



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Arizona Refugee Resettlement Quarterly Meeting

May 2021





RISP-Net Updates

- Virtual Refugee 101 is now on RISP-Net - thanks, City Wide Tucson Partners!
 - Open to all, no registration required
 - <https://www.rispnet.com/courses/refugee-101-citywide-tucson/>
- In need of RISP-Net Spotlight nominees - Highlight refugee accomplishments, outstanding service providers or community members.
 - <https://bit.ly/3d2PWBw> or email the story to info@rispnet.com
- Resource Maps Greater Phoenix and Tucson available
<https://www.rispnet.com/resource-map/>
- As always, submit any resource you want added to RISP-Net to gchung@azdes.gov or info@rispnet.com





World Refugee Day Update

Are you ready to celebrate World Refugee Day 2021?! If you have not done so already, please RSVP to the Facebook event which can be found through the [FB WRD Page](#).

Thank you to everyone who submitted videos for WRD! If you have not done so already and are interested in still submitting a video to be a part of our week long celebration please send it no later than THIS Friday, May 14th!

- WorldRefugeeDayAZ@gmail.com OR WhatsApp: 602-399-2776

Make sure to get your WRD Free Facemask! '[Order](#)' yours now & be sure to share with your family, friends, and fellow refugee community members. Order deadline is Monday, May 31st.



World Refugee Day Update cont.

To see WRD announcements and updates please follow us on:

 Facebook:
[@WorldRefugeeDayAZ](https://www.facebook.com/WorldRefugeeDayAZ)

 Instagram:
[@wrdarizona](https://www.instagram.com/wrdarizona)



SCAN ME





DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Arrival Information



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Presidential Determination

Original FFY 2021:	15,000
Emergency FFY 2021 (May 3rd):	62,500



U.S. Year-to-Date Arrivals

Refugees: 2,334

SIVs: 2,237

As of April 30, 2021



Maricopa County Projected Arrivals FFY 2021

Agency	FFY 2021 PRM Projection
AIRS	88
CC-CS	100
IRC	260
LSS-SW	116
Total	564

Numbers are based on the FFY 2021 Initial PD of 15,000



Pima County Projected Arrivals FFY 2021

Agency	FFY 2021 PRM Projection
CCS	0
IRC	135
LSS-SW	85
Total	220

Numbers are based on the FFY 2021 Initial PD of 15,000



Maricopa County Arrivals Quarter Two

Agency	Refugees	Cuban/Haitian Entrants	Asylees	SIVs	Secondary Migrants	Victims of Trafficking
AIRS	1	0	0	0	0	0
CC-CS	5	0	0	0	3	0
IRC	14	0	0	0	0	0
LSS-SW	8	5	0	0	7	0
Total	28	5	0	0	10	0

