



Kick-Off Webinar for State Level Advocacy Support Project:

**What would it take for your agency and
State Catholic Conference to pursue
resettlement funding in your state?**

2 pm ET, Tuesday, December 10, 2019

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Introduction



Matt Wilch

Refugee Policy Advisor

USCCB/MRS



Introduction

Matt Wilch, Refugee Policy Advisor, USCCB/MRS

Chris Ross, Senior Social Policy Manager, CCUSA

Matthew Westerbeck, Resettlement Director, CC of Oregon

Todd Cooper, Director, Oregon Catholic Conference



Agenda

- 2:00-2:10 Welcome/Project Overview
Matt Wilch, USCCB/MRS
- 2:10-2:15 Project Objectives—short term and long term
Chris Ross, CCUSA
- 2:15-2:30 Why CC-OR & Diocese pursued state funding
Matthew Westerbeck, CC of Oregon
Todd Cooper, Director, Oregon Catholic Conference
- 2:30-2:45 How you too can pursue state level funding
Toolkit/Milepost/Timeline/Collaborations
- 2:45-3:00 Q&A/Exploring 2020 and 2021 Options



State Level Advocacy Support Project



Matt Wilch
Refugee Policy Advisor
MRS/USCCB



Last three years....

- ▶ Trajectory over last three years
 - Administration reduced admissions bringing reduced funding; persistent efforts to dismantle the program
 - Congressional appropriations maintained but bipartisan support is rarely public
 - Reduced domestic, international infrastructure



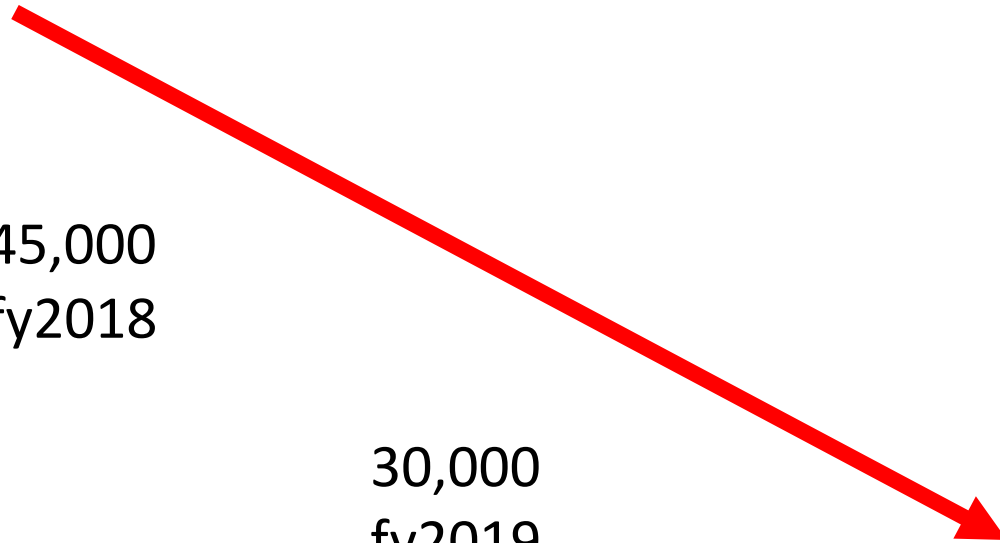
Falling Presidential Determinations for Annual Refugee Admission Ceilings

110,000
fy2017

45,000
fy2018

30,000
fy2019

18,000
fy2020



Reduced PD & Infrastructure 2016-2020

	Number of Catholic Charities affiliates	Number of Refugees resettled by Catholic Network
2016	71	23,411
2017	73	16,476
2018	69	6,349
2019	55	6,621
2020	50	YTD: 1,082



Pursue Pro-Active Solution....

- ▶ Bi-partisan Approach
- ▶ Community based success
- ▶ Key role by Catholic Charities-local
- ▶ Key role of State Catholic Conference
- ▶ Collaboration with
 - Elected Official Champion
 - Refugee service providers and advocates
 - Business, faith, and community leaders



State Level Advocacy Support Project

- ▶ Kickoff webinar
- ▶ Toolkit
- ▶ 4 Follow-up Webinars
- ▶ Live Spring Convening—[with funds to defray costs]
- ▶ Collaboration USCCB/MRS, CCUSA, and CC-Oregon



Project Objectives



Chris Ross
Catholic Charities USA



Project Objectives

- ▶ Secure Annual State Legislative Funding
 - Sustain refugee integration services
 - Sustain resettlement refugee programs



Project Objectives

- ▶ Sustainable State Funding
- ▶ Bipartisan Support
- ▶ Broad Community Support: Legal Immigration



Decision Making by CC-Oregon & Oregon Catholic Conference



Matthew Westerbeck
Catholic Charities of Oregon
Todd Cooper
Director, Oregon Catholic
Conference





Why did CC-Oregon do this?

- ▶ Catholic Social Teachings necessitate action and response
 - Welcoming the stranger and serving the world's most vulnerable
- ▶ Moral calling to help preserve life-saving infrastructure
- ▶ Our unique and powerful position to educate/engage both political parties
- ▶ State-level politics are (often) seeking bipartisan vehicles
- ▶ Understand why this is a positive ROI for states
- ▶ What questions might you ask yourselves as you are making agency decision?



Why did the Oregon Catholic Conference commit to this?

- Why did the bishops support the effort?
- What internal and external considerations did they make before saying yes?
- What questions might your bishops ask?



How you too can pursue state level funding



Matthew Westerbeck
Catholic Charities of Oregon





You Too Can Secure State Funding

- ▶ Toolkit [here](#)
- ▶ Legislative Strategy – Core Pillars & Mileposts:
 - Bipartisanship, and cross-sector collaboration
 - Community engagement, creating the narrative, messaging tools
 - Education, Advocacy, and Lobbying
 - Multi-faceted, comprehensive & coordinated deployment of resources
- ▶ Collaborations
- ▶ Timeline



Q&A//Discussion

- »» **Matt Wilch, USCCB/MRS**
- Chris Ross, CCUSA**
- Matthew Westerbeck, CC-OR**
- Todd Cooper, Oregon Catholic Conference**



JOIN US!

- ▶ Use the Toolkit—Homework before webinar 1/8/2020
 - Explore 2020 and 2021 Options
 - Discuss joining in this project with your Agency’s Decisionmakers and with your State Catholic Conference
 - Identify a champion in the legislature
 - FILL OUT THE TOOLKIT QUESTIONNAIRE that provides vital information needed as you map out your plan and pursue this advocacy, and also the questionnaire will help to guide us to include the most needed content for upcoming webinars. **Contact: Matt Wilch, USCCB/MRS (mwilch@usccb.org) with questions.**

