

Topic: Role of the Resettlement Agency
(International Catholic Migration Commission, Turkey)

Activity: Resettlement Town

Objective

To review and talk about the basic responsibilities of the Resettlement Agency and the refugee during the initial month of stay in the United States, building on what the refugees have seen in the video, what has been talked about during class, and the refugees' existing expectations.

Lesson Time

30-40 minutes

Materials

- A large town map
- Flashcards of buildings and services (see suggested list below)
- Blue tags to post the flashcards on the map
- Adhesive tape to post the map on the board
- Service order list (see sample below)

Practice

This activity uses a big city/town map drawn/posted on a white board and flashcards related to various buildings in the town where various services are provided, along with some flashcards which refer to these services.

1. Post the empty Town Map on the board. Tell participants, "Now you have arrived at your final destination in the United States. You have picked up a map of the town you will live in from the airport tourism information desk." (Refer to the map on the board.)
2. Explain to participants that, to this point in time, discussions have been about the services that the Resettlement Agency will provide and the things they will need to do within the first month of their stay. During this activity, volunteers from this class will take turns telling the class about one of the services which may be available. S/he will come up to the map and locate the place where this service is provided by placing the necessary building or service flashcard in that location on the map.
3. As the facilitator, give an example of this. Pick up the airport flashcard and explain that the Resettlement Agency will pick refugees up from the airport. Place the airport flashcard on the map. Ask participants, "What can be the next thing that the Resettlement Agency does with you?" One participant should come up with a suggestion such as, "Take us to our apartment." Call up the participant who makes the suggestion and give her/him the house and apartment flashcard to place on the map.
4. Continue in the same manner until all flashcards are placed on the map. If participants do not come up with all of the suggested services, the facilitator should ask questions that hint at the missing services.
5. Preferably, the flow of the services should be in the same order as the actual experience. The sample service order list provided below is in preferential order. However, if participants come up with a different order, it should be allowed and no interruption should be made.

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Discussion

6. After the exercise, place the map on the wall in a convenient place so that the trainees can refer to it later.
 - Debrief this activity while doing the exercise.
 - Ask questions about details of one service. For example, when housing comes up, the facilitator can ask how long the refugees are provided with free housing. The facilitator is free to determine the amount of detail which s/he provides during the exercise, considering the level of participants and other activities that will address the same topic.
 - At the end of the activity, the facilitator can answer any pending questions participants may have.

Building and Service Flashcards

1. Airport (refugee greeted by anchor relative and/or resettlement agency)
2. Bank (open bank account)
3. Bus Stop/Subway Station (public transportation)
4. Department of Human Services (apply for food stamps, cash assistance, Medicaid, SSI)
5. Federal Government Building (address registration to DHS, apply for Social Security Card)
6. Company Building (job interview)
7. Hospital (medical examination)
8. Resettlement Agency (orientation, resettlement planning)
9. Resettlement Agency or Community Service Provider (ESL classes, Employment counseling)
10. Refugee's Apartment/House (refugees taken to their initial housing, house visits)
11. School (register children)
12. U.S. Post Office (selective service registry)

Service Order List

<i>Building or Service</i>	<i>Location Flashcard</i>
1. Refugee picked up by anchor relative and/or resettlement agency	Airport
2. Refugee taken to initial housing	Refugee's Apartment/House
3. Refugee taken to the Resettlement Agency for orientation and resettlement planning	Resettlement Agency
4. Refugee introduced to the public transportation system	Bus Stop/Subway Station
5. Refugee applies for Social Security Card	Federal Government Building
6. Refugee address registration with Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	Federal Government Building
7. Refugee medical check-up	Hospital or Clinic
8. Refugee applies for food stamps, Medicaid, cash assistance, SSI (DHS)	Department of Human Services

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9. Refugee starts ESL classes	Resettlement Agency or Community Service Provider
10. Male refugees between 18 and 25 register for Selective Service	U.S. Post Office
11. Refugee home visits made by the Resettlement Agency	Refugee's Apartment/House
12. Refugee given employment counseling	Resettlement Agency or Community Service Provider
13. Refugee has a job interview with an employer	Company Building
14. Refugee children are taken to school and registered	School
15. Refugee opens a bank account	Bank

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