Numbers from January 2021 to March 2021



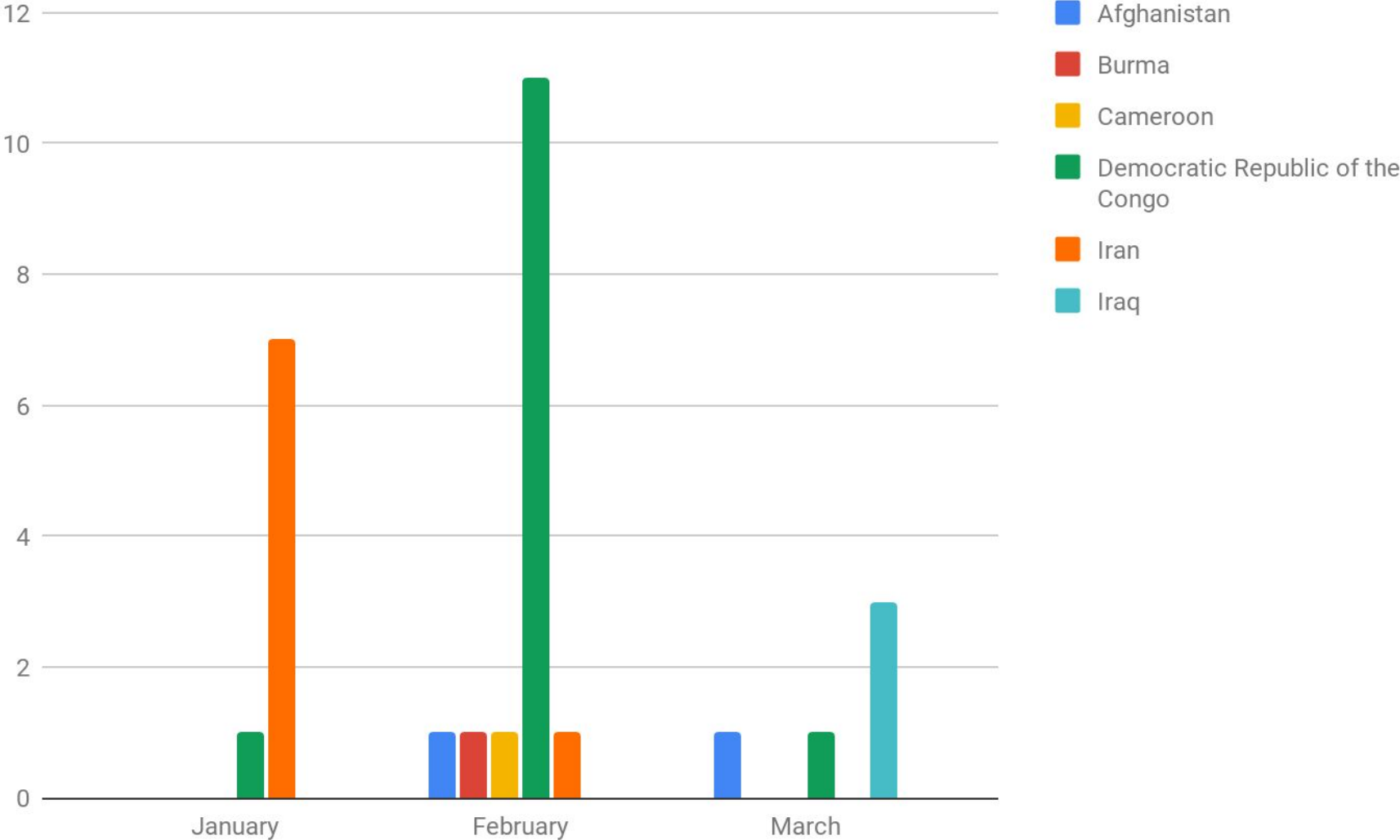
Pima County Arrivals Quarter Two

Agency	Refugees	Cuban/Haitian Entrants	Asylees	SIVs	Secondary Migrants	Victims of Trafficking
CCS	1	2	0	0	1	0
IRC	2	0	1	6	0	0
LSS-SW	1	0	6	0	0	0
Total	4	2	7	6	1	0

