



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5259

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Rep. Hoan Huynh

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/2-12 from Ch. 23, par. 2-12
305 ILCS 5/Art. XVII heading new
305 ILCS 5/17-1 new
305 ILCS 5/17-2 new
305 ILCS 5/17-3 new
305 ILCS 5/17-4 new
305 ILCS 5/17-5 new

Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Adds the Refugee Social Services Article to the Code. Requires the Department of Human Services to allocate appropriated federal funds, or appropriated State funds, for refugee social services programs to each county impacted by refugee arrivals and, at the Department's discretion, to a qualified nonprofit organization, based on the number of refugees receiving aid in the county or the number of refugees who reside in the eligible county. Permits the Department to utilize funding adjustments based on the length of time that the refugees have resided in the United States. Permits the Department to allocate any federal funds from the Office of Refugee Resettlement among eligible counties and qualified nonprofit organizations consistent with federal law. Permits the Department to contract with, or award grants to, qualified nonprofit organizations for the purpose of administering refugee social services programs within a county. Requires reporting, monitoring, and audits of services funded by such contracts or grants. Provides that counties administering refugee services must designate an agency to develop and implement a plan for the provision of services funded by refugee social services funds. Set forth minimum requirements for such county plans. Contains provisions concerning extended refugee social services. Requires each refugee social services program to provide culturally appropriate and responsive case management services. Requires the Department to, in collaboration with service providers, determine outcome metrics to define program success.

LRB103 39080 KTG 69218 b

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
5 changing Section 2-12 and by adding Article XVII as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/2-12) (from Ch. 23, par. 2-12)

7 Sec. 2-12. "Illinois Department"; "Department". In this
8 Code, "Illinois Department" or "Department", when a particular
9 entity is not specified, means the following:

10 (1) In the case of a function performed before July 1, 1997
11 (the effective date of the Department of Human Services Act),
12 the term means the Department of Public Aid.

13 (2) In the case of a function to be performed on or after
14 July 1, 1997 under Article III, IV, VI, IX, ~~or IXA~~, XVI, or
15 XVII, the term means the Department of Human Services ~~as~~
16 ~~successor to the Illinois Department of Public Aid.~~

17 (3) In the case of a function to be performed on or after
18 July 1, 1997 under Article V, V-A, V-B, V-C, V-D, V-E, X, XIV,
19 or XV, the term means the Department of Healthcare and Family
20 Services (formerly Illinois Department of Public Aid).

21 (4) In the case of a function to be performed on or after
22 July 1, 1997 under Article I, II, VIIIA, XI, XII, or XIII, the
23 term means the Department of Human Services (acting as

1 successor to the Illinois Department of Public Aid) or the
2 Department of Healthcare and Family Services (formerly
3 Illinois Department of Public Aid) or both, according to
4 whether that function, in the specific context, has been
5 allocated to the Department of Human Services or the
6 Department of Healthcare and Family Services (formerly
7 Department of Public Aid) or both of those departments.

8 (Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)

9 (305 ILCS 5/Art. XVII heading new)

10 ARTICLE XVII. REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES

11 (305 ILCS 5/17-1 new)

12 Sec. 17-1. Definitions. As used in this Article:

13 (a) "Eligible county" means a county or city and county
14 designated as impacted using a formula developed by the
15 Department based upon the refugee arrivals in the county
16 during the preceding 60-month period for which the Department
17 has data.

18 (b) "Qualified nonprofit organization" means a nonprofit
19 organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under
20 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that
21 satisfies any additional eligibility criteria established by
22 the Department.

23 (c) "Refugee social services" include, but are not limited
24 to, English language and employment training, as funded

1 through federal appropriations, or as funded through State
2 appropriations as described in Section 17-4.

