WHO ARE REFUGEES?
The 1951 Refugee Convention spells out that a refugee is someone who...
“owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.”

WHO MORA SERVES
MORA contracts with program partners throughout the state to provide services to the following populations:

“Humanitarian Immigrants” including:
• Refugees
• Asylees
• Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders from Afghanistan or Iraq
• Cuban or Haitian Entrants/Parolees
• Certified Victims of Trafficking
• Certain Amerasians

Baltimore Metropolitan Area (BMA): Baltimore City and surrounding counties (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Hartford, and Howard counties)

Suburban Washington Area (SWA): Montgomery and Prince George’s counties

Eligible humanitarian immigrants outside the BMA and SWA jurisdictions can access services at local DSS offices.

WHO MORA DOES NOT SERVE
• Asylum Seekers
• Central American Minors (CAM parolees)
• Lawful Permanent Residents who were not previously humanitarian immigrants
• Naturalized U.S citizens
• Unaccompanied Minors
• Undocumented immigrants
• Visa holders (work, student, visitors, etc)

MORA has helped more than 40,000 refugees make Maryland their home, aiding their transition from “displaced persons” to independent, contributing members of the national economy and the local communities. We work through a network of public and private service providers, to plan, administer, and coordinate transitional services aimed at helping refugees become self-sufficient as quickly as possible. Key areas for aiding refugees in adjusting to American life include financial assistance, job placement, community orientation, English language and vocational training, academic support for youth, case management, and other support services.

For general inquiries contact MORA at:
(410) 767-7514
www.dhs.maryland.gov/mora

Locust Point has been called “Baltimore’s Ellis Island”, having been the 3rd largest point of entry for immigrants to the U.S after New York and Philadelphia.

MORA
Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Lourdes Padilla, Secretary
Please note MORA does not provide direct services to eligible clients.

“I do appreciate the resettlement services [I received], specifically employment. They provided training on building my resume and career in the United States, networking, and connected me with a mentor in my field. These were the keys to my success in the U.S that helped me find a professional job in my own field (engineering) in less than 90 days of my arrival. Honesty, integrity and [working hard] helped me excel at my workplace, as a result of which I completed two certifications and was promoted recently.”

- Mohammed, SIV Refugee from Afghanistan