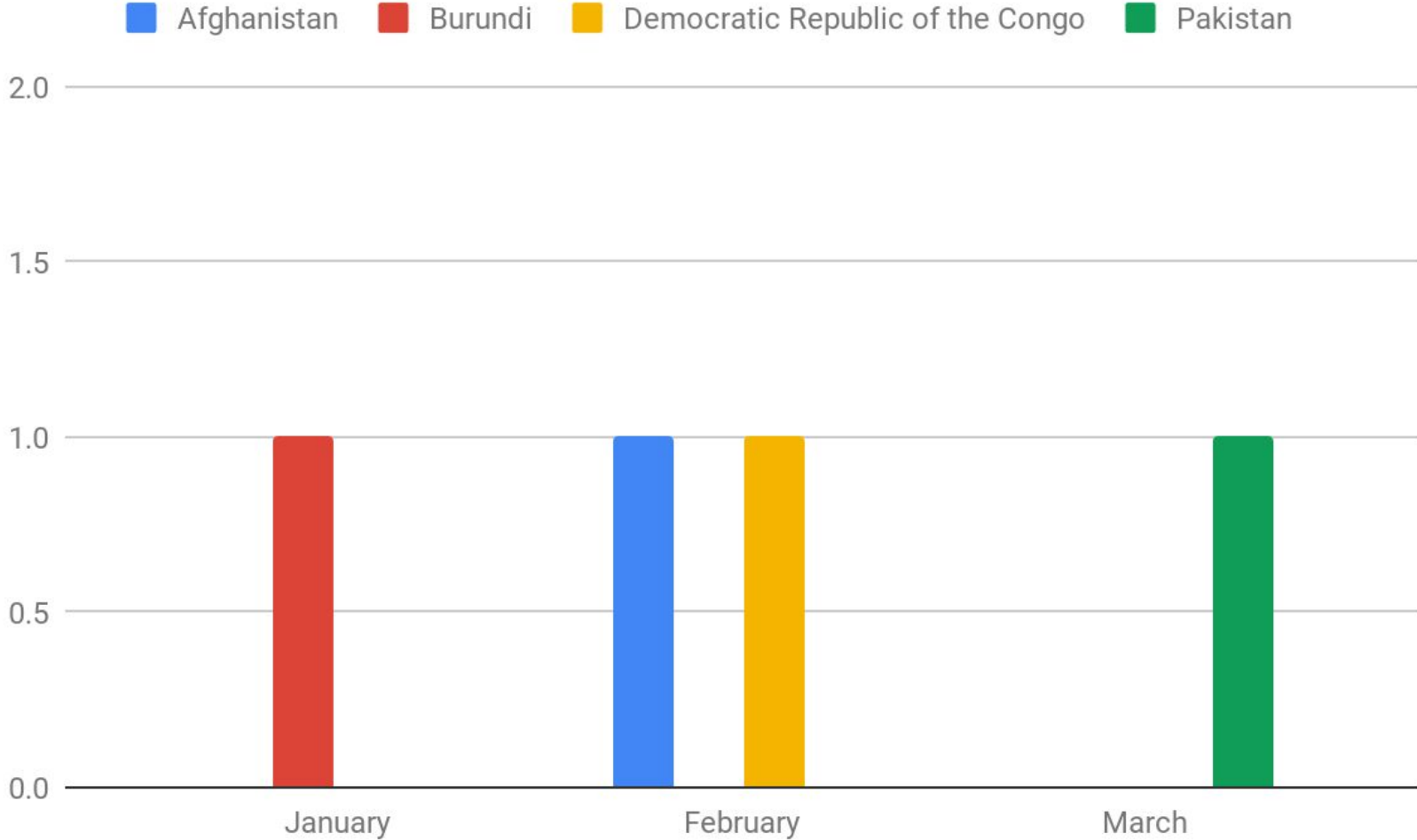
Numbers from January 2021 to March 2021



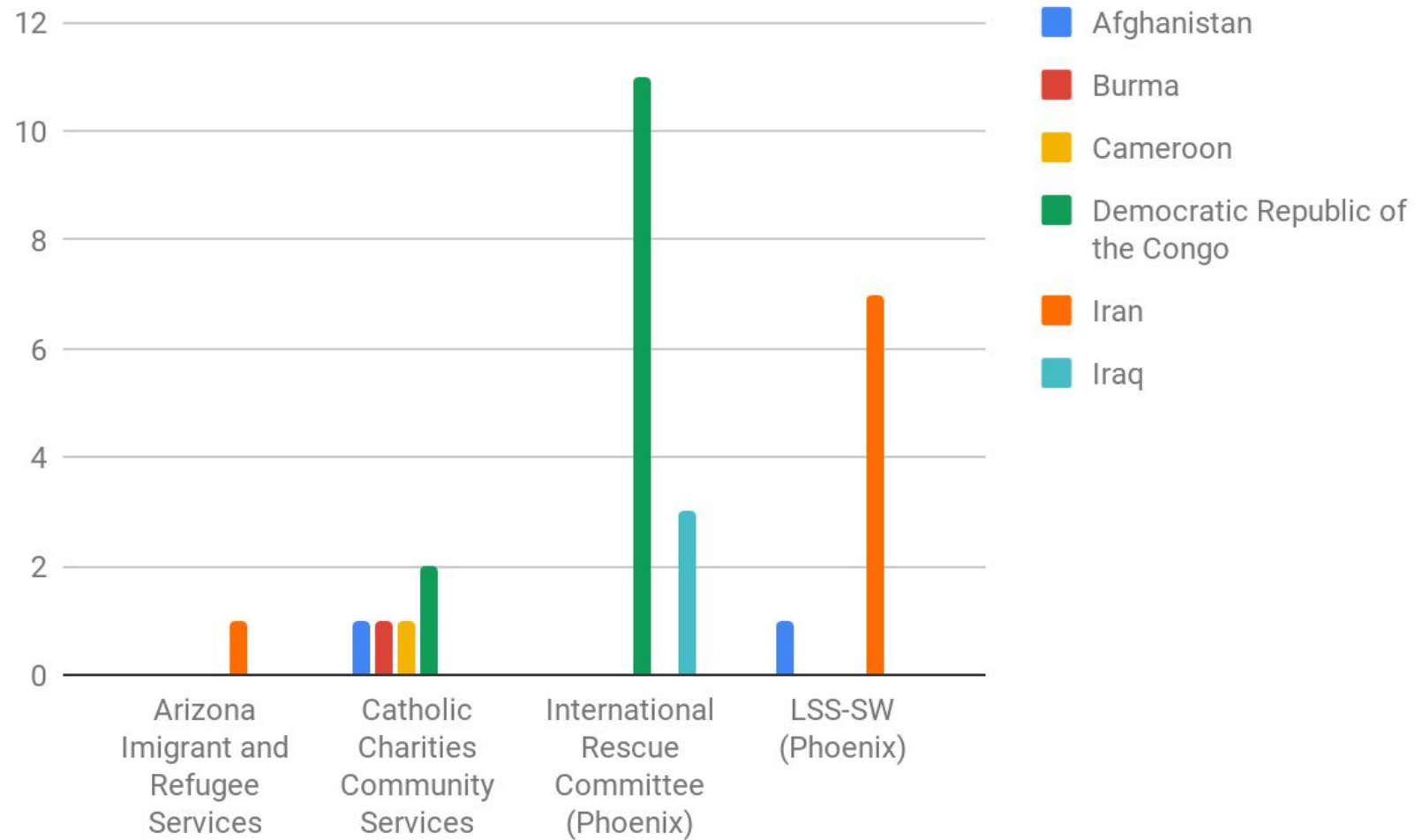
Arrivals By Month - Maricopa



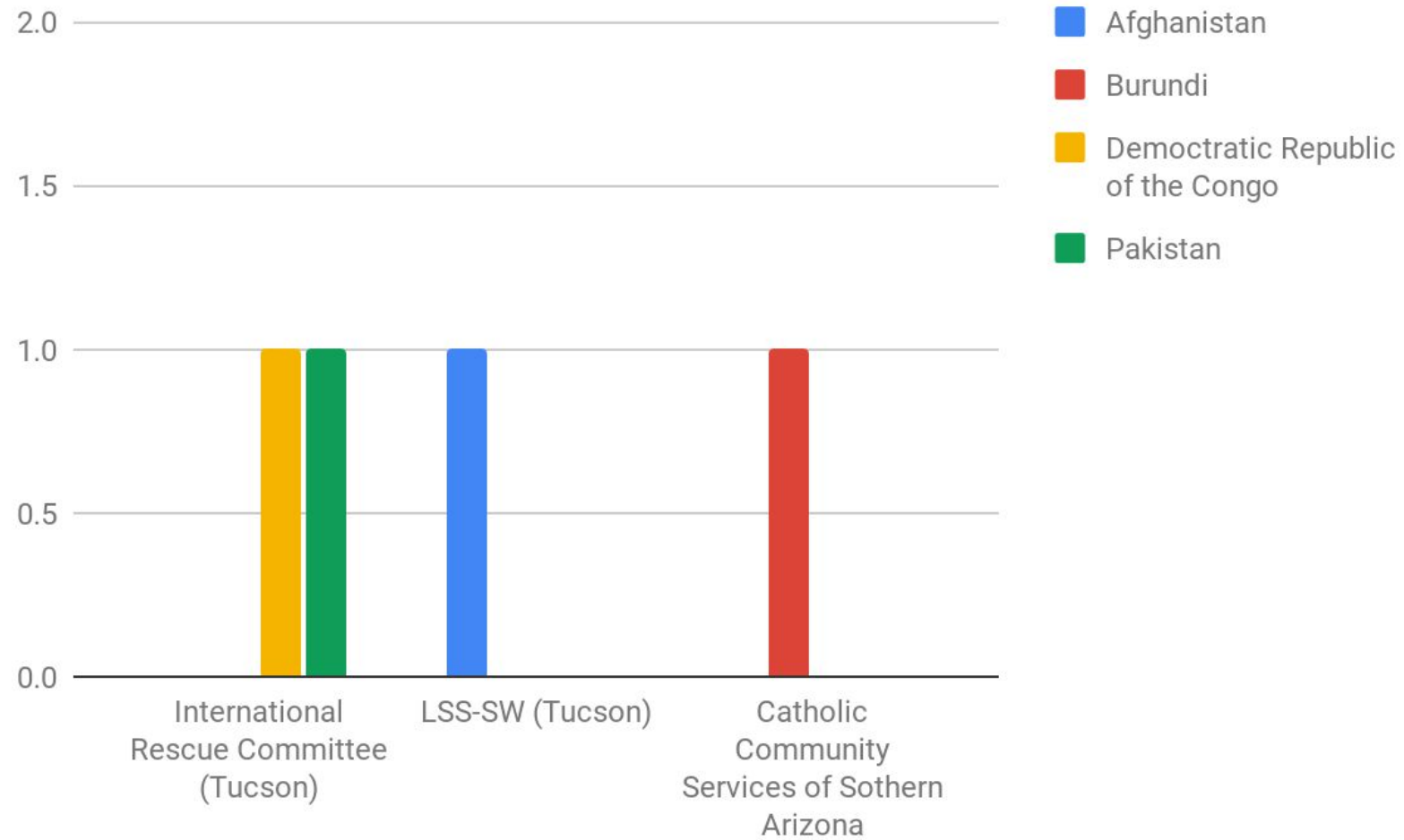
Arrivals By Month - Pima



Top Countries of Arrival - Maricopa



Top Countries of Arrival - Pima



Intensive Case Management (ICM) Maricopa

Agency	Clients Enrolled in ICM
AIRS	10
CC-CS	0
IRC	20
LSS-SW	27
Total	57



Intensive Case Management (ICM) Pima

Agency	Clients Enrolled in ICM
CCS	3
IRC	17
LSS-SW	6
Total	26



Program Definitions

- **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program:** The URM Program was originally developed in 1980 and serves some of the most vulnerable minors in the world, and, since its creation, has served over 13,000 minors. Children eligible for the URM Program are under 18 and unaccompanied by a parent or guardian.