3 (305 ILCS 5/17-2 new)

4 Sec. 17-2. Funding of refugee social services.

5 (a) (1) After setting aside the necessary State
6 administrative funds, the Department shall allocate
7 appropriated federal funds, or appropriated State funds as
8 described in Section 17-4, for refugee social services
9 programs to each eligible county and, if the Department
10 exercises its discretion in accordance with subsection (b), to
11 a qualified nonprofit organization, based on the number of
12 refugees receiving aid in the eligible county or the number of
13 refugees who reside in the eligible county. The Department
14 may, at its discretion, utilize funding adjustments based on
15 the length of time that the refugees have resided in the United
16 States.

17 (2) If an eligible county or qualified nonprofit
18 organization that receives funds under paragraph (1) declines
19 all or part of those funds, or returns unexpended funds, the
20 Department may exercise its discretion to reallocate the
21 declined or returned funds among eligible counties and
22 qualified nonprofit organizations.

23 (3) If the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement provides
24 funding in addition to the annual appropriation described in
25 paragraph (1) or designates funding for services to a specific

1 population of eligible individuals, the Department may
2 exercise its discretion to allocate those funds among eligible
3 counties and qualified nonprofit organizations consistent with
4 federal law.

5 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, and to the extent
6 permitted by federal law, the Department may, at its
7 discretion, contract with, or award grants to, qualified
8 nonprofit organizations for the purpose of administering
9 refugee social services programs within a county. An eligible
10 county providing refugee social services in accordance with
11 this Article may continue to administer those services while a
12 contractor or grantee is also providing refugee social
13 services in accordance with this Article within the county.

14 (2) If an eligible county and a qualified nonprofit
15 organization are administering refugee social services
16 simultaneously within the same county, the Department shall,
17 at its discretion, determine the amount of the funds to be
18 distributed to the eligible county and qualified nonprofit
19 organization.

20 (3) Contracts or grants awarded in accordance with this
21 subsection shall require reporting, monitoring, or audits of
22 services provided, as determined by the Department.

23 (305 ILCS 5/17-3 new)

24 Sec. 17-3. Implementation; plan requirements.

25 (a) The Department shall notify each eligible county's

1 board of the availability of funds described in subsection (a)
2 of Section 17-2 or in subsection (b) of Section 17-4.

3 (b) A county administering refugee social services shall
4 designate an agency that is responsible for developing and
5 implementing a plan for the provision of services funded by
6 refugee social services funds.

7 (c) (1) The plan developed in accordance with subsection
8 (b) shall reflect the full intent of this Article that the
9 funding for, and provision of, refugee social services shall
10 lead to successful self-sufficiency and social integration for
11 all refugee recipients of refugee social services, in
12 accordance with guidelines issued by the Department.

13 (2) Any plan developed in accordance with subsection (b)
14 shall, at a minimum, meet all of the following requirements:

15 (A) Each eligible county's board shall ensure that the
16 county planning process is designed in such a way as to
17 facilitate refugee participation and public input in that
18 process.

19 (B) The plan shall include a description of how
20 available funds will be used to provide services to
21 refugees.

22 (C) The plan shall specifically address how services
23 will be delivered to refugees receiving aid in each
24 county.

25 (D) The plan shall provide for the priority
26 consideration for funding refugee community-based

1 organizations if they demonstrate the capacity to
2 implement the proposed programs, which capacity shall be
3 comparable to that of other competitors who qualify for
4 funding.

5 (305 ILCS 5/17-4 new)

6 Sec. 17-4. Applicability; eligibility.

7 (a) The requirements established by this Article shall be
8 applicable only so long as federal funds are available for its
9 purposes, or so long as State funds are available as provided
10 in subsection (b).

11 (b) (1) This subsection shall be implemented only to the
12 extent an appropriation of State funds is made in the annual
13 Budget Act or another statute for the purpose of this
14 subsection.

15 (2) If a refugee recipient of refugee social services
16 under the federal Reception and Placement Program administered
17 by the U.S. Department of State completes 90 days of those
18 services and exhausts the federal funds allocated for that
19 recipient, the recipient shall be eligible for a 90-day
20 extension of refugee social services using State funds within
21 the first 12 months of arrival to the United States.

