

Key Terms and Definitions

About Cultural Orientation

Cultural Orientation (CO): a pre-departure and post-arrival education program designed for refugees resettling in the U.S. which helps them acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to adapt to their new lives and achieve self-sufficiency.

Cultural Orientation (CO) Continuum: the collaborative effort of individuals working in refugee resettlement globally to deliver effective Cultural Orientation in alignment with the O&Is that creates a continuum of consistent and harmonized messaging about life in the U.S.

Cultural Orientation Objectives & Indicators (O&Is): outline the required topics, objectives, and indicators of overseas and domestic Cultural Orientation programming. The O&Is state what refugees are expected to be able to do or say by the end of Cultural Orientation.

Objectives: the information refugees are expected to learn about each Cultural Orientation topic.

Indicators: what refugees are expected to do or demonstrate about a specific topic. Indicators also help assess if refugees understand and can apply the objectives.

Cultural Orientation (CO) Provider: refers to any individual (resettlement staff, community partner or sponsor, volunteer, or intern) who interacts with a refugee during their resettlement process and has an opportunity to deliver or repeat Cultural Orientation key messages.

Community Partner: organizations or individuals outside of the local Resettlement Agency that support newcomers, including but not limited to public safety workers, public assistance workers, educators, and healthcare professionals.

Community Sponsor: community groups that provide direct resettlement services and financial support to newcomers as they resettle into their new communities. These groups may sponsor newcomers in collaboration with Resettlement Agencies, through the Sponsor Circle Program, or through private sponsorship groups, as a part of the Welcome Corps program.

About the United States Refugee Admissions Program

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM): a bureau within the U.S. Department of State, with the primary responsibility to oversee the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP): managed by the U.S. Department of State and PRM, USRAP is the interagency effort involving a number of governmental and nongovernmental partners, both overseas and in the U.S. which processes individuals seeking admission as a refugee to the U.S.

Resettlement Support Center (RSC): located around the globe to process refugee cases, including those coming through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). RSCs coordinate admissions requirements of resettlement in the U.S., including screening interviews, medical screenings, Cultural Orientation, and travel arrangements.

National Resettlement Agency (RA): a non-profit organization that cooperates with the U.S. government to assist refugees who come to the U.S. through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). There are ten national Resettlement Agencies in the U.S. that operate on a national level.

Local Resettlement Agency (RA): a state or regional affiliate that receives funding under one of the ten national agencies to assist refugees who come to the U.S.