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# Promising Practices

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Refugees: Successes to date

## SUCSESSES TO DATE

- Unprecedented movement of people
- Welcomed by Albertans
- High level of collaboration among three orders of government and community agencies

# Refugees: Lessons Learned

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Increased need for information sharing (profiles, arrivals information, etc.).
- Timely and sufficient funding for agencies.
- Need for comprehensive services and programs addressing full experience of refugees.

# Refugees: Challenges

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Not enough data or evidence to support informed decision making
- Barriers to employment and education
- Health and mental health
- Commissioned study in 2016 on socio-economic outcomes on refugees in Alberta
  - Findings from study

# Refugees: Promising Practices and Solutions



# SOLUTIONS AND PROMISING PRACTICES

- LEADER - Alberta Labour leads a cross ministry group with other ministries including health and education to address most immediate needs
  - Initial contribution of \$250,000 (September 2015)
  - Fall 2015-Manager in Government of Canada Operations Centre in Ottawa
- COMMUNITY FORUMS - Provided grants to 5 Refugee Reception Centres to hold community forums and information sessions last year
  - Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer
  - Including meetings with stakeholders, municipalities and settlement agencies.

# SOLUTIONS AND PROMISING PRACTICES

- The REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT GRANT INITIATIVE was designed to address the gaps and challenges identified through the community forums and conversations.
- The government was looking for proposals in the areas of coordination; public awareness; resettlement services; reducing barriers; language supports; and community action plans.
- The response from Alberta agencies was tremendous
  - \$1 million grant was distributed in April 2016 and is a great example of providing solutions after collecting feedback on the issues first

# SOLUTIONS AND PROMISING PRACTICES

- \$1 million - AUMA Welcoming and Inclusive Communities grant.
  - To continue to help build welcoming, diverse and inclusive communities

# Moving Forward and Questions