



QUARTERLY UPDATE

from the Missouri Office of Refugee Administration



In this newsletter:

Refugee and Immigration News

World Refugee Day 2021

Agency Spotlight

Resources to Read, Watch, Explore

Opportunities to Get Involved

IN THE NEWS

This spring, we actually experienced legitimate springtime weather in Missouri, which was its own cause for celebration! (We'll conveniently forget the allergies that came along with it.)

But there was also a lot of movement on policies related to refugee resettlement and immigration.

In his first 100 days in office, President Biden made considerable progress as far as implementing changes to legal immigration policies and reducing barriers to access. Still, there's always plenty more to be done, [as summarized in this piece from the American Immigration Council](#).

[The Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act](#) was also passed after a rise in hate crimes and anti-Asian violence during the pandemic. This bill marks a notable denouncement of anti-Asian racism and makes some inroads to gathering better information about hate crimes in general.

The [International Olympic Committee announced](#) that 29 refugee athletes will be competing in this summer's games in Tokyo, the second time a Refugee Team has participated in the Olympics.

And finally, at the forefront of our minds these days, [President Biden raised the annual refugee admissions cap](#) from 15,000 to 62,500 at the beginning of May.

So as we gear up to resettle *a lot* more refugees this summer, we look forward to all the changes to come and being a safe harbor for all!

FEATURE: World Refugee Day 2021

Join agencies across the state as we celebrate and honor refugees around the world!

World Refugee Day was held globally for the

first time on June 20, 2001, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the [1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#)—the United Nations treaty that essentially defined who a refugee is. Now each year June 20 is a day dedicated to honoring refugees and an “occasion to build empathy and understanding and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives,” as explained on the [UNHCR World Refugee Day site](#).



Resettlement agencies and service providers across the state have big plans for June 20 and are seizing the opportunity to embrace this year’s theme: Together we heal, learn and shine. Below is a snapshot of events happening in Missouri.

St. Louis

*International Institute
3401 Arsenal Street
Sat. June 19, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.*

Kicking off their [Festival of Nations season](#), experience global wine tasting, live music, picnic box food booths, refugee quiz activity, a community art project and more!

Columbia

*MU Healthcare Pavilion
1701 W. Ash Street
Sat. June 19, 5 to 8 p.m.*

Join CCCNMO for Columbia’s annual celebration featuring international food, games, live music and dance performances and fun for the whole family.

Kansas City

*Northeast Kansas City Library
6000 Wilson Road
Sat. June 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

JVS and Della Lamb have teamed up with local partners to host a vaccination event complete with PPE distribution, coloring books and crayons as well as ice cream!

For a more complete list of events, click the button below.

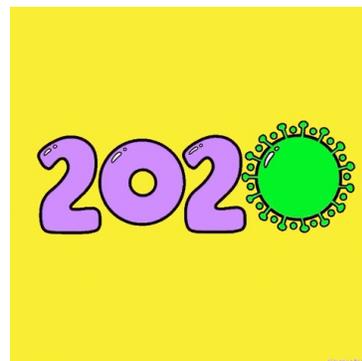
World Refugee Day Events

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: Evolving with the pandemic

As the pandemic continues to evolve, agencies across the state have adapted to meet the needs of their communities, hosting [vaccine information events](#) and [vaccine clinics](#).

Despite the ever-present pandemic, service providers have continued to support their clients in myriad ways. For instance, JVS’ Youth Mentoring program collaborated with one of their participants to [find a bike](#) to help them get to and from soccer practice, and they’re [celebrating four graduating seniors](#).

So we’re happy to report there’s plenty of good things in the mix, and we’ll continue to showcase the excellent work of resettlement agencies and service providers across the state.



Visit Our Blog

RESOURCES: Read, Watch, Explore

- **To read:** This piece about [Nasrin Rejali, an Iranian refugee chef](#) who went from working at a catering company to opening her own business all during the pandemic. And check out

NPR's "[Where We Come From](#)" series in honor of Immigrant Heritage Month.

- **To watch:** [Limbo](#). "A profoundly uplifting portrait of the refugee experience, Limbo is distinguished by its offbeat tone..." according to Rotten Tomatoes.
- **To join:** The New American Economy's [Film Club](#), a monthly virtual film series focused on immigrant filmmakers and subject matters related to the immigrant experience in America.
- **To taste:** Recipes from the [Taste of Belonging Cookbook from Welcome America](#). A toolkit, resource guide and cookbook, it includes some recipes submitted by people in Missouri and a section about RAISE's Community Garden!

OPPORTUNITIES: Get involved

- **IISTL** is looking for a [Resettlement Caseworker](#) and [Resettlement Housing Coordinator](#), among other positions on their [job site](#).
- **CCNMO's** Refugee Services team in Columbia is hiring a [Refugee Services Program Manager](#) to manage the delivery and coordination of refugee services as well as supervise and support staff.
- **JVS** is hiring a [Social Worker](#) to provide case management services in addition to building and maintaining positive relationships with clients, communities, and partner agencies. Check out their [site for more openings](#).
- We are hiring at **MO-ORA!** We're looking for an [Eligibility and Compliance Specialist](#) who will be responsible for determining eligibility for Missouri Refugee Program services, coordinating with partners, and providing technical support.

Resettlement agencies and service providers across the state are building capacity in anticipation of an increase in refugee arrivals. So keep checking the agencies' job sites for plenty of opportunities to come!

New to our quarterly newsletter? Welcome! Feel free to subscribe below and catch up on what you may have missed in our previous newsletters [here](#).

Subscribe