Eligible URM populations include:

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Cuban or Haitian entrants
- Certain minors with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Victims of Trafficking
- U Visa holder



URM - Maricopa

Status	# of Arrivals
Refugees	26
Cuban/Haitian Entrants	1
Asylees	0
Special Immigrant Juvenile	16
U-status Recipient	0
Victims of Trafficking	7
Total	50

Numbers from January 2021 to March 2021



Program Definitions

- **Refugee Cash Assistance Program (RCA):** A federally funded (state administered) cash assistance program for employable single adults and childless couples, otherwise not eligible for TANF. Refugees and eligible beneficiaries may be eligible for RCA benefits for up to eight months from their date of arrival or grant of qualifying status.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** A federally funded (state administered) cash assistance program for families with employable single heads of household (TANF) and two parent households (TPEP). Eligible beneficiaries are required to participate in the State Jobs Program upon receipt of benefits.



Program Definitions

- **No Cash (NC):** Refers to refugees and eligible beneficiaries who are receiving case management or employment services through a resettlement agency, but are not recipients of a public cash assistance benefit.
- **Matching Grant Program (MGP):** A federally funded (refugee resettlement agency administered), early employment and case management program. MGP is an incentivized program based on voluntary participation, and it is designed to be an alternative to public cash assistance programs. The goal of the program is for eligible beneficiaries to obtain self-sufficiency within 120-180 days from their date of enrollment.



