

December 31, 2020

Honorable Governor Kristi Noem  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, S.D. 57501

Dear Governor Noem:

Attached is the annual report on refugee resettlement for federal fiscal year 2020 as required by §1-7-19.

Please contact me at <mailto:betty.oldenkamp@lsssd.org> or 605-444-7501 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Betty Oldenkamp  
President and CEO

CC: Members of the South Dakota Legislature  
Reed Holwenger, Director of the SD Legislature Legislative Research Council  
Laurie Gill, Secretary of Social Services



## Annual Report on Refugee Resettlement in South Dakota FFY 2020

### Introduction

This report provides an overview of information regarding refugee resettlement in South Dakota. Refugees are defined as individuals who are unable to return to their home country due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality and membership in a particular social group or political opinion. While all refugees are immigrants, not all immigrants are refugees. Immigrants choose to leave their homes and may come to the U.S. with temporary visas, allowing them to remain for a certain period of time or under certain conditions (such as students or tourists), or they may have permission allowing them to remain indefinitely. Refugees arrive with temporary residency and may apply for legal permanent residency after one year. After five years, legal permanent residents may apply for U.S. citizenship. All refugees arrive eligible for employment.

### Description of Services Provided

At the request of the state, LSS assumed oversight of refugee resettlement in South Dakota in 2000. The primary goals for all services are self-sufficiency and community integration. To assist refugees in achieving those goals, the following services are provided via in person and/or video technology.

- Community Orientation & Education
- Case Management
- Employment Services
- English Language Training
- Immigration Services
- Interpreter Services

LSS greets new arrivals at the airport and with the assistance of grant funding and donations, provides initial housing and basic needs items. Through federal funding, refugees are eligible for up to eight months of cash assistance to cover basic necessities until self-sufficiency is reached. To receive this support, employable adults must cooperate with an employment program and case manager, attend at least six hours a week of English language training, and attend community orientation.

A 30-hour community orientation is provided to all new arrivals. Topics presented include laws in the U.S., driver's license information, rental agreements, shopping, health care, parenting, immigration, citizenship, education and employment. Guest speakers from the community, including law enforcement, are invited to participate. Interpretation is provided. A proficiency exam is administered upon completion of orientation. Any individual who does not demonstrate proficiency receives one-to-one follow-up from their case manager.

LSS case management and employment services are available to new arrivals for up to five years. All refugees are legally qualified for employment upon arrival. Employment services assist employable adults in finding their first job as well as job upgrades.

English language training is available four days and two evenings a week. Classes focus on oral and written English skills. LSS immigration attorneys assist refugees who are pursuing permanent residency or U.S. citizenship.

