

Toolkit: State Level Advocacy Support Project

For Resettlement Agencies to Pursue State Level Funding

Adapt approach, steps, and materials in this toolkit to your local situation

The Project

US Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) and Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), in partnership with Catholic Charities of Oregon (CC-Oregon), launches the State Level Advocacy Support Project with a kick-off webinar December 10, 2019, sharing a toolkit with self-selected local Catholic Charities resettlement and state Catholic conference partners to use to do the State-level work. We are also providing webinars on January 8, 2020, February 19, 2020, and at least two other webinars with TBD times to support local partners in ongoing state level advocacy work. We will provide a live convening in Spring 2020 for self-selected local Catholic Charities and state Catholic conference partners, if there is a high enough level of local interest. For more information, please see longer [project description](#).

The Advocacy Approach

This project enables CC-Oregon to share the successful advocacy approach the Oregon resettlement community used to gain resettlement funding from the Oregon Legislature. The approach includes pinpointing an ask, identifying a champion, devising a plan, building a state-level, bi-partisan campaign to strengthen collaborations locally, and mobilizing the faith community, business community, governor, and legislature to achieve state level funding. See the explanation of the successful approach and how we will be rolling it out in webinars. For more information, see [Mileposts and Timeline](#).

Take Stock of Your Agency's Situation

Here is what you can do, using or adapting linked tools developed by CC-Oregon. Assure **Agency alignment** and commitment. Build a collaboration with the [State Catholic Conference of Bishops](#). Identify and work with **legislative champions** who have refugee constituents, serve on human services, healthcare, and/or housing committees, and who have proven records of successfully engaging both sides of the aisle. Decide the “ask”, and [bill language](#), and go through the [legislative steps](#). Please also find [talking points](#); [frequently asked questions](#), a [technical fiscal one-pager](#) on the bill, and a [one-page leave behind](#) describing how you can collaborate with the wider **refugee and immigrant advocacy and service community**, and with the **business community**.

Know Your State

Find out the 2020 [schedule](#) of your state legislature. Identify [information](#) about your governor and legislators.

The Steps

Does your agency want to commit to this effort? Will efforts be aimed at getting funding in 2020 or 2021? Who within your organization will lead on this project? Would your State Catholic Conference of Bishops partner with you to achieve your state funding goal? Who are the likely legislative champions who could help forge bi-partisan support? Would your Bishop help to draw fellow bishops in the state and other faith-based leaders to support the effort? What Catholic business leaders and what other community-minded business leaders would be willing to use their influence to advocate for funding for refugees? How could you collaborate with refugee and immigrant advocacy and service providers, advocates, and networks in the state to achieve a common goal? Please answer these questions and fill out the **project questionnaire**, [here](#) if you want to participate in the State Level Advocacy Support Project. Thank you.

For further information

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