

January 21, 2020

Dear county partners,

I am writing to provide an update on the executive order 13888 (EO) requiring state and local governments to provide written consent to the federal government to resettle people in their jurisdictions through the US Refugee Admission program.

On January 15 a U.S. District Judge issued a preliminary injunction halting the implementation of this EO. Since then, there have been many questions about the impact of this new development. I have outlined below some questions we have been fielding with related information for reference.

### **What does it mean to have a preliminary injunction put on this EO?**

- The injunction stops the immediate implantation of the EO while the lawsuit makes its way through the judicial process.
- Local resettlement affiliates will not continue to proactively seek consent letters from counties at this time.
- The US Refugee Admissions Program will continue to operate as it had operated prior to the EO.

### **How long will this injunction last?**

- The injunction will remain in effect until either the injunction is lifted, or a final legal decision has been issued on the case filed.
- The injunction could be lifted if the administration appeals the decision and is successful in that appeal. In this case, the EO would go back into effect.

### **Should counties in process of considering consent move forward with that process?**

- Counties should do what makes the most sense for them, whether that is moving forward with a formal process, continuing to learn more about the program, or postponing or cancelling a scheduled process.
- If a county wishes to continue on the path to considering consent, I and my staff are happy to serve as a resource to you in providing information to inform your process.
- If a county wishes to continue gathering information and learning about the program but not pursue formal consent, I and my staff will be happy to be a resource in that effort as well.
- My office and/or local resettlement affiliates will continue to welcome any consent letters already approved, in process, or issued in the weeks ahead pending resolution of the legal challenge.

### **What happens next?**

- Unless additional legal action is pursued by the administration, the injunction will be in place until a final legal decision is made.
- After a legal decision is made, the program will either proceed as it has been, or the EO will go into effect. At that point, there would be additional guidance released about implementation timelines.

This order has led to conversations across the US about refugee resettlement, including in county board rooms and offices across Minnesota. Thank you to everyone who has worked to learn about the US Refugee Admissions program and gather information to make informed decisions that make the most sense for their communities.

Please reach out to me if there is any way that we can be supportive of your efforts or deliberation.

I look forward to continued conversations moving forward with you all about local resettlement capacity whether or not the EO is ultimately implemented.

In partnership,



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