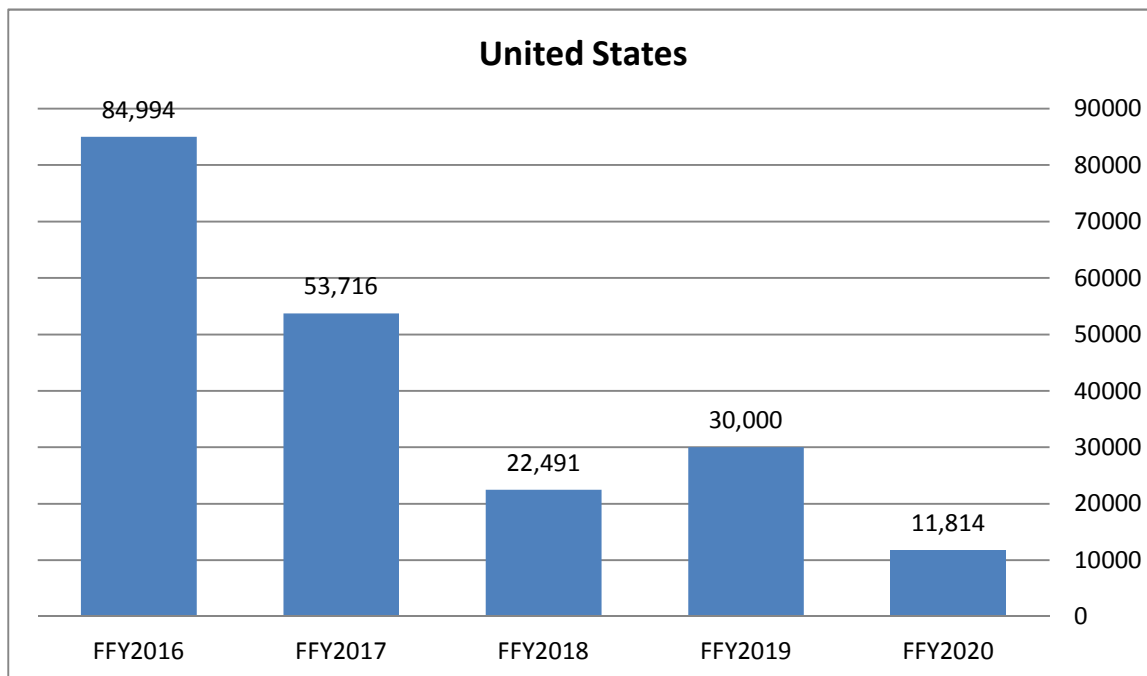
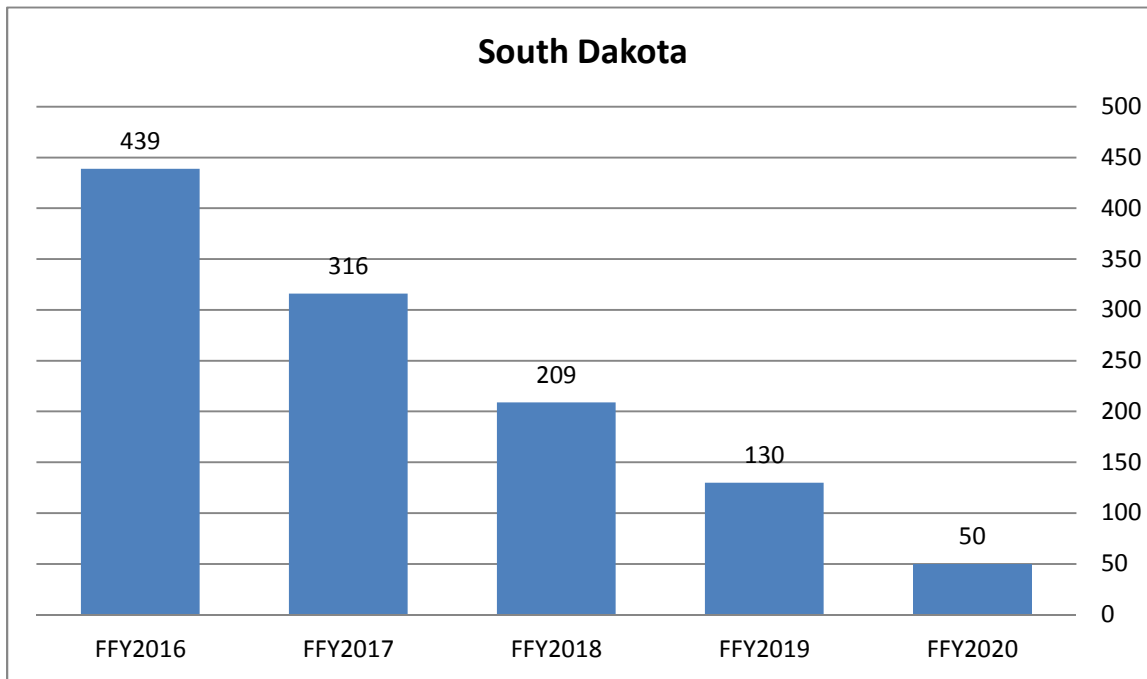
### **Areas Receiving Refugees**

LSS receives direct arrivals in Sioux Falls. Direct resettlement in Huron ended in September 2016.

During Federal Fiscal Year 2020, LSS maintained a staff presence in Huron and Aberdeen in order to support refugees who arrived either through secondary migration from communities outside South Dakota or in the case of Huron, who arrived prior to the end of direct resettlement in Huron in October 2016. Secondary migration refers to refugees who were initially resettled in other states and later chose to move to South Dakota.

