



**Share the Journey**  
#sharejourney

## JFI/Share the Journey FY'19 Appropriations Requests: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS)<sup>1</sup>

*“How can we not see the face of the Lord in the face of the millions of exiles, refugees, and displaced persons who are fleeing in desperation from the horror of war, persecution and dictatorship? For every one of them, each with a unique face, God reveals himself always as the one who courageously comes to our aid.”*

*--Pope Francis, Walking the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 25, 2016*

Catholic social teaching calls on us to assist the vulnerable and persecuted, including those forcibly displaced from their homes and countries, unaccompanied children, and victims of human trafficking, to ensure that all individuals are treated with human dignity. This belief informs these requests:

### VULNERABLE POPULATIONS TOPLINE REQUESTS:

**DOL Salaries, Expenses Account for Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB): \$91 million**  
**HHS Refugee and Entrant Assistance (REA) Account: \$2.06 billion**

DOL/ILAB Program	FY18 Enacted	FY19 OMB Request	FY19 JFI Request	FY House Committee Request	FY19 Senate Committee Request
ILAB Total	\$86,125,000	\$18,500,000	\$91,125,000	\$18,500,000	\$86,125,000

HHS/REA Program Areas	FY18 Enacted Funding	FY19 OMB Request	FY19 JFI Request	FY19 House Committee Request	FY19 Senate Committee Request
Transitional & Medical Assistance (TAMS)	\$320,000,000	\$354,000,000	\$490,000,000	\$320,000,000	\$354,000,000
Refugee Social Services			\$155,000,000		
Targeted Assistance	\$207,201,000 <sup>2</sup>	\$161,000,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$47,601,000	\$207,201,000	\$207,201,000
Refugee Health		\$0	\$4,600,000		
<b>Subtotal (Resettlement Services)</b>	<b>\$527,201,000</b>	<b>\$515,000,000</b>	<b>\$697,201,000</b>	<b>\$527,201,000</b>	<b>\$561,201,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> This backgrounder is done in collaboration with Refugee Council USA.

<sup>2</sup> The FY18 omnibus explanatory statement indicates that Congress is supportive of combined administration of these three programs but requires that all three programs continue in FY18 to be funded at FY17 levels.

<sup>3</sup> The Administration proposes merging the administration of Refugee Social Services and Targeted Assistance into one new program, Refugee Support Services. Congress has not allocated less than \$200 million for these programs in at least 15 years, not even taking inflation into account.

<b>Foreign-Born Trafficking</b>	\$17,000,000	\$18,755,000	\$20,000,000 <sup>4</sup>	\$23,755,000	\$19,000,000
<b>Domestic Trafficking</b>	\$6,755,000		\$20,000,000 <sup>5</sup>		\$7,755,000
<b>Torture Survivor</b>	\$10,735,000	\$10,735,000	\$16,000,000 <sup>6</sup>	\$10,735,000	\$14,000,000
<b>Unaccompanied Children</b>	\$1,303,245,000	\$1,148,000,000	\$1,303,245,000 <sup>7</sup>	\$1,303,245,000	\$1,303,245,000
<b>REA Total</b>	<b>\$1,864,936,000</b>	<b>\$1,692,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,056,446,000</b>	<b>\$1,864,936,000</b>	<b>\$1,905,201,000</b>

#### WHY ARE THESE ACCOUNTS ESSENTIAL?

*HHS's Refugee and Entrant Assistance (REA) Account* helps states and local communities welcome and support refugees and other new Americans on their path to self-sufficiency. The account is administered through HHS' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). REA also provides support to unaccompanied children, asylees, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients, Cuban and Haitian entrants, victims of human trafficking, and victims of torture.

*DOL's Salaries and Expenses Account* includes funding for the International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB). ILAB works to eradicate international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

#### WHAT POPULATIONS ARE SERVED BY THE ACCOUNTS?

*Refugees:* The U.S. resettles vulnerable individuals including at-risk women and unaccompanied refugee minors. ORR provides these refugees with life-saving transitional livelihood and health assistance, social services, preventative health services, and targeted assistance. ORR fosters a vital public-private partnership between the federal government, state and local government, and the local community. Local Catholic Charities organize this effort and help leverage resources. For example, in the Match Grant Program, local agencies "match" one-dollar private donation for every two federal dollars for early employment services.

*Unaccompanied Children:* ORR provides custody and care, shelter, and family reunification services to unaccompanied children referred by the DHS. To avoid a budgetary shortfall and to ensure that all UAC (many of whom have experienced persecution, abuse, trauma, or human trafficking) have access to appropriate care and services, ORR must maintain current levels of funding allocated.

*Human Trafficking Survivors:* The Office of Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), which receives funds through REA, oversees the care and treatment of all U.S. citizen and foreign national trafficking victims in the United States. These services help victims gain access to food, clothing, housing, and long-term self-sufficiency. As the number of identified victims increases, funding for trafficking victims must also increase.

<sup>4</sup> An increase is requested to serve trafficking survivors, given the 962% increase in the number of victims identified and certified in need of services since 2002, based on the 2002 ORR report to Congress and the 2016 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report.

<sup>5</sup> See #4.

<sup>6</sup> An increase is requested because many of the torture treatment centers in the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) network have lengthy wait lists, some eight months, even without outreach. Additionally, in some areas asylum seekers comprise more than 80% of treatment center clients; given the administration's plans to more rapidly increase asylum claims there will likely be an increased demand for torture survivor services. Finally, ORR estimates up to 44% of refugees are torture survivors.

<sup>7</sup> This request includes a scored \$100 million contingency fund for unaccompanied children, and authorization for an additional \$100 million as needed based on certain triggers, which JFI supports. We also support continued funding at the level enacted by Congress for FY18 but stresses that the funding increase should not be used to support forced family separation at the southern border or increased use of large-scale institutional shelter facilities.