

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2798

To modify provisions of law relating to refugee resettlement, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2015

Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WELCH, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To modify provisions of law relating to refugee resettlement, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Strengthening Refugee Resettlement Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Security checks.
- Sec. 3. English language and work orientation training for approved refugee applicants.
- Sec. 4. Lawful permanent resident status of refugees and aliens granted asylum.
- Sec. 5. Update of reception and placement grants.
- Sec. 6. Coordination of refugee program agencies.
- Sec. 7. Case management.
- Sec. 8. Increase in cash payments.
- Sec. 9. Refugee integration grants.
- Sec. 10. Matching grant program expansion.
- Sec. 11. Domestic Emergency Refugee Resettlement Fund.
- Sec. 12. Supplemental Security Income benefits.
- Sec. 13. Making special immigrant juvenile status beneficiaries and unaccompanied children granted “U” visa protection eligible for refugee benefits.

3 **SEC. 2. SECURITY CHECKS.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Although effective secu-
 5 rity checks are needed to ensure that the United States
 6 and the Nation’s refugee admissions program are ade-
 7 quately protected, it is the sense of the Congress that the
 8 failure to properly coordinate security and non-security
 9 clearance procedures has had negative impacts on the
 10 processing of vulnerable individuals who are in need of,
 11 and eligible for, resettlement to the United States.

12 (b) REVIEW OF REFUGEE PROCESSING.—The Sec-
 13 retary of Homeland Security shall work with the heads
 14 of other relevant Federal agencies, including the Depart-
 15 ment of State, to conduct a review of refugee processing,
 16 including security clearances, with the goal of streamlining

1 processing, consistent with maintaining thorough security
2 vetting.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
5 Security shall submit to the Congress a report on the re-
6 sults of the review conducted under subsection (b). The
7 report shall include a description of recommended changes
8 to streamline processing and the costs associated with any
9 unfunded needs.

10 **SEC. 3. ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND WORK ORIENTATION**
11 **TRAINING FOR APPROVED REFUGEE APPLI-**
12 **CANTS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall es-
14 tablish overseas refugee training programs to provide
15 English as a second language and work orientation train-
16 ing for refugees who have been approved for admission
17 to the United States before their departure for the United
18 States.

19 (b) DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION.—In designing
20 and implementing the programs referred to in subsection
21 (a), the Secretary shall consult with or use—

22 (1) nongovernmental or international organiza-
23 tions with direct ties to the United States refugee
24 resettlement program; and

1 (2) nongovernmental or international organiza-
2 tions with appropriate expertise in developing cur-
3 riculum and teaching English as a second language.

4 (c) IMPACT ON PROCESSING TIMES.—The Secretary
5 shall ensure that such training programs occur within ap-
6 plicable processing times and do not unduly delay the de-
7 parture for the United States of refugees who have been
8 approved for admission to the United States.

9 (d) TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—

10 (1) INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than
11 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
12 the Secretary shall ensure that such training pro-
13 grams are fully and continually operational in at
14 least 3 refugee processing regions.

15 (2) ADDITIONAL IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later
16 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this
17 Act, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate con-
18 gressional committees that such training programs
19 are fully and consistently operational in 5 refugee
20 processing regions.

21 (e) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
23 of the United States shall conduct a study on the imple-
24 mentation of this section, including an assessment of the
25 quality of English as a second language curriculum and

1 instruction, the benefits of the work orientation and
2 English as a second language training program to refu-
3 gees, and recommendations on whether such programs
4 should be continued, broadened, or modified, and shall
5 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
6 port on the findings of such study.

7 (f) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
8 tion shall be construed to require that a refugee partici-
9 pate in such a training program as a precondition for the
10 admission to the United States of such refugee.