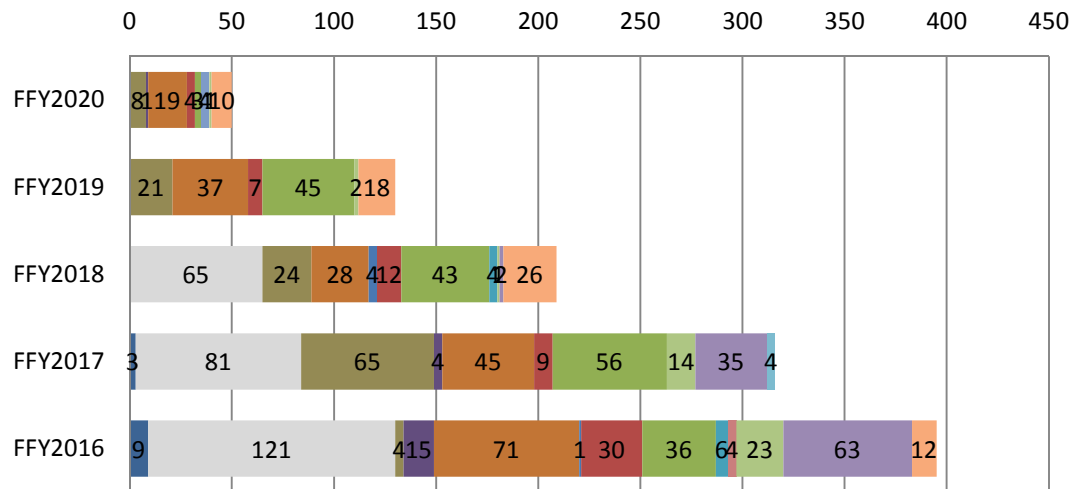
## Direct Resettlement Totals

Below are a chart and table of individuals directly resettled in South Dakota during the past five federal fiscal years. Data on South Dakota arrivals is based on LSS refugee arrival data. Data on national refugee arrivals is based on data available from the Refugee Reprocessing Center. "FFY" indicates the federal fiscal year.



