REFUGEE READINESS FUND 2021

BUILDING COMMUNITIES TO WELCOME REFUGEES
INTRODUCTION

2015
The RRF model in 2015 and outcomes

The proposed RRF model for 2021

2021
REFUGEE READINESS FUND 2015 – SYRIAN REFUGEES

Refugee Response Teams ($500K)

Provincial Supports ($500K)

Refugee Response Network
REFUGEE READINESS FUND 2015: FIVE REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE TEAMS

1. Metro Vancouver
   - MOSAIC

2. Fraser Valley
   - DiverseCity

3. Vancouver Island
   - Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS)

4. Thompson Okanagan
   - Kelowna Community Resources Society (KCRS)

5. Cariboo
   - Immigrant & Multicultural Services Society of Prince George
PROVINCIAL SUPPORTS – ISS OF BC
A provincial group organized by the Immigrant Integration Branch that met to discuss the work of the RRTs and ensured provincial level coordination and info sharing bringing emerging issues to the attention of government reps.
OUTCOMES OF RRF 2015 – THE POSITIVES

Community Capacity Building

Regional Approach

Refugee Hub and Microsites

Mental Health & Trauma resources & training

Relationships built
OUTCOMES OF RRF 2015 – THE CHALLENGES

- Health
- Employment
- Service Access
- Housing
- Public Education
- Small Communities
THE NEW DRAFT REFUGEE READINESS FUND MODEL FOR 2021

AFGHANISTAN REFUGEES
RRF 2021 – FOUR KEY PRIORITIES

1. To build community capacity and create welcoming communities to resettle Afghan refugees
2. To support the coordination of resources
3. To support information sharing, education and data collection
4. To provide critical temporary direct services to Afghan refugees
Communities are able to take a coordinated, planning-based approach to refugee sponsorship, support, and initial settlement.

Communities are able to leverage shared knowledge and expertise to address the needs of new sponsors and refugees and enhance readiness in the community.

British Columbians have an increased capacity and capability to help refugees effectively settle into their new lives.

The BC Government has data and a legacy of resources to inform future initiatives.

Refugees directly served by the RRF have gained skills and confidence that enabled them to integrate successfully into their BC community.
DRAFT MODEL AT A GLANCE

- Increase fund to $2M
- Stakeholder consultation
- Temporary lifts to provincial services
- Open procurement for:
  - Provincial Resources and Networking
  - Regional Refugee Readiness Teams
PROVINCIAL REFUGEE RESOURCE NETWORK

Centralized Data Collection

Information, resource sharing & networking events for all stakeholders

Education to Stakeholders
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE TEAMS

Identify Regional Needs

Community capacity, education, resource coordination, info sharing and data collection

Direct Temporary Services to Refugees

Staggered Starts
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE TEAMS

1. **Metro Vancouver** (Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam, New Westminster, Port Moody and area)

2. **Fraser Valley** (Surrey, White Rock, Delta (including Tsawwassen), Langley, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Hope and area)

3. **Vancouver Island** (Victoria/Nanaimo)

4. **Thompson Okanagan** (Kamloops/Kelowna)

5. **Cariboo** (Prince George)
TEMPORARY LIFTS TO PROVINCIAL SERVICES

Temporary BCSIS Service Lift

Temporary Supports to Other BC Ministry Services
SUMMARY OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO MODELS

- More funding for 2021
- Open procurement for both provincial and regional teams
- Provincial level team will also lead network (i.e. not government led)
- Funding lifts for BCSIS and other BC funded services
- RRTs can propose to fill temporary service gaps
- Staggered start for RRTs
PROPOSED TIMELINES

DECEMBER*
- Post procurement for 2 weeks
- Q&A week one

FEBRUARY
- Notify respondents of award
- Contracts in Place

MARCH
- Contractors start action planning
- Seek ministry approval of action plan
We are very interested to hear your feedback on the proposed model and procurement timelines for 2021.

We understand that the procurement timelines are ambitious but we’d like to see the teams in place by March at the latest.