

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7401

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 2, 2019

Mr. ELLISON 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

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## 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”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. English language and work orientation training for approved refugee applicants.

- Sec. 3. Lawful permanent resident status of refugees and aliens granted asylum.
- Sec. 4. Update of reception and placement grants.
- Sec. 5. Coordination of refugee program agencies.
- Sec. 6. Case management.
- Sec. 7. Increase in cash payments.
- Sec. 8. Refugee integration grants.
- Sec. 9. Matching grant program expansion.
- Sec. 10. Domestic emergency refugee resettlement fund.
- Sec. 11. Supplemental security income benefits.
- Sec. 12. Making special immigrant juvenile status beneficiaries and unaccompanied children granted “U” visa protection eligible for foster care and refugee benefits.

1 **SEC. 2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND WORK ORIENTATION**  
 2 **TRAINING FOR APPROVED REFUGEE APPLI-**  
 3 **CANTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall es-  
 5 tablish overseas refugee training programs to offer  
 6 English as a second language and work orientation train-  
 7 ing options for refugees who have been approved for ad-  
 8 mission to the United States before their departure for  
 9 the United States.

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

13 (1) nongovernmental or international organiza-  
 14 tions with direct ties to the United States refugee  
 15 resettlement program; and

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

1           (c) IMPACT ON PROCESSING TIMES.—The Secretary  
2 shall ensure that such training programs are strictly op-  
3 tional, occur within applicable processing times and do not  
4 delay or prevent the departure for the United States of  
5 refugees who have been approved for admission to the  
6 United States.

7           (d) TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—

8                 (1) INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than  
9           1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
10          the Secretary shall ensure that such training pro-  
11          grams are fully and continually operational in at  
12          least 3 refugee processing regions.

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

19           (e) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the  
20          date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
21          of the United States shall conduct a study on the imple-  
22          mentation of this section, including an assessment of the  
23          quality of English as a second language curriculum and  
24          instruction, the benefits of the work orientation and  
25          English as a second language training program to refu-

1 gees, and recommendations on whether such programs  
2 should be continued, broadened, or modified, and shall  
3 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-  
4 port on the findings of such study.

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

9 **SEC. 3. LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS OF REFU-**  
10 **GEES AND ALIENS GRANTED ASYLUM.**

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

14 (1) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

21 (C) by striking “(except as otherwise pro-  
22 vided under paragraph (3)) as an immigrant  
23 under this Act.” and inserting “(except as pro-  
24 vided under subsections (b) and (c) of section  
25 209) as an immigrant under this Act. Notwith-

1 standing any numerical limitations specified in  
2 this Act, any alien admitted under this para-  
3 graph shall be regarded as lawfully admitted to  
4 the United States for permanent residence as of  
5 the date of such alien’s admission to the United  
6 States.”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2)(A)—

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

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

21 (3) by striking paragraph (3);

22 (4) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-  
23 graph (3); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           lum shall be regarded as lawfully admitted to  
2           the United States for permanent residence as of  
3           the date of such spouse's or child's admission to  
4           the United States.

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

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

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

19           “(a) IN GENERAL.—

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

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

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

17                   “(A) is granted—

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

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

23                   “(B) applies for such adjustment of status  
24 at any time after being granted asylum or ref-  
25 ugee status;



1           “(C) is not firmly resettled in any foreign  
2 country; or

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

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

13           “(5) DOCUMENT ISSUANCE.—An alien who has  
14 been admitted to the United States under section  
15 207 or 208 or who adjusts to the status of a lawful  
16 permanent resident as a refugee or asylee under this  
17 section shall be issued documentation indicating that  
18 such alien is a lawful permanent resident pursuant  
19 to a grant of refugee or asylum status.

20           “(b) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN INADMISSIBILITY  
21 GROUNDS TO REFUGEES, ALIENS GRANTED ASYLUM,  
22 AND SUCH ALIENS SEEKING ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS TO  
23 LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT.—Paragraphs (4), (5),  
24 and (7)(A) of section 212(a) shall not apply to—

25           “(1) any refugee under section 207;

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

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

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

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

22           “(2) INELIGIBILITY.—A refugee under section  
23           207, an alien granted asylum under section 208, or  
24           an alien seeking admission as a lawful permanent  
25           resident pursuant to a grant of refugee or asylum

1 status shall be ineligible for a waiver under para-  
2 graph (1) if it has been established that the alien  
3 is—

4 “(A) inadmissible under section  
5 212(a)(2)(C) or subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or  
6 (E) of section 212(a)(3);

7 “(B) deportable under section  
8 237(a)(2)(A)(iii) for an offense described in  
9 section 101(a)(43)(B); or

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

12 (d) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

13 (1) ALIENS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECT NUMER-  
14 ICAL LIMITATIONS.—Section 201(b)(1)(B) of the  
15 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
16 1151(b)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

17 “(B) Aliens who are admitted to the  
18 United States as permanent residents under  
19 section 207 or 208 or whose status is adjusted  
20 under section 209.”.