## Demographic Overview

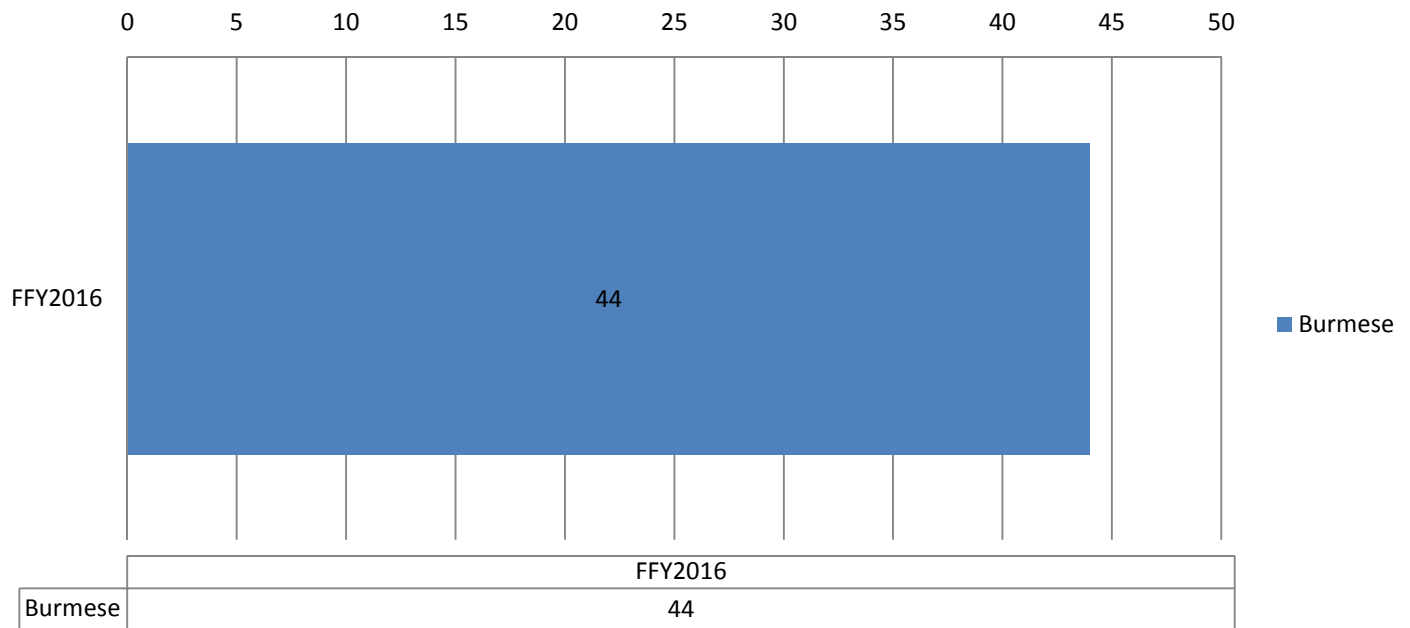
### Direct Resettlement - Sioux Falls



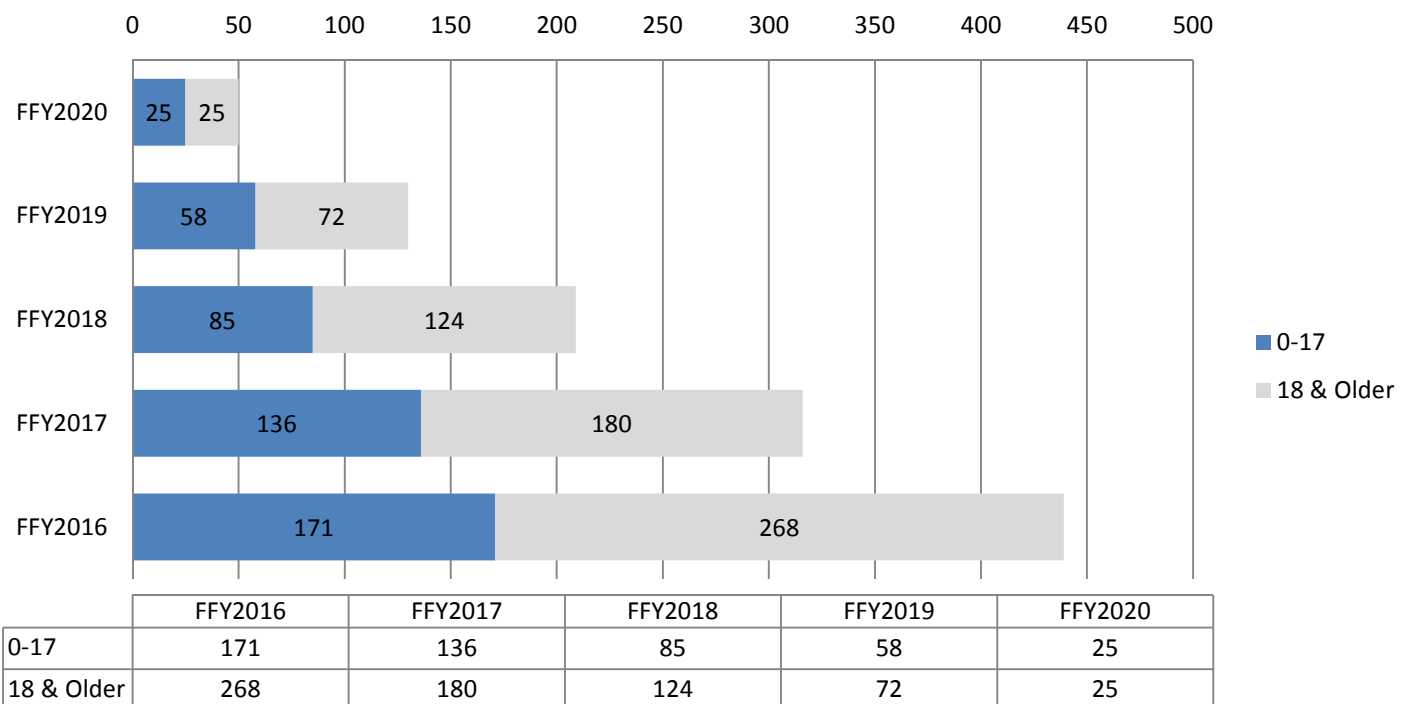
- Afgghani
- Bhutanese
- Burmese
- Burundi
- Chadean
- Congolese
- El Salvadoran
- Ethiopian
- Eritrean
- Iranian
- Iraqi
- Kunama
- Liberian
- Pakistani
- Sudanese
- Somali
- Syrian
- Ukrainian

	FFY2016	FFY2017	FFY2018	FFY2019	FFY2020
Afgghani	9	3			
Bhutanese	121	81	65		
Burmese	4	65	24	21	8
Burundi	15	4			1
Chadean					
Congolese	71	45	28	37	19
El Salvadoran	1		4		
Ethiopian	30	9	12	7	4
Eritrean	36	56	43	45	3
Iranian					
Iraqi	6		4		
Kunama					
Liberian					4
Pakistani	4				
Sudanese	23	14	1	2	1
Somali	63	35	2		
Syrian		4			
Ukrainian	12		26	18	10

