



SESSION 2: Services and Rights

OBJECTIVES

1. To give an overview of the services of the resettlement agency.
2. To give an overview of the services of other local and national agencies.
3. To build an understanding of the rights of refugees in the United States.
4. To develop an understanding of client responsibilities.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Flip chart
Markers
Specific list of agency services (from welcome package)
Specific list of other community services (from welcome package)
Directory/contact list of local service providers (from welcome package)
Copies of “The Rights of Refugees in the United States” (attachment 3)
Copies of “A History of the United States and Immigration” (attachment 4)
“Sample Client Resettlement Plan” (attachment 5)
Paper

HOW TO DO IT

DISCUSSION

- Discuss, using the following questions:
What government services were available to you in Somalia?
What services did you receive in the camp?
What services do you expect to receive in the United States?
What concerns do you have about providing for your family in the United States?
What are your five-year goals?

ROLE OF AGENCY

- Using the list of agency services, explain in detail the role of the resettlement agency, and the services that the agency will provide to the clients.
- Using the list of other community services, explain in detail the services that other community or national organizations will provide.

RIGHTS OF REFUGEES

- Explain the rights that a refugee has in the United States (attachment 3). Give your clients copies of the attachment.

HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION

- Explain the history of immigration in the United States (attachment 4). Give your clients copies of the attachment.

PLAN OF ACTION

- Using the following questions, discuss the concept of self-sufficiency with your clients:

What is self-sufficiency/independence?

The ability to provide for oneself and one's family without the assistance of others – not dependent on a larger entity.

Is independence valued in your community?

Do you think that the independence is valued in communities in the United States?

Explain that the concept of being independent is very valued in the United States. Explain that one of the primary roles of resettlement agencies is to assist refugees in becoming self-sufficient. Although it is expected that the refugees access government assistance upon arrival, the government expects your clients to work towards supporting themselves.

- Create a plan of action that outlines services and client responsibilities. You may want to use the “Sample Client Resettlement Plan” (attachment 5) as a model for a picture-based plan of action.