses on the Vietnamese and Cambodian communities.

GRANT RECIPIENT: The Cambodian Family

PROJECT PERIOD: September 30, 2006 to September 29, 2011

HIAS REFUGEE FAMILY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

PURPOSE: This program helps strengthen marriages and family relationships within refugee communities by means of trainings on family communication skills and conflict resolution techniques. The curricula used are Active Communications and Active Money Personalities, which is culturally adapted to be used with ethnically diverse populations. Special classes on mentoring will utilize the "Marriage Mentoring - 12 Conversations" curricula developed by Dr. Ed. Grey.

The program will be implemented by 12 local HIAS refugee resettlement affiliates in Atlanta (GA), Chicago (IL); Bergen County(NJ); San Diego (CA); Tucson (AZ);

Cincinnati (OH); Pittsburgh (PA); Milwaukee (WI); Rockville (MD); Boston (MA); New York (NY) and in Columbus (OH).

GRANT RECIPIENT(S): Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)

PROJECT PERIOD: October 2006 – September 2011

PROJECT FUNDING: \$830,000

HIAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PURPOSE: The program offers trainings on such topics as program development, group facilitation skills, domestic violence, ethics, and cultural aspects of family life education to ORR-funded sites involved in the Refugee Healthy Marriage Initiative. HIAS also offers on-site technical assistance, when a technical assistant travels to a program site location to assist with project implementation. In order to provide quality services HIAS has contracted with several prominent marriage educators and cultural diversity trainers. They are: Katherine Robredo, Kelly Simpson, Mette Brogden, Edward Grey, and Maureen Griner. Jewish Family Services of Chicago, San Diego and Atlanta will be providing technical assistance on the sub-contractual basis.

Grant Recipient: Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

Projected Period: October 2006 – September 2011

Project Funding: \$400,000

PROJECT FUNDING: \$250,000 per year

LIRS Family Enrichment Program, in Sacramento, CA; Denver and Colorado Springs, CO; Trenton, NJ; Utica, NY; Philadelphia, PA; and Vancouver, WA.

[Print Project Description](#) (pdf)

PURPOSE: The Family Enrichment program helps strengthen marriages and family relationships within refugee communities.

At each site, culturally appropriate workshops based on the Power of Two curriculum will be held for refugee populations from a variety of countries. Workshops will focus on developing communication, shared decision-making, and conflict resolution skills, along with financial management and parenting skills.

GRANT RECIPIENT(S): Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service (LIRS)

PROJECT PERIOD: September 30, 2006 to September 29, 2011

PROJECT FUNDING: 400,000 for year 1.