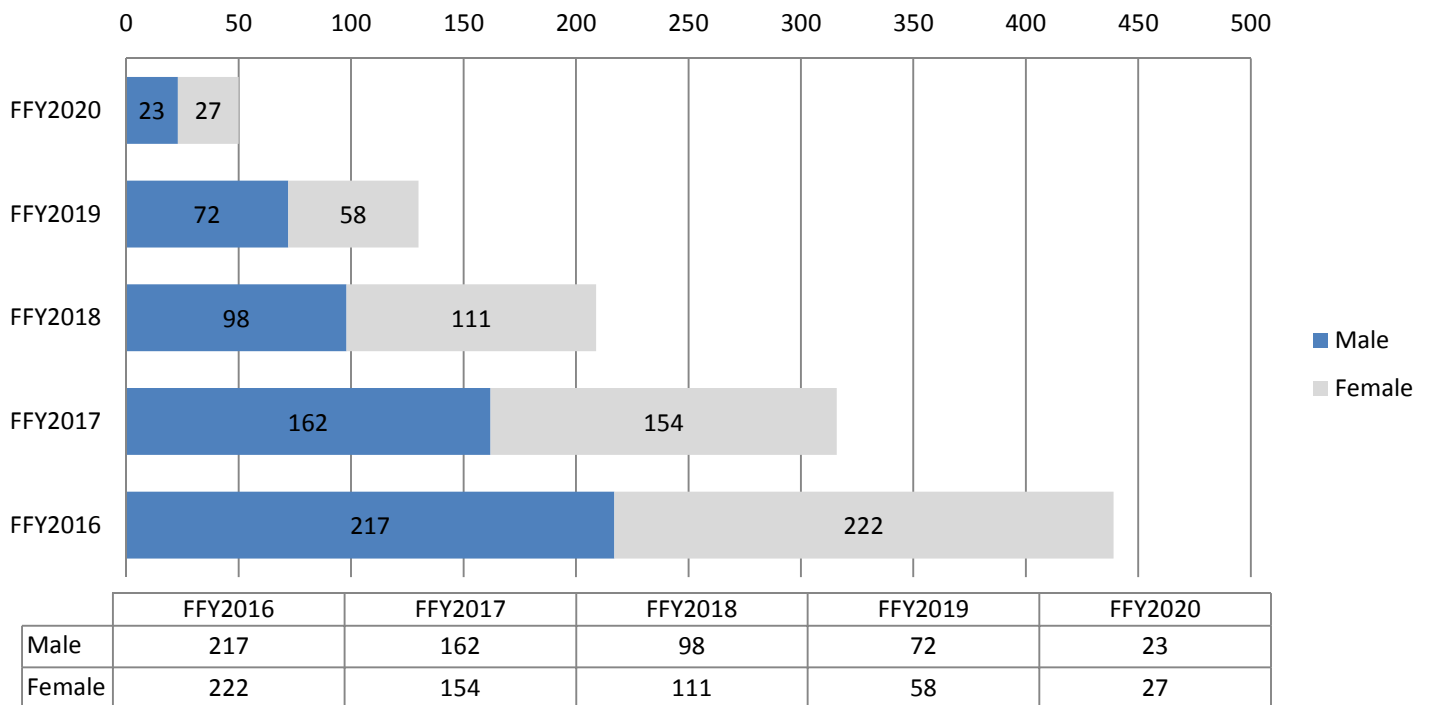
### Direct Resettlement - Huron



### New Arrivals by Age



## New Arrivals by Gender



## Trends in Refugee Resettlement

In October of each year, the President of the United States makes a determination on the maximum number of refugees that will be accepted into the United States during the coming federal fiscal year. For FFY2020, that threshold was set at 15,000, which reflects a continued trend of overall lower numbers of refugee arrivals to the United States.

FFY	Presidential Determination	Actual Arrivals to the U.S.	Arrivals in SD
2016	85,000	84,994	439
2017	50,000 *	53,716	316
2018	45,000	22,491	209
2019	30,000	30,000	130
2020	18,000	11,814	50
2021 PROJ	15,000		

\*President Obama established a determination of 110,000 in October 2016 for FFY17, but that was lowered to 50,000 by President Trump upon taking office. The presidential determination was exceeded in FFY17 due to legal challenges surrounding the travel ban.