

## **Funding to Assist Refugees and Resettlement Agencies Proposed for Inclusion in NYS Budget**

### **Here's how you can help!**

### **Call Our Representatives in Support of the Proposed \$12 Million to Help Refugees and Refugee Resettlement Agencies**

**Democratic lawmakers have called for a \$12 million boost in state funding for New York State refugee resettlement agencies and to assist refugees.** This comes as **Gov. Andrew Cuomo and state lawmakers are negotiating the upcoming state budget.**

The request for additional funding came in response to President Trump's 120-day ban on refugee travel to the U.S., causing hardship to resettlement agencies and to refugees who were anticipating reunification with family members and others who are still seeking post-settlement services.

Under the proposed plan:

**\$2 million would go toward allowing refugee resettlement agencies to continue working at capacity** and make up for any revenue that was lost during the 120-day ban.

**\$5 million would go toward allowing resettlement agencies to provide an additional 90 days of services to refugees.**

The Assembly members also requested **\$5 million to be included in the state budget to fund legal services to refugees.**

The timeline for the budget process is as follows:

- **By March 15**, an agreement between the Assembly and Senate is needed to move the package forward to the governor. (This is called a One House Agreement.)
- **By March 31**, the governor will need to have signed off on this One House Agreement. Through the governor, the allocation of the funding and the agency to deliver it will be decided.

Last week a delegation of eight people associated with InterFaith Works held meetings with various Assembly and Senate leaders in Albany regarding the proposed \$15 million package. We met with Senators Valesky and DeFrancisco, and with Assembly Members Magnarelli, Hunter and Stirpe. We were advised that the entire Upstate Caucus of the Assembly has signed on to support the package, and that additional education for Senators is needed.

### **Here's how you can help:**

**Please call (phone calls are most effective) weekly between now and March 31** the following government officials to ask for their support of \$12 million being included in the state budget to support refugees and refugee resettlement agencies.

***The timeframe for influencing this funding is short. We have been advised that “extraordinary times demand extraordinary effort. Raise our voices now!”***

**WHOM TO CALL:**

**NEW YORK STATE LEADERSHIP**

**Governor Andrew Cuomo**  
518-474-8390

**Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie**  
518-455-3791

**ASSEMBLY MEMBERS**

**Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli**  
315-428-9651

**Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter**  
315-449-9536

**Assemblyman Al Stirpe**  
315-452-1115

**STATE SENATORS**

**Senator John Flanagan**  
Temporary President and Majority Leader  
518-455-2071

**Senator Jeffrey Klein**  
Independent Democratic Conference Leader  
518-455-3595

**Senator John DeFrancisco**  
315-428-7632

**Senator Dave Valesky**  
315-478-8745

**SOME KEY POINTS TO MAKE:**

***Tell the office:***

Who you are and your association with InterFaith Works of Central New York

***Convey that:***

- You are in support of \$12 million being included in the state budget to support refugee resettlement agencies.
- If refugees are banned from coming into the U.S., resettlement agencies will lose vital funding, and be unable to best serve refugees who are already here.

- If the agencies lose funding, they will have to lay-off staff, and will struggle to continue taking refugees once the ban is over.
- You also support expanding services for refugees to help with employment, education, housing and legal assistance.
- Refugees are helping to grow communities in Upstate New York, including Syracuse, where they have helped offset a declining population, opened businesses, purchased homes, bought goods and services, and added diversity to our community.
- It is in our best interest to help refugees succeed.

Follow this link for a copy of the letter sent to Carl Heastie, speaker of the New York State Assembly, from Upstate Assembly representatives in support of refugees and refugee resettlement agencies.