11 **SEC. 4. LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS OF REFU-**
12 **GEES AND ALIENS GRANTED ASYLUM.**

13 (a) **ADMISSION OF EMERGENCY SITUATION REFU-**
14 **GEES.**—Section 207(c) of the Immigration and Nation-
15 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157(c)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1)—

17 (A) by striking “Attorney General” the
18 first time it appears and inserting “Secretary of
19 Homeland Security”;

20 (B) by striking “Attorney General” each
21 additional place it appears and inserting “Sec-
22 retary”; and

23 (C) by striking “(except as otherwise pro-
24 vided under paragraph (3)) as an immigrant
25 under this Act.” and inserting “(except as pro-

1 vided under subsections (b) and (c) of section
2 209) as an immigrant under this Act. Notwith-
3 standing any numerical limitations specified in
4 this Act, any alien admitted under this para-
5 graph shall be regarded as lawfully admitted to
6 the United States for permanent residence as of
7 the date of such alien's admission to the United
8 States.”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2)(A)—

10 (A) by striking “(except as otherwise pro-
11 vided under paragraph (3))” and inserting
12 “(except as provided under subsections (b) and
13 (c) of section 209)”;

14 (B) by striking the last sentence and in-
15 serting the following: “An alien admitted to the
16 United States as a refugee may petition for his
17 or her spouse or child to follow to join him or
18 her in the United States at any time after such
19 alien's admission, notwithstanding his or her
20 treatment as a lawful permanent resident as of
21 the date of his or her admission to the United
22 States.”;

23 (3) by striking paragraph (3);

24 (4) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
25 graph (3); and

1 (5) in paragraph (3), as redesignated—

2 (A) by striking “Attorney General” the
3 first place it appears and inserting “Secretary
4 of Homeland Security”; and

5 (B) by striking “Attorney General” each
6 additional place it appears and inserting “Sec-
7 retary”.

8 (b) TREATMENT OF SPOUSE AND CHILDREN.—Sec-
9 tion 208(b)(3) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(3)) is
10 amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
12 paragraph (E); and

13 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(B) PETITION.—An alien granted asylum
16 under this subsection may petition for the same
17 status to be conferred on his or her spouse or
18 child at any time after such alien is granted
19 asylum whether or not such alien has applied
20 for, or been granted, adjustment to permanent
21 resident status under section 209.

22 “(C) PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—
23 Notwithstanding any numerical limitations
24 specified in this Act, a spouse or child admitted
25 to the United States as an asylee following to

1 join a spouse or parent previously granted asy-
2 lum shall be regarded as lawfully admitted to
3 the United States for permanent residence as of
4 the date of such spouse's or child's admission to
5 the United States.

6 “(D) APPLICATION FOR ADJUSTMENT OF
7 STATUS.—A spouse or child who was not admit-
8 ted to the United States pursuant to a grant of
9 asylum, but who was granted asylum under this
10 subparagraph after his or her arrival as the
11 spouse or child of an alien granted asylum
12 under section 208, may apply for adjustment of
13 status to that of lawful permanent resident
14 under section 209 at any time after being
15 granted asylum.”.

16 (c) REFUGEES.—Section 209 of such Act (8 U.S.C.
17 1159) is amended to read as follows:

18 **“SEC. 209. TREATMENT OF ALIENS ADMITTED AS REFU-
19 GEES AND ALIENS GRANTED ASYLUM.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

21 “(1) TREATMENT OF REFUGEES.—Notwith-
22 standing any numerical limitations specified in this
23 Act, any alien who has been admitted to the United
24 States under section 207 shall be regarded as law-

1 fully admitted to the United States for permanent
2 residence as of the date of such admission.

3 “(2) TREATMENT OF SPOUSE AND CHIL-
4 DREN.—Notwithstanding any numerical limitations
5 specified in this Act, any alien admitted to the
6 United States under section 208(b)(3) as the spouse
7 or child of an alien granted asylum under section
8 208(b)(1) shall be regarded as lawfully admitted to
9 the United States for permanent residence as of the
10 date of such admission.

11 “(3) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—The Secretary
12 of Homeland Security or the Attorney General, in
13 the discretion of the Secretary or the Attorney Gen-
14 eral, and under such regulations as the Secretary or
15 the Attorney General may prescribe, may adjust, to
16 the status of an alien lawfully admitted to the
17 United States for permanent residence, the status of
18 any alien who, while in the United States—

19 “(A) is granted—

20 “(i) asylum under section 208(b) (as
21 a principal alien or as the spouse or child
22 of an alien granted asylum); or

23 “(ii) refugee status under section 207
24 as the spouse or child of a refugee;

1 “(B) applies for such adjustment of status
2 at any time after being granted asylum or ref-
3 ugee status;

4 “(C) is not firmly resettled in any foreign
5 country; and

6 “(D) is admissible (except as otherwise
7 provided under subsections (b) and (c)) as an
8 immigrant under this Act at the time of exam-
9 ination for adjustment of such alien.

10 “(4) RECORD.—Upon approval of an applica-
11 tion under this subsection, the Secretary of Home-
12 land Security or the Attorney General shall establish
13 a record of the alien’s admission for lawful perma-
14 nent residence as of the date such alien was granted
15 asylum or refugee status.

16 “(5) DOCUMENT ISSUANCE.—An alien who has
17 been admitted to the United States under section
18 207 or 208 or who adjusts to the status of a lawful
19 permanent resident as a refugee or asylee under this
20 section shall be issued documentation indicating that
21 such alien is a lawful permanent resident pursuant
22 to a grant of refugee or asylum status.

23 “(b) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN INADMISSIBILITY
24 GROUNDS TO REFUGEES, ALIENS GRANTED ASYLUM,
25 AND SUCH ALIENS SEEKING ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS TO

1 LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT.—Paragraphs (4), (5),
2 and (7)(A) of section 212(a) shall not apply to—

3 “(1) any refugee under section 207;

4 “(2) any alien granted asylum under section
5 208; or

6 “(3) any alien seeking admission as a lawful
7 permanent resident pursuant to a grant of refugee
8 or asylum status.

9 “(c) WAIVER OF INADMISSIBILITY OR DEPORT-
10 ABILITY FOR REFUGEES, ALIENS GRANTED ASYLUM, AND
11 SUCH ALIENS SEEKING ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS TO
12 LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2), the Secretary of Homeland Security or
15 the Attorney General may waive any ground of inad-
16 missibility under section 212 or any ground of de-
17 portability under section 237 for a refugee admitted
18 under section 207, an alien granted asylum under
19 section 208, or an alien seeking admission as a law-
20 ful permanent resident pursuant to a grant of ref-
21 ugee or asylum status if the Secretary or the Attor-
22 ney General determines that such waiver is justified
23 by humanitarian purposes, to ensure family unity, or
24 is otherwise in the public interest.

1 “(2) INELIGIBILITY.—A refugee under section
2 207, an alien granted asylum under section 208, or
3 an alien seeking admission as a lawful permanent
4 resident pursuant to a grant of refugee or asylum
5 status shall be ineligible for a waiver under para-
6 graph (1) if it has been established that the alien
7 is—

8 “(A) inadmissible under section
9 212(a)(2)(C) or subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or
10 (E) of section 212(a)(3);

11 “(B) deportable under section
12 237(a)(2)(A)(iii) for an offense described in
13 section 101(a)(43)(B); or

14 “(C) deportable under subparagraph (A),
15 (B), (C), or (D) of section 237(a)(4).”.

16 (d) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

17 (1) ALIENS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECT NUMER-
18 ICAL LIMITATIONS.—Section 201(b)(1)(B) of the
19 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
20 1151(b)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

21 “(B) Aliens who are admitted to the United
22 States as permanent residents under section 207 or
23 208 or whose status is adjusted under section 209.”.

24 (2) TRAINING.—Section 207(f)(1) of such Act
25 (8 U.S.C. 1157(f)(1)) is amended by striking “At-

1 torney General” and inserting “Secretary of Home-
2 land Security”.

3 (3) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of con-
4 tents for such Act is amended by striking the item
5 relating to section 209 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 209. Treatment of aliens admitted as refugees and aliens granted asy-
lum.”.

6 (e) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in the amendments
8 made by this section may be construed to limit ac-
9 cess to the benefits described at chapter 2 of title IV
10 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
11 1521 et seq.).

12 (2) CLARIFICATION.—Aliens admitted for law-
13 ful permanent residence under section 207 or 208 of
14 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
15 1157; 1158) or who adjust status to lawful perma-
16 nent resident under section 209 of such Act (8
17 U.S.C. 1159) shall be considered to be refugees and
18 aliens granted asylum in accordance with sections
19 402, 403, 412, and 431 of the Personal Responsi-
20 bility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
21 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612; 1613; 1622; 1641).

22 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amend-
23 ments made by this section, shall become effective on the
24 earlier of—

1 (1) the date that is 180 days after the date of
2 the enactment of this Act; or

3 (2) the date on which a final rule is promul-
4 gated to implement this section.

5 **SEC. 5. UPDATE OF RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT GRANTS.**

6 Beginning with fiscal year 2016, the Secretary of
7 State shall, when setting the amount of the reception and
8 placement grants for refugees, ensure that—

9 (1) the grant amount is adjusted so that it is
10 adequate to provide for the anticipated initial reset-
11 tlement needs of refugees, including adjusting the
12 amount for inflation and the cost of living;

13 (2) the administrative proportion of the grant is
14 provided at the beginning of the fiscal year to each
15 national resettlement agency that is sufficient to en-
16 sure adequate local and national capacity to serve
17 the initial resettlement needs of refugees the Sec-
18 retary anticipates the agency will resettle throughout
19 the fiscal year; and

20 (3) additional amounts are provided to each na-
21 tional resettlement agency promptly upon the arrival
22 of refugees that, exclusive of the amounts provided
23 pursuant to paragraph (2), are sufficient to meet the
24 anticipated initial resettlement needs of such refu-
25 gees and support local and national operational costs

1 in excess of the estimates described in paragraph
2 (1).

3 **SEC. 6. COORDINATION OF REFUGEE PROGRAM AGENCIES.**

4 It is the sense of the Congress that—

5 (1) the President should appoint a White House
6 Coordinator on Refugee Protection and grant such
7 official the authority and staff necessary to coordi-
8 nate, prioritize, and lead efforts to address refugee
9 protection issues that involve multiple agencies, in-
10 cluding the refugee admissions program, and to re-
11 solve interagency differences in a timely, efficient,
12 and effective manner; and

13 (2) this position should be at a senior level and
14 require as a condition for appointment a significant
15 level of prior experience in the refugee protection
16 field.

17 **SEC. 7. CASE MANAGEMENT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—

19 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—

20 The Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement
21 shall make grants to national resettlement agencies
22 to operate a case management system to assist
23 qualified individuals in accessing services, benefits,
24 and assistance for which they are eligible that are
25 provided by—

1 (A) the Office of Refugee Resettlement
2 (the “Office”);

3 (B) other Federal, State, or local agencies;
4 and

5 (C) private or nonprofit organizations.

6 (2) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—Subject to para-
7 graphs (3) and (4), any individual who was at any
8 time eligible for resettlement, acculturation, or sub-
9 sistence services provided by the Office shall be
10 qualified to receive the case management services de-
11 scribed in paragraph (1).

12 (3) PERIOD OF QUALIFICATION.—Except as
13 provided in paragraph (4), an individual described in
14 paragraph (2) shall be qualified to receive the case
15 management services described in paragraph (1)
16 during the period beginning on the date such indi-
17 vidual was determined to be eligible for resettlement,
18 acculturation, or subsistence services provided by the
19 Office, and continuing for 1 year after the date on
20 which such individual ceases to be eligible for such
21 resettlement, acculturation, or subsistence service.

22 (4) EXCEPTIONS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIR-
23 CUMSTANCES.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-
25 graph (3), an individual described in subpara-

1 graph (B) shall be qualified to receive the case
2 management services described in paragraph
3 (1) during the period beginning on the date on
4 which such individual was determined eligible
5 for resettlement, acculturation, or subsistence
6 services provided by the Office, and continuing
7 for 3 years after the date on which such indi-
8 vidual ceases to be eligible for such resettle-
9 ment, acculturation, or subsistence services.

10 (B) EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—An
11 individual described in paragraph (2) may be
12 treated in accordance with subparagraph (A) if
13 such individual—

14 (i) is elderly;

15 (ii) has extraordinary resettlement or
16 acculturation needs that impede such indi-
17 vidual's ability to achieve durable self-suffi-
18 ciency;

19 (iii) is a refugee who was resettled
20 from a situation of protracted displace-
21 ment;

22 (iv) is a member of a family caring for
23 an unattached refugee minor; or

24 (v) at the time of entry—

1 (I) had a disability or serious
2 medical condition;

3 (II) had mental health condi-
4 tions;

5 (III) was part of a household
6 headed by a single parent; or

7 (IV) had been the victim of a se-
8 vere form of violence.

9 (5) DEFINITION OF RESETTLEMENT, ACCUL-
10 TURATION, OR SUBSISTENCE SERVICES.—For the
11 purposes of this section, the term, “resettlement, ac-
12 culturation, or subsistence services” shall include all
13 of the services provided by the Office to aliens, with
14 the exception of the case management services pro-
15 vided under paragraph (1).

16 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
18 essary to carry out this section.

19 (c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall
20 be construed as affecting the authority of the Director
21 under section 412(e)(7)(A) of the Immigration and Na-
22 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(e)(7)(A)), or of any other
23 section of such Act, to provide case management services
24 to individuals who have been in the United States for
25 longer than 36 months.

1 **SEC. 8. INCREASE IN CASH PAYMENTS.**

2 (a) Section 412 of the Immigration and Nationality
3 Act (8 U.S.C. 1522) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(B), by adding at the
5 end the following:

6 “(iv) Subject to the availability of funds appro-
7 priated for this purpose, assistance and social serv-
8 ices for employment, health and living expenses shall
9 be available for a period of not less than 12
10 months.”;

11 (2) in subsection (a)(5), by adding at the end
12 the following: “Subject to the availability of funds
13 appropriated for this purpose, assistance and serv-
14 ices shall be made available to refugees for a period
15 of not less than 12 months.”; and

16 (3) in subsection (e)(1)—

17 (A) by striking “(1)” and inserting
18 “(1)(A)”;

19 (B) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(B) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated
21 for this purpose, such assistance shall be provided for a
22 minimum of 12 months beginning with the first month
23 in which such refugee entered the United States.”.

24 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
25 subsection (a) shall become effective on the earlier of—

1 (1) the first day of the first fiscal year that be-
2 gins after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

3 (2) the date on which a final rule is promul-
4 gated to implement this section.

5 (c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The 12-month speci-
6 fication contained in the amendments made by subsection
7 (a) is a minimum standard for the provision of services
8 to the refugee community. No part of this Act shall be
9 interpreted as limiting or reducing assistance already pro-
10 vided for a period longer than 12 months.

11 **SEC. 9. REFUGEE INTEGRATION GRANTS.**

12 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF REFUGEE INTEGRATION**
13 **GRANTS.**—The Director of the Office of Refugee Resettle-
14 ment is authorized to award grants to community-based
15 organizations, national nonprofit organizations having ex-
16 perience and expertise in immigration law and the legal,
17 social, educational, or cultural needs of immigrants, and
18 national resettlement agencies for the design and imple-
19 mentation of programs to offer training and orientation
20 to newcomers to the United States to assist them in inte-
21 grating into the civic life of the United States.

22 (b) **SERVICES FUNDED.**—Programs funded under
23 subsection (a) shall be used—

24 (1) to offer assistance and instruction to aliens
25 described in subsection (c), on—

- 1 (A) the naturalization process;
- 2 (B) the legal requirements for naturaliza-
- 3 tion;
- 4 (C) rights and responsibilities of U.S. citi-
- 5 zens;
- 6 (D) cultural orientation;
- 7 (E) English as a second language;
- 8 (F) civics and United States history;
- 9 (G) housing;
- 10 (H) transportation;
- 11 (I) recertification;
- 12 (J) employment training;
- 13 (K) mental health services;
- 14 (L) childcare services; and
- 15 (M) other topics the Director identifies as
- 16 aiding the orientation and adjustment of new
- 17 arrivals to the United States;
- 18 (2) to offer orientation and assistance to Fed-
- 19 eral, State, and local institutions that serve new-
- 20 comers to the United States so as to assist such in-
- 21 stitutions in meeting their needs; and
- 22 (3) to provide technical assistance and training
- 23 to community-based organizations providing instruc-
- 24 tion in English as a second language, civics, and
- 25 United States history and technical assistance and

1 training to community-based organizations providing
2 naturalization outreach and application assistance.

3 (c) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—Persons eligible for assist-
4 ance and instruction under this subsection include—

5 (1) aliens admitted as refugees under section
6 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
7 U.S.C. 1157);

8 (2) aliens granted asylum under section 208 of
9 such Act (8 U.S.C. 1158);

10 (3) aliens admitted as special immigrants from
11 Iraq or Afghanistan pursuant to section 1244 of the
12 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
13 2008 (Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 396);

14 (4) any alien who was at any time eligible to re-
15 ceive services from the Office of Refugee Resettle-
16 ment; and

17 (5) other aliens designated by the Director of
18 the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

19 (d) APPLICATION FOR GRANTS.—Each entity desir-
20 ing a refugee integration grant under this section shall
21 submit an application to the Director at such time and
22 in such manner as the Director may require.

23 (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting grantees, the Director
24 shall give priority to organizations either with experience

1 in resettling refugees or in administering services for refu-
2 gees and asylum seekers.

3 (f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Beginning 180 days
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
5 thereafter, the Director shall report to the Judiciary Com-
6 mittees of the Senate and the House of Representatives
7 a report on the implementation of this section. The report
8 shall include information regarding the grants issued pur-
9 suant to this section and the results of those grants.

10 **SEC. 10. MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM EXPANSION.**

11 (a) USE OF THE REFUGEE MATCHING GRANT PRO-
12 GRAM.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—In recognition of the positive
14 outcomes achieved for individuals served through the
15 refugee matching grant program, under which Fed-
16 eral funds are matched by private sector contribu-
17 tions of cash, goods, and volunteers, the Director of
18 the Office of Refugee Resettlement shall ensure that
19 the thresholds described in paragraph (2) are met
20 with respect to participation by eligible individuals in
21 such program.

22 (2) ANNUAL THRESHOLDS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-
24 ability of funds appropriated for this purpose,
25 the percentage of eligible individuals who apply

1 for services under the matching grant program
2 who shall be served through such program is
3 set at the following levels in each of the fol-
4 lowing fiscal years—

5 (i) at least 60 percent in fiscal year
6 2016;

7 (ii) at least 70 percent in fiscal year
8 2017; and

9 (iii) at least 80 percent in fiscal year
10 2018, and thereafter.

11 (B) EXCEPTIONS.—In determining the
12 thresholds in this paragraph, the Director shall
13 exclude individuals who are disabled, under the
14 age of 18, or over the age of 65 unless such in-
15 dividuals are being served as members of an eli-
16 gible family.

17 (3) LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT.—In-
18 dividuals as described in subparagraph (2)(B) shall
19 be eligible for services under the matching grant
20 program, and therefore be expected to achieve self-
21 sufficiency, within 180 to 240 days of their enroll-
22 ment in the program.

23 (4) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

24 (A) ANNUAL UPDATE.—Subject to the
25 availability of funds appropriated for this pur-

1 pose, beginning with fiscal year 2016, the Di-
2 rector shall, when setting the amount of the
3 matching grants, ensure that the grant amount
4 is adjusted annually so that it is adequate to
5 provide for services intended to help refugees
6 become self-sufficient within 180 to 240 days,
7 including adjusting the amount for inflation
8 and the cost of living.

9 (B) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 30 days
10 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Di-
11 rector shall undertake an assessment of the per
12 capita amount that is provided in the matching
13 grant program. The assessment shall—

14 (i) examine the adequacy of the cur-
15 rent per capita grant amount to provide
16 the assistance necessary to enable individ-
17 uals who are served by the program to
18 achieve self-sufficiency within 240 days;

19 (ii) determine the per capita grant
20 amount that would be necessary in order
21 to provide the assistance necessary to en-
22 able individuals who are served by the pro-
23 gram achieve self-sufficiency within 240
24 days; and

1 (iii) assess the potential impact of any
2 other changes to the operation of the pro-
3 gram that the Director or the Office's non-
4 Federal partners suggest to improve the
5 effectiveness of the program.

6 (C) CONSULTATION WITH PARTNERS.—In
7 conducting the assessment referred to in sub-
8 paragraph (B), the Director shall consult with
9 representatives of national and local resettle-
10 ment agencies with experience in providing
11 services under the matching grant program to
12 learn their views on the program, including
13 their views with respect to clauses (i) through
14 (iv) of subparagraph (B).

15 (D) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later
16 than 120 days after the date of enactment of
17 this Act, the Director shall report to the appro-
18 priate committees of Congress the results of the
19 assessment made pursuant to subparagraph
20 (B). Such report shall include—

21 (i) the Director's findings pursuant to
22 subparagraph (B);

23 (ii) the amount of the per capita
24 grant that will be provided beginning on
25 the first day of the first fiscal year that be-

1 gins after the date of enactment of this
2 Act; and

3 (iii) a summary of the views expressed
4 by the entities described in subparagraph
5 (C).

6 (E) GRANT AMOUNT IN ABSENCE OF RE-
7 PORT.—If for any reason the report described
8 in subparagraph (D) is not filed with the appro-
9 priate committees of the Congress on or before
10 the required date for the submission of such re-
11 port, the per capita matching grant amount for
12 the first fiscal year that begins after the date
13 of enactment of this Act shall be set at the
14 amount set for such grant on September 30 of
15 the previous fiscal year and prorated to reflect
16 a 180- to 240-day grant period.

17 **SEC. 11. DOMESTIC EMERGENCY REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**
18 **FUND.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Domestic
20 Emergency Refugee Resettlement Fund that shall be
21 available to the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettle-
22 ment to meet unanticipated resettlement needs.

23 (b) DRAWDOWN OF FUNDS.—Whenever the Director
24 determines it to be important to the national interest, the
25 Director is authorized to furnish on such terms and condi-

1 tions as the Director may determine, assistance under this
2 chapter for the purpose of meeting unexpected urgent re-
3 settlement needs of populations and communities served
4 pursuant to this chapter, including communities experi-
5 encing high numbers of arrivals of refugees due to sec-
6 ondary migration.

7 (c) ALLOWABLE USES.—The Director may furnish
8 assistance to eligible entities for the purposes of providing
9 resettlement assistance to refugees, including transpor-
10 tation, housing, employment, health, mental health,
11 English language training services, recertification, and
12 other purposes as determined by the Director.

13 (d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES DEFINED.—National reset-
14 tlement agencies, community-based organizations, torture
15 survivor rehabilitation centers and programs, and States.

16 (e) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—No amounts
17 may be withdrawn from the fund authorized by subsection
18 (a) unless the Director has determined that a domestic
19 resettlement emergency exists and has certified such fact
20 to appropriate committees of Congress.

21 (f) CAP ON FUND.—No funds may be appropriated
22 which when added to the amounts previously appropriated
23 but not yet obligated, would cause such amounts to exceed
24 \$50,000,000.

1 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds
2 appropriated pursuant to this section shall be available
3 until expended.

4 **SEC. 12. SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME BENEFITS.**

5 Section 402(a)(2) of the Personal Responsibility and
6 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C.
7 1612(a)(2)) is amended—

8 (1) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as
9 follows:

10 “(A) EXCEPTION FOR REFUGEES AND
11 ASYLEES.—With respect to the specified Fed-
12 eral programs described in paragraph (3), para-
13 graph (1) shall not apply to—

14 “(i) an alien admitted to the United
15 States as a refugee under section 207 of
16 the Immigration and Nationality Act 8
17 U.S.C. 1157;

18 “(ii) an alien granted asylum under
19 section 208 of such Act 8 U.S.C. 1158;

20 “(iii) an alien whose deportation is
21 withheld under section 243(h) of such Act
22 8 U.S.C. 1253 (as in effect immediately
23 before the effective date of section 307 of
24 division C of Public Law 104–208) or sec-
25 tion 241(b)(3) of such Act 8 U.S.C.

1 1231(b)(3) (as amended by section 305(a)
2 of division C of Public Law 104–208);

3 “(iv) an alien who is granted status as
4 a Cuban and Haitian entrant (as defined
5 in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education
6 Assistance Act of 1980); or

7 “(v) an alien who is admitted to the
8 United States as an Amerasian immigrant
9 pursuant to section 584 of the Foreign Op-
10 erations, Export Financing, and Related
11 Programs Appropriations Act, 1988 (as
12 contained in section 101(e) of Public Law
13 100–202 and amended by the 9th proviso
14 under migration and refugee assistance in
15 title II of the Foreign Operations, Export
16 Financing, and Related Programs Appro-
17 priations Act, 1989, Public Law 100–461,
18 as amended).”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(N) SSI BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN ALIENS
21 AND VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.—Beginning on
22 the date of the enactment of this subparagraph,
23 any qualified alien (as defined in section
24 431(b)), victim of trafficking in persons (as de-
25 fined in section 107(b)(1)(C) of division A of

1 the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protec-
2 tion Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(C))), or
3 alien granted status under section
4 101(a)(15)(T)(ii) of the Immigration and Na-
5 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T)(ii)) ren-
6 dered ineligible for the specified Federal pro-
7 gram described in paragraph (3)(A) solely by
8 reason of the termination of the 7-year period
9 described in subparagraph (A) prior to the en-
10 actment of this subparagraph shall be eligible
11 for benefits under such program without regard
12 to subparagraph (A).”.

13 **SEC. 13. MAKING SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS**
14 **BENEFICIARIES AND UNACCOMPANIED CHIL-**
15 **DREN GRANTED “U” VISA PROTECTION ELIGI-**
16 **BLE FOR FOSTER CARE AND REFUGEE BENE-**
17 **FITS.**

18 (a) **ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS AND SERVICES.**—
19 Section 107(b)(1)(A) of the Victims of Trafficking and Vi-
20 olence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(A))
21 is amended by inserting “, an alien who has been granted
22 special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27)(J) of
23 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
24 1101(a)(27)(J)), a child who has been granted status
25 under section 101(a)(15)(U) of the Immigration and Na-

1 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15(U)),” after “traf-
2 ficking in persons,”.

3 (b) STATE REIMBURSEMENT.—Subject to the avail-
4 ability of funds appropriated for this purpose, if State fos-
5 ter care funds are expended on behalf of a child who has
6 been granted special immigrant status under section
7 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)), the Federal Government shall re-
9 imburse the State in which the child resides for such ex-
10 penditures by the State.

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