21 (2) TRAINING.—Section 207(f)(1) of such Act  
22 (8 U.S.C. 1157(f)(1)) is amended by striking “At-  
23 torney General” and inserting “Secretary of Home-  
24 land Security”.

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

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

4           (e) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

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

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

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

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

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

3 **SEC. 4. UPDATE OF RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT GRANTS.**

4           Beginning with fiscal year 2020, the Secretary of  
5 State shall, when setting the amount of the reception and  
6 placement grants for refugees, ensure that—

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

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

18          (3) additional amounts are provided to each na-  
19          tional resettlement agency promptly upon the arrival  
20          of refugees that, exclusive of the amounts provided  
21          pursuant to paragraph (2), are sufficient to meet the  
22          anticipated initial resettlement needs of such refu-  
23          gees and support local and national operational costs  
24          in excess of the estimates described in paragraph  
25          (1).

1 **SEC. 5. COORDINATION OF REFUGEE PROGRAM AGENCIES.**

2 It is the sense of the Congress that—

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

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

15 **SEC. 6. CASE MANAGEMENT.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—

17 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—

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

24 (A) the Office of Refugee Resettlement  
25 (the “Office”);

1 (B) other Federal, State, or local agencies;  
2 and  
3 (C) private or nonprofit organizations.

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

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

20 (4) EXCEPTIONS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIR-  
21 CUMSTANCES.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-  
23 graph (3), an individual described in subpara-  
24 graph (B) shall be qualified to receive the case  
25 management services described in paragraph

1 (1) during the period beginning on the date on  
2 which such individual was determined eligible  
3 for resettlement, acculturation, or subsistence  
4 services provided by the Office, and continuing  
5 for 3 years after the date on which such indi-  
6 vidual ceases to be eligible for such resettle-  
7 ment, acculturation, or subsistence services.

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

12 (i) is elderly;

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

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

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

22 (v) at the time of entry—

23 (I) had a disability or serious  
24 medical condition;



1 (II) had mental health condi-  
2 tions;

3 (III) was part of a household  
4 headed by a single parent; or

5 (IV) had been the victim of a se-  
6 vere form of violence.

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 7. INCREASE IN CASH PAYMENTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 412 of the Immigration  
3 and Nationality 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  
7 funds appropriated for this purpose, assist-  
8 ance and social services for employment,  
9 health and living expenses shall be avail-  
10 able for a period of not less than 12  
11 months.”;

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

17 (3) in subsection (e)(1)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 **SEC. 8. REFUGEE INTEGRATION GRANTS.**

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

24 (b) SERVICES FUNDED.—Programs funded under  
25 subsection (a) shall be used—

1           (1) to offer assistance and instruction to aliens  
2 described in subsection (e), on—

3           (A) the naturalization process;

4           (B) the legal requirements for naturaliza-  
5 tion;

6           (C) rights and responsibilities of U.S. citi-  
7 zens;

8           (D) cultural orientation;

9           (E) English as a second language;

10          (F) civics and United States history;

11          (G) housing;

12          (H) transportation;

13          (I) recertification;

14          (J) employment training;

15          (K) mental health services;

16          (L) childcare services; and

17          (M) other topics the Director identifies as  
18 aiding the orientation and adjustment of new  
19 arrivals to the United States;

20          (2) to offer orientation and assistance to Fed-  
21 eral, State, and local institutions that serve new-  
22 comers to the United States so as to assist such in-  
23 stitutions in meeting their needs; and

24          (3) to provide technical assistance and training  
25 to community-based organizations providing instruc-

1       tion in English as a second language, civics, and  
2       United States history and technical assistance and  
3       training to community-based organizations providing  
4       naturalization outreach and application assistance.

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

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

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

12          (3) aliens admitted as special immigrants from  
13       Iraq or Afghanistan pursuant to section 1244 of the  
14       National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
15       2008 (Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 396);

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

19          (5) other aliens designated by the Director of  
20       the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

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

1 (e) PRIORITY.—In selecting grantees, the Director  
2 shall give priority to organizations either with experience  
3 in resettling refugees or in administering services for refu-  
4 gees and asylum seekers.

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

12 **SEC. 9. MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM EXPANSION.**

13 (a) USE OF THE REFUGEE MATCHING GRANT PRO-  
14 GRAM.—

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

24 (2) ANNUAL THRESHOLDS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-  
2 ability of funds appropriated for this purpose,  
3 the percentage of eligible individuals who apply  
4 for services under the matching grant program  
5 who shall be served through such program is  
6 set at the following levels in each of the fol-  
7 lowing fiscal years—

8 (i) at least 60 percent in fiscal year  
9 2020;

10 (ii) at least 70 percent in fiscal year  
11 2021; and

12 (iii) at least 80 percent in fiscal year  
13 2022, and thereafter.

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

20 (3) LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT.—In-  
21 dividuals as described in paragraph (2)(B) shall be  
22 eligible for services under the matching grant pro-  
23 gram, and therefore be expected to achieve self-suffi-  
24 ciency, within 180 to 240 days of their enrollment  
25 in the program.