RA Employment Service Caseload Maricopa

Agency	RCA	TANF	NC	MGP
AIRS	0	0	0	1
CC-CS	2	1	22	0
IRC	4	4	11	23
LSS-SW	0	0	4	14
Total	6	5	37	38



RA Employment Service Caseload Pima

Agency	RCA	TANF	NC	MG
CCS	0	0	31	0
IRC	0	5	42	16
LSS-SW	1	1	14	3
Total	1	6	87	19



Refugee Program Employment Services Maricopa

Cash Type	Outcomes	Resettlement Agency				Total
		AIRS	CCCS	IRC	LSS-SW	
RCA	RA Employable Caseload	0	2	4	0	6
	RA Clients Employed	0	2	2	0	4
	Average Hourly Wage	N/A	\$12.90	\$14.50	N/A	\$13.70
	90-Day Retention	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A	100%



Refugee Program Employment Services Maricopa

Cash Type	Outcomes	RESETTLEMENT AGENCY				Total
		AIRS	CCCS	IRC	LSS-SW	
TANF	Employable Caseload	0	1	4	0	5
	Entered Employment	0	1	0	0	1
	Average Hourly Wage	N/A	\$12.50	N/A	N/A	\$12.50
	90-Day Retention	N/A	100%	100%	N/A	100%
No Cash	Employable Caseload	0	22	11	4	37
	Entered Employment	0	5	5	4	14
	Average Hourly Wage	N/A	\$14.45	\$15.50	\$14.75	\$14.90
	90-Day Retention	N/A	80%	80%	100%	86.7%



Refugee Program Employment Services Pima

Cash Type	Outcomes	RESETTLEMENT AGENCY			Total
		CCS	IRC	LSS-SW	
RCA	Employable Caseload	0	0	1	1
	Entered Employment	0	0	0	0
	Average Hourly Wage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	90-Day Retention	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



Refugee Program Employment Services Pima

Cash Type	Outcomes	RESETTLEMENT AGENCY			Total
		CCS	IRC	LSS-SW	
TANF	Employable Caseload	0	5	1	6
	Entered Employment	0	4	0	4
	Average Hourly Wage	N/A	\$12.15	N/A	\$12.15
	90-Day Retention	N/A	100%	N/A	100%
No Cash	Employable Caseload	31	42	14	87
	Entered Employment	23	28	12	63
	Average Hourly Wage	\$14.15	\$13.25	\$12.58	\$13.33
	90-Day Retention	91.30%	90%	33%	71%



Matching Grant Program - Maricopa

Cash Type	Outcomes	RESETTLEMENT AGENCY				Total
		AIRS	CCCS	IRC	LSS-SW	
MGP	Employable caseload	13	0	23	25	61
	Entered Employment	8	0	16	17	41
	Average Hourly Wage	\$14.15	N/A	\$13.11	\$13.43	\$13.56
	Percent Self-Sufficient at 120 Days	22%	N/A	49%	75%	48.67%
	Percent Self-Sufficient at 180 Days	90%	N/A	95%	94.44%	93.15%



Matching Grant Program - Pima

Cash Type	Outcomes	Resettlement Agency			Total
		CCS	IRC	LSS-SW	
MGP	Employable caseload	0	16	3	19
	Entered Employment	0	11	3	14
	Average Hourly Wage	N/A	\$13.97	\$13.00	\$13.49
	Percent Self-Sufficient at 120 Days	N/A	86%	100%	93%
	Percent Self-Sufficient at 180 Days	N/A	90.48%	94%	92.2%



Health Screening

County	Screening Rates (January-March)
Maricopa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="682 406 1210 456">▪ Total screened: 23<li data-bbox="682 556 1719 614">▪ Percent screened within 30 days: 83%
Pima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="682 731 1210 781">▪ Total screened: 17<li data-bbox="682 881 1719 938">▪ Percent screened within 30 days: 82%



Challenges

Challenge Type	Details
Low Arrivals/Loss of Funding Sources	RAs face limited funding and reduced staffing capacity due to low arrivals . Low attendance at fundraising events and transition to virtual fundraising impede fundraising efforts .
Communication	Transition from in-person to virtual meetings, trainings, and orientations has been difficult. Low client digital literacy levels impede communication. Working from home is difficult as case files are not digitized and physical signatures are required. Clients cannot easily visit the office on appointment-only basis.
Delayed Benefits and Documentation due to COVID-19	Social Security Administration office closures cause appointment backlogs for Social Security Cards and SSI applications. DES office closures create barriers to receiving public benefits.



