

New Mexico Department of Health Refugee Health Program Overview 2017 Legislative Session

Refugee Health Program Goals

- Health screenings and mental health assessments serve as an entry point into the U.S. health system, preventing unnecessary emergency room visits.
- **Prevent transmission** of communicable diseases to the public.
- Ensure follow-up for conditions affecting personal well-being or impeding a refugee's ability to effectively resettle and function in the U.S. society (economic self-sufficiency and/or unnecessary admin/clinical costs).

The **DOH Refugee Health Program** is funded through a federal Office of Refugee Resettlement grant and a General Services Agreement with the NM Human Services Department. There are no state general funds supporting this program.

Refugee Health Primary Functions

- **Domestic health screenings** are provided to all newly-arrived refugees within 90 days of arrival in NM. Services include:
 - Screening for TB, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, hepatitis B and C, Sickle Cell, Malaria, and chronic conditions
 - Vaccinations
 - Referrals for medical, dental, and vision care
- Mental health services are offered to all newly-arrived refugees.
 Services may include screening, assessment, case management, and referrals for mental health treatment services.
- Refugee health and mental health education and training

For refugees: Stress management and self care education, which includes coping with physical, social, psychological and spiritual changes associated with relocation.

For Providers: Skills to assess and treat social and health/mental health problems that can exist among people displaced by extreme hardship, war and human rights abuses.

 Interpreter and translation services (86% of clients required interpretation during domestic health screening)