22 (3) (A) If a recipient completes the 90-day extension
23 described in paragraph (2) and seeks additional refugee social
24 services, the designated case manager shall conduct an
25 assessment of the recipient's needs and shall determine

1 whether to grant the recipient an additional extension of
2 those services using State funds.

3 (B) The case manager's determination in subparagraph (A)
4 shall be on a case-by-case basis and subject to a finding by
5 the case manager that the recipient demonstrates extreme need
6 in accordance with criteria set forth by the Department. A
7 finding of extreme need shall be based on the level of need for
8 services as defined in subsection (c) of Section 17-1 or case
9 management services as described in subsection (b) of Section
10 17-5.

11 (C) An additional extension granted under this paragraph
12 shall be at a minimum 90 days and at a maximum 180 days,
13 resulting in a combined duration of no more than 270 days for
14 the extensions described in paragraph (2) and this paragraph
15 beyond the original 90 days under the federal Reception and
16 Placement Program, for a total of no more than 360 days of
17 those services. If the recipient is approved for the
18 additional extension in accordance with this paragraph, the
19 case manager shall determine the number of extension days
20 granted based on the assessment and on the level of the
21 recipient's extreme need.

22 (4) The refugee social services covered under this
23 subsection shall include the services as defined in subsection
24 (c) of Section 17-1 and the case management services described
25 in subsection (b) of Section 17-5.

26 (5) The refugee social services covered under this

1 subsection may be provided by a qualified nonprofit
2 organization, as defined in Section 17-1, including a
3 community-based organization, or by an eligible county, as
4 defined in Section 17-1, or by any office or affiliate of the
5 agencies authorized under the federal Reception and Placement
6 Program, as applicable.

7 (305 ILCS 5/17-5 new)

8 Sec. 17-5. Required services.

9 (a) (1) Each refugee social services program established in
10 accordance with Section 17-2 shall provide culturally
11 appropriate and responsive case management services for
12 refugees, asylees, and other vulnerable noncitizens for up to
13 180 days, or as specified in paragraph (2), within the first
14 year following the grant of asylum or after having been deemed
15 eligible for services under Article 16.

16 (2) (A) If a recipient completes 180 days of case
17 management services as provided under paragraph (1) and seeks
18 an extension of those services, the designated case manager
19 shall conduct an assessment of the recipient's needs and shall
20 determine whether to grant the recipient the extension.

21 (B) The case manager's determination in subparagraph (A)
22 shall be on a case-by-case basis and subject to a finding by
23 the case manager that the recipient demonstrates extreme need
24 under criteria set forth by the Department. A finding of
25 extreme need shall be based on the level of need for services

1 as defined in subsection (c) of Section 17-1 or case
2 management services as described in subsection (b).

3 (C) An additional extension granted under this paragraph
4 shall be at a minimum 90 days and at a maximum 180 days, for a
5 total of no more than 360 days of case management services. If
6 the recipient is approved for the additional extension under
7 this paragraph, the case manager shall determine the number of
8 extension days granted based on the assessment and on the
9 level of the recipient's extreme need.

10 (b) Case management services under each program shall
11 include assistance in identifying and applying for all
12 benefits to which the person is legally entitled, including
13 cultural orientation and integration programs, support in
14 accessing and navigating the public benefits and health care
15 systems, housing assistance, community connection and
16 relationship building, English language instruction, and
17 enrollment in an educational program or institution, financial
18 literacy education, employment training, job placement
19 assistance, and professional recredentialing and licensing
20 application assistance.

21 (c) Case management services under each program may be
22 provided by a qualified nonprofit organization, as defined in
23 Section 17-1, including a community-based organization, or by
24 any office or affiliate of the agencies authorized under the
25 federal Reception and Placement Program administered by the
26 U.S. Department of State, as applicable.

1 (d) The Department shall, in collaboration with service
2 providers, determine outcome metrics to define program
3 success.