Challenges

Challenge Type	Details
Financial Stability & Employment	Due to the pandemic, clients are having difficulty finding employment and paying bills . The employment market changes week to week. An inability to meet employers' demand for new hires has negatively impacted employment partnerships .
Unemployment	Filing for unemployment now includes the ID.me process, done via smartphone or computer. Many clients, especially those facing language and digital literacy barriers, have been unable to complete the process without help.
Health in the Pandemic	Many clients are afraid to contract or spread COVID-19 , so are avoiding regular doctor visits and the hospital. Some clients are uncomfortable getting a vaccine . Transportation for COVID-19 testing remains a concern.



Challenges

Challenge Type	Details
Housing Affordability & Availability	Housing prices continue to increase while housing availability declines. Difficult to find housing for large families on bus routes. Some apartment complexes have safety concerns . The new Emergency Rental Assistance program for clients is complex.
Children's Education	School-aged students are finding remote and hybrid learning difficult. Most students have issues with technology and limited support from parents in technology and curriculum .
Adult Education	Clients are having trouble learning English and improving job skills virtually. Senior clients in particular struggle with digital literacy and many are consequently falling behind in English classes.



Successes

Success Type	Details
Public Benefits	Connections were made with local SSA offices to schedule clients. Due to the pandemic, clients have received stimulus payments and increased unemployment benefits .
Health in the Pandemic	Agencies collaborated with community partners to offer COVID-19 testing . Lyft partnered with the IRC for transportation assistance to clients scheduled for vaccines. Some clients have had success using a pharmacy that offers multiple languages.
Housing	Single parent families relocated to more affordable housing . Families were supported with rental and utility assistance . Housing staff are participating in an RRP-led Refugee Housing Initiative and conducting outreach into the East Valley for better housing opportunities.



Successes

Success Type	Details
Women's Empowerment Program (WEP) at LSS-SW	The program received a new VISTA, participated in community events , and met with local artists and businesses regarding income opportunities. Ten WEP women were connected with the CARES Act funding for refugee microenterprise. The WEP program will be producing 500 cloth face masks for World Refugee Day.
Education (Children and Adults)	School-aged children received support enrolling in classes and obtaining computers for remote learning. Clients were referred to ELT providers. Financial literacy lessons were offered via Zoom in multiple languages.
Employment	COVID vaccinations have led to increased job opportunities . More employers are hiring and more clients are working rather than relying on unemployment. Clients have shown long-term job retention .



Successes

Success Type	Details
Volunteers	Several volunteers have returned after completing their vaccinations to support clients, especially in the area of tutoring.
Community Engagement & Collaboration	Donations were provided to Muslim families during Ramadan and baby care packages were provided for new mothers. Agencies improved communication with ECBOs and continued collaboration with existing community and faith-based groups. Community presentations were offered and new partnerships are being explored.
Grants & In-Kind Donations	Grants were obtained and partnerships formed to provide clients with in-kind donations such as food boxes, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, clothing and shoes, diapers, PPE, computers, household items, and bicycles. Events included hygiene drives, a charity walk, and a jean drive.





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COVID-19 Updates



Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

COVID-19 Health Updates

Maricopa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ MCDPH Refugee Outreach team has coordinated a number of vaccination events▪ If you want to explore hosting a vaccine event: ariella.dale@maricopa.gov▪ If you want to request a COVID-19 presentation given by a healthcare provider: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C89XJT2
Pima	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ IRC and PCHD are hosting a number of vaccination and testing events.▪ To join a WhatsApp group for easy share vaccination materials, text 520-247-0619
Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Stay up to date on resources and events: Sign up for Refugee Health in AZ email: jdavis@azdes.gov▪ Multilingual resources: National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM)



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**Public Private Partnership:
Chris Tremel
Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program**



PPP Description

	Intro
What is PPP?	The Public Private Partnership (PPP) allows the state Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) and the Resettlement Agencies (RAs) that operate under Reception and Placement Program Cooperative Agreements to assume administration of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) per 45 CFR § 400.56(b)
Why move to PPP?	PPP allows RRP to increase RCA and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance levels as follow: One Member : \$335 Two Members: \$450 Three Members: \$570 Four Members: \$685 +\$70 for each member thereafter
When does it Start?	July 1, 2021



