

Placement Restriction for Northern Virginia

Released May 23, 2017

Due to the high cost of living and a critical shortage of available, affordable housing, resettlement agencies in the Northern Virginia area do not have the capacity to meet the significant increase in the number of refugee and SIV cases who report U.S. ties in the area.

Effective with cases allocated beginning May 24, 2017, refugee and SIV placement in the Northern Virginia metro area (served by affiliates in Arlington and Falls Church) will be restricted to resettlement preferences with the following relationships to the principal applicant (PA) or the PA's spouse: spouse, father, mother, sibling, child, and grandparent. Other relationships may be accepted if the PA is a child under the age of 18 with no other relatives in the United States.

Resettlement agencies have the discretion to implement this restriction with cases allocated prior to the date of this program announcement if those cases are yet to be assured or if they have been assured for fewer than 30 days. Cases already on ABN as of the date of this announcement should proceed to their final destination as planned. Resettlement agencies should be aware that it is possible that only one case of any set of cross-referenced cases will have the eligible relationship. Cross-referenced cases will be honored by resettlement agencies and should accompany the case with the eligible relationship.

Resettlement support centers should counsel refugees with resettlement preferences in Northern Virginia about this change in policy as early as possible, and the RPC SIV team will inform SIVs who elect to receive R&P benefits and report U.S. ties in Northern Virginia. Resettlement agency affiliates in Northern Virginia should conduct outreach and counsel local refugee and SIV communities about this change in placement policy.