

From: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
To: Pisarik, HollyHollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov
Symmes, BrianBrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov
Date: 12/10/2015 8:49:56 AM
Subject: FW:

FYI - Response sent to Dan Brown

Karen Luchka Wingo
Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs
South Carolina Department of Social Services
1535 Confederate Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Office Phone: (803) 898-8030
Email: karen.wingo@dss.sc.gov
www.dss.sc.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: Wingo, Karen
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 8:50 AM
To: dbrown@aikenstandard.com
Cc: Addison, Dorothy <Dorothy.Addison@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: RE:

Dan,

Thank you for contacting the Department with your inquiry regarding refugee resettlement in South Carolina. The Refugee Resettlement Program is a federal program administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, an office of the Administration for Children and Families within the federal department of HHS. As this is a federal program, the administration of the Refugee Resettlement Program is completely federally funded. Before any individual is resettled in the United States as a refugee, he or she is vetted by the federal government and only individuals approved by the federal government are admitted into the program for placement.

South Carolina has participated in the Refugee Resettlement Program since 1975. Through the Refugee Resettlement Program State Plan ('State Plan'), the Governor has designated the South Carolina Department of Social Services as the agency responsible for the administration of the Refugee Resettlement Program in South Carolina. This means the Agency is responsible for managing and administering funds and coordinating programs with community partners to enable refugees to receive benefits and services that will enable them to become self-sufficient and productive members of the population. However, the Department is not involved in the admittance or placement of refugees. Instead, the two resettlement agencies in SC, Lutheran Services and World Relief, resettle refugees in South Carolina, including specifics placements.

The Department of Social Services is aware of the Aiken County resolution and is monitoring developments at both the state and national level regarding refugee resettlement. By the terms of the State Plan, the Department will continue to provide federally funded services and/or benefits to qualifying refugees who are resettled in Aiken County or any other county in South Carolina by either of the resettlement organizations located within the state. Importantly, federal law prevents the state or county from denying placement of refugees in South Carolina, even if South Carolina did not have a State Plan.

If you have any other questions, please let me know.

All the best,
Karen

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-----Original Message-----
From: Addison, Dorothy

Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 4:49 PM
To: dbrown@aikenstandard.com
Cc: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: FW:

Mr. Brown,

Your message is being forwarded to Ms. Karen Wingo, Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs for our agency.

Dorothy

Dorothy A. Addison
SC State Coordinator
Refugee Resettlement and Non Emergency Repatriation Services P. O. Box 1520 Columbia, SC
29202-1520
Phone: 803-898-0989 Fax: 803-898-7156
Email: dorothy.addison@dss.sc.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Brown, Dan [mailto:dbrown@aikenstandard.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 4:32 PM
To: Addison, Dorothy <Dorothy.Addison@dss.sc.gov>
Subject:

My name is Dan Brown with the Aiken Standard in Aiken, SC and I'm doing a story on a resolution passed by Aiken County Council last night rejecting funding for the resettlement of Syrian refugees in Aiken County.

There has been a lot of rhetoric voiced over the last few weeks about this issue and I want to know if this resolution is legally binding, meaning does it hold sway or can the state relocate refugees here anyway?

My number is 843-499-3523, if you are free to discuss this.

Thank you.

Dan Brown
Aiken Standard