1 (4) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

2 (A) ANNUAL UPDATE.—Subject to the  
3 availability of funds appropriated for this pur-  
4 pose, beginning with fiscal year 2020, the Di-  
5 rector shall, when setting the amount of the  
6 matching grants, ensure that the grant amount  
7 is adjusted annually so that it is adequate to  
8 provide for services intended to help refugees  
9 become self-sufficient within 180 to 240 days,  
10 including adjusting the amount for inflation  
11 and the cost of living.

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

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

22 (ii) determine the per capita grant  
23 amount that would be necessary in order  
24 to provide the assistance necessary to en-  
25 able individuals who are served by the pro-



1           gram achieve self-sufficiency within 240  
2           days; and

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

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

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

23                   (i) the Director's findings pursuant to  
24          subparagraph (B);

1 (ii) the amount of the per capita  
2 grant that will be provided beginning on  
3 the first day of the first fiscal year that be-  
4 gins after the date of enactment of this  
5 Act; and

6 (iii) a summary of the views expressed  
7 by the entities described in subparagraph  
8 (C).

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

20 **SEC. 10. DOMESTIC EMERGENCY REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**  
21 **FUND.**

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

1           (b) DRAWDOWN OF FUNDS.—Whenever the Director  
2 determines it to be important to the national interest, the  
3 Director is authorized to furnish on such terms and condi-  
4 tions as the Director may determine, assistance under this  
5 chapter for the purpose of meeting unexpected urgent re-  
6 settlement needs of populations and communities served  
7 pursuant to this chapter, including communities experi-  
8 encing high numbers of arrivals of refugees due to sec-  
9 ondary migration.

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

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

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

24           (f) CAP ON FUND.—No funds may be appropriated  
25 which when added to the amounts previously appropriated

1 but not yet obligated, would cause such amounts to exceed  
2 \$100,000,000 annually.

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

6 **SEC. 11. SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME BENEFITS.**

7 Section 402(a)(2) of the Personal Responsibility and  
8 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C.  
9 1612(a)(2)) is amended—

10 (1) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as  
11 follows:

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

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

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

22 “(iii) an alien whose deportation is  
23 withheld under section 243(h) of such Act  
24 (8 U.S.C. 1253) (as in effect immediately  
25 before the effective date of section 307 of

1 division C of Public Law 104–208) or sec-  
2 tion 241(b)(3) of such Act (8 U.S.C.  
3 1231(b)(3)) (as amended by section 305(a)  
4 of division C of Public Law 104–208);

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

9 “(v) an alien admitted as a special im-  
10 migrant from Iraq or Afghanistan pursu-  
11 ant to section 1244 of the National De-  
12 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
13 2008; or

14 “(vi) an alien who is admitted to the  
15 United States as an Amerasian immigrant  
16 pursuant to section 584 of the Foreign Op-  
17 erations, Export Financing, and Related  
18 Programs Appropriations Act, 1988 (as  
19 contained in section 101(e) of Public Law  
20 100–202 and amended by the 9th proviso  
21 under migration and refugee assistance in  
22 title II of the Foreign Operations, Export  
23 Financing, and Related Programs Appro-  
24 priations Act, 1989, Public Law 100–461,  
25 as amended).”; and

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

2 “(N) SSI BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN ALIENS  
3 AND VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.—Beginning on  
4 the date of the enactment of this subparagraph,  
5 any qualified alien (as defined in section  
6 431(b)), victim of trafficking in persons (as de-  
7 fined in section 107(b)(1)(C) of division A of  
8 the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protec-  
9 tion Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(C))), or  
10 alien granted status under section  
11 101(a)(15)(T)(ii) of the Immigration and Na-  
12 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T)(ii)) ren-  
13 dered ineligible for the specified Federal pro-  
14 gram described in paragraph (3)(A) solely by  
15 reason of the termination of the 7-year period  
16 described in subparagraph (A) prior to the en-  
17 actment of this subparagraph shall be eligible  
18 for benefits under such program without regard  
19 to subparagraph (A).”.

1 **SEC. 12. MAKING SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS**  
2 **BENEFICIARIES AND UNACCOMPANIED CHIL-**  
3 **DREN GRANTED “U” VISA PROTECTION ELIGI-**  
4 **BLE FOR FOSTER CARE AND REFUGEE BENE-**  
5 **FITS.**

6 (a) **ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS AND SERVICES.**—  
7 Section 107(b)(1)(A) of the Victims of Trafficking and Vi-  
8 olence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(A))  
9 is amended by inserting “, an alien who has been granted  
10 special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27)(J) of  
11 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
12 1101(a)(27)(J)), a child who has been granted status  
13 under section 101(a)(15)(U) of the Immigration and Na-  
14 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15(U)),” after “traf-  
15 ficking in persons,”.

16 (b) **STATE REIMBURSEMENT.**—Subject to the avail-  
17 ability of funds appropriated for this purpose, if State fos-  
18 ter care funds are expended on behalf of a child who has  
19 been granted special immigrant status under section  
20 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
21 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)), the Federal Government shall re-  
22 imburse the State in which the child resides for such ex-  
23 penditures by the State.

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