PPP Description

	Details
What does this mean for clients?	Beginning July 1st, RCA will be administered by RAs to do intake and enrollment for their clients. The DES Family Assistance Administration (FAA) will continue intake for SNAP and AHCCCS.
SNAP Benefits	PPP clients' SNAP Benefits will be reduced slightly (around \$15/month) as the extra PPP income is considered as countable income; however, overall clients receive an increase in net cash benefit.
How will clients receive benefits?	RCA clients will no longer receive RCA through the current EBT Card. A Bank of America debit card will be issued.



PPP Description

	TANF Differential
What about TANF clients?	PPP will offer a PPP differential payment to TANF clients for eight months so that they receive payments in parity with RCA.
Will clients still need to comply with TANF workforce development requirements?	Yes, TANF clients will still need to comply with TANF workforce development (MAXIMUS/EQUS) requirements. The normal state TANF payment level will come from DES on the EBT and the PPP differential will come on the Bank of America Debit Card.
How are TANF clients enrolled?	TANF clients are still enrolled into TANF by FAA, the current process does not change for TANF enrollment.





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Discussion Questions/Open Mic



Meeting Chat Open Mic

- **Rob Moore:** IRC will have another event on 5/22 from 9 to noon - walk ins welcome
- **Dominic Braham:** [HERE](#) is the link to register for the May 18th COVID Vaccine event.
- **McMahon:** These vaccine events are also posted on IRC Tucson Facebook page in translated flyers
- **Derek DeVelder:** Abounding Service provides refugees free English classes (yes, in-person!) and citizenship coaching near Central and Bethany Home Rd. Contact Derek DeVelder, ddevelder@aboundingservice.org cell: 719-641-7049
- **Melissa Mahon:** If your clients are in need of a computer, The Welcome to America Project and PCs for Refugees has desktops available (NO laptops) for refugees. Request a desktop [HERE](#) or email me at melissa.mahon@wtap.org. In addition, you can request a bicycle from The Welcome to America Project and Phantom Cyclist for your refugee clients [HERE](#). In addition, refugees are invited to join The Welcome to America Project and Phantom Cyclist to learn how to repair bikes.



Meeting Chat Open Mic

- **Anna Burke:** Pio Decimo Center in Tucson is providing VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) for low-income families. 2 more clinics left for the year. Saturday May 15th from 10am to 4pm and Monday May 17th from 9am to 6pm.
- **Nora Castaneda:** SAUC Digital literacy class Fridays 10-12! Help parents who are supporting their children with online classes. They also have English and Citizenship classes Monday-Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm. Childcare is available to parents who wish to take the class but need their children to be cared for.
- **Lynsey Wright:** FBI Community Outreach: Email - lrwright@fbi.gov Phone: 623-466-1845
- **Meheria Habibi:** IRC Tucson is hiring RCA Coordinator check out the details [HERE](#) and share widely.
- **Courtney Jackson:** Hi all! Friendly House just launched our ELT Tech Lease Program. If you have clients who are enrolled in our ELT classes and need tech assistance - either a laptop or a hotspot - we will be able to assist. You can contact me at courtney.jackson@friendlyhouse.org.



Meeting Chat Open Mic

- **Travis Thompson:** [Professional Pathways Integration](#) provides consultation to individuals, service providers, VOLAGS, community employers, and community stakeholders with the knowledge and resources to develop licensing and career pathway guides and employment services to assist high skilled refugees and asylees to reclaim their careers in Arizona.
- **April Jones:** On May 12 the FCC will launch the new Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB) <https://getemergencybroadband.org/>. The EBB addresses the unprecedented need by low-income households for affordable digital access resources including Internet and devices such as computers and cell phones. The EBB provides eligible households a subsidy of up to \$50 per month on Internet service, or \$75 per month for those living on Tribal lands. The EBB may also provide eligible households a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop or tablet computer. Community Engagement Liaison DES Office of Community Engagement/Phoenix AprilJones@azdes.gov or 480.490.6720. Please contact me if I can be of assistance.
- **Tamanna Islam:** <https://getemergencybroadband.org/> & <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>.

