

ISC's Refugee Support Services Program Report

For the month of June 2026

A few beneficiaries of our refugee mission

Altus B. Family from Cape Town, South Africa

The Brand family arrived in the United States on March 18, 2026, with hopes of building a safer, more stable future and creating greater opportunities for their son. Upon arrival at Harrisburg International Airport, Mr. Altus B., his wife Mrs. Eunell, and their son were welcomed by PIR Case Manager Andres Vega and provided with immediate resettlement assistance, including temporary housing, food, transportation, and essential household supplies.

From the very beginning, the family demonstrated a positive attitude, strong motivation, and a willingness to engage in the resettlement process. During their first weeks in the United States, the family worked closely with PIR staff and volunteers to complete critical resettlement tasks, including immigration documentation, Social Security enrollment, medical screenings, banking services, government benefits applications, and cultural orientation. Mr. Altus and Mrs. Eunell actively participated in educational sessions covering U.S. laws, housing responsibilities, financial literacy, public transportation systems, healthcare access, and community resources. Their eagerness to learn and adapt allowed them to quickly gain confidence in navigating their new environment.

A significant factor in the family's successful resettlement was Mr. Altus' commitment to self-sufficiency. Prior to arriving in the United States, he was able to connect with an old friend who helped him secure full-time employment with Tech Network Incorporated as a Telecommunications Technician, earning approximately \$50,000 annually. This achievement provided the family with immediate financial stability and a strong foundation for long-term independence.

Throughout the program period, the family remained engaged, attended all scheduled appointments, completed required documentation, and consistently demonstrated personal responsibility and initiative. Community support also played an important role in the family's successful integration. The Altus' family developed meaningful friendships with fellow South African refugees, whose shared experiences provided encouragement, guidance, and a sense of familiarity during the adjustment process. In addition, local faith-based organizations, volunteers, Pastor Quinton, Mr. Yahee, and other community members offered mentorship, transportation assistance, donated household items, and ongoing support. Mr. Altus' old friend was also instrumental in helping the family establish community connections and successfully settle in their new surroundings.

As the family gained stability, they successfully transitioned from temporary accommodation to permanent housing and developed a reliable support network within their community. They secured needed healthcare services, learned to manage their finances, accessed available resources appropriately, and became increasingly independent in handling daily responsibilities.

By the time their PIR case closed at the end of June, the Altus' family had achieved many important milestones, including stable housing, secure employment, healthcare access, financial stability, and strong community integration. Their determination, resilience, and proactive approach to rebuilding their lives contributed greatly to their success. The Altus' family represents an excellent example of how hard work, community support, and effective resettlement services can help newly arrived refugees establish a strong foundation and build a promising future in the United States.

It Takes Multiple Partners

When Mrs. Bibi, an Afghan refugee, stepped off the plane in December 2024, she carried little more than hope: hope for safety, a brighter future for her children, and the dream of one day standing on her own feet in her new country. She arrived with her husband, three school-age children, and one adult son, while three of her children remained in Afghanistan. Everything was unfamiliar—the language, the culture, even the simplest daily routines—but she was determined to build a new life. For ten years, she had worked in restaurants in Turkey to support her family, always holding onto the hope that her children would one day have opportunities she never had.

Just as the family was beginning to find its footing, disaster struck. In March 2025, their resettlement agency, Jewish Family Services of Harrisburg (JFS), unexpectedly closed its doors, leaving Mrs. Bibi and her family without the guidance and support they had depended on. Overnight, they were forced to navigate an unfamiliar system alone. With no English proficiency, limited income, and little understanding of available resources, they quickly fell behind on rent and utility payments. The possibility of losing their home became a very real fear.

Guided by a well-meaning member of the Afghan community, Mrs. Bibi found her way to the ISC.

From their very first meeting, the ISC Afghan Team recognized not only the family's urgent needs but also Mrs. Bibi's remarkable resilience, determination, and unwavering devotion to her children. They listened carefully to her story and completed a comprehensive assessment, identifying immediate priorities including housing stability, food security, healthcare, transportation, employment, and education.

Their first priority was preventing homelessness. The ISC Afghan Team mobilized community volunteers, who came together to cover three months of overdue rent and utility bills. Their generosity did more than keep a roof over the family's heads—it

restored Mrs. Bibi's faith that strangers could become neighbors and that her family was not alone.

With the immediate crisis resolved, the ISC Afghan Team walked beside the family every step of the way toward self-sufficiency. They helped Mrs. Bibi's husband and adult son secure employment with local companies and coordinated volunteer transportation until the family could travel independently.

Recognizing Mrs. Bibi's exceptional talent and passion for cooking, the team encouraged her to begin selling homemade Afghan meals. They promoted her business through community networks, and before long, she had her first paying customers—the beginning of the small business she had long dreamed of creating.

The support extended far beyond meeting basic needs. Mrs. Bibi enrolled in ESL classes at Trinity Lutheran Church, where she learned to write her name, address, phone number, and even create and use her own email address. The ISC Afghan Team also arranged transportation to medical appointments, tuberculosis evaluations, and dental visits; helped establish primary care for the family; and explained healthcare benefits, medications, and countless other aspects of daily life that many of us take for granted. These services represent only a fraction of the comprehensive support the family received.

Today, Mrs. Bibi's transformation is nothing short of inspiring. The woman who once lived with fear and uncertainty now carries herself with confidence and pride. Her husband and oldest son are steadily employed, her children are thriving in school, and she is growing her home-based cooking business while continuing to improve her English. Her journey is a powerful testament to resilience, the strength of family, and the life-changing impact of a community that refuses to let newcomers face their challenges alone.

Refugee Re-interviews Are Costly

International Service Center is using significant time and resources helping several of our clients and staff go through re-interview processes now required by the government. These are people who are in the United States legally and have been previously approved as productive members of our society. Yet they are being challenged to reestablish their refugee status. How is this happening?

WHY? The recent political and media frenzy have portrayed immigrants as dangerous threats in American neighborhoods and communities. Classifying people into “us” versus “them” has proven a successful political strategy for much of American political history. Previous immigrants targeted over the last 250 years included Germans, Japanese, Central Americans, Chinese, Irish, Africans, Mexicans, and others.

WHAT? The idea of arresting and requiring re-interviews of those already approved and living productive lives in the United States comes from a bill approved into law on July 4,

2025, known as the “Big Beautiful Bill” or HR 1. Also, recent Supreme Court decisions have targeted Haitians with Temporary Permit Status, even those who have lived here and paid taxes in the United States for decades. This current Administration has prioritized targeting immigrