

Update to Board of County Commissioners

From: Public & Government Affairs

RE: Refugee Resettlement “Opt In” Request – Executive Order 13888

Date: 05-21-2019

Presidential Executive Order 13888

Summary	<p>On September 26, 2019, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13888, which changes the local involvement process for how and where refugee resettlement occurs. Before the executive summary, state and local agencies could Opt-Out of allowing resettlement. The executive order requires both state and local agencies to Opt-In.</p> <p>Catholic Charities, one of nine nationally recognized resettlement agencies, is coordinating with local agencies in the state for opting in and sent the initial request to Chair Bernard’s office. It is presently understood that the resettlement agencies – not state officials – have been directed by the U.S. State Department to lead the effort to get opt-ins from local jurisdictions.</p> <p>Resettlement agencies like Catholic Charities can only resettle refugees within 50 miles of their service area (or office) and within jurisdictions that have opted in. Three resettlement agencies exist in Oregon: Catholic Charities, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, and Ecumenical Ministries.</p>
Department Support	<p>PGA: The Governor’s Office replied to the Executive Order shortly after it was issued, accepting the terms and thereby enabling the local agencies to do the same if they desire to opt-in. Multnomah County is currently drafting a reply to Opt In, and the state’s Refugee Coordinator at the Oregon Department of Human Services has validated this process.</p> <p>H3S: Supports opting in.</p> <p>Counsel: Has reviewed the letter.</p>
Staff Recommendation	<p>PGA recommends the BCC approve the attached draft letter and submit to Catholic Charities and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.</p>
Timeline	<p>Formal letters should be submitted to Catholic Charities by December 20, 2019. The official due date is December 26, which is 90 days after the issuance of Executive Order 13888.</p>



December **DRAFT**, 2019

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20520

RE: Executive Order 13888 – On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

On behalf of Clackamas County, Oregon, I am writing to accept the terms of President Trump's Executive Order 13888, consenting to initial refugee resettlement within the boundaries of Clackamas County.

Clackamas County is proud to provide a safe, healthy, and secure community for our residents, and we are actively working to build public trust in good government. These tenets are two elements of Clackamas County's strategic plan, and we believe they are essential for ensuring all residents feel welcome and safe. This includes refugees who, for one reason or another, are no longer welcome or safe in their native countries and are in desperate need of a new place to live.

The United States of America was founded by immigrants and refugees seeking political or religious asylum. We believe that history of welcoming refugees, while complex, is inherent in the makeup of our nation's young, albeit thriving democracy. As such, we are proud to continue welcoming refugees in Clackamas County.

Sincerely,

Jim Bernard, Chair
On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

CC:
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Carol T. O'Connell
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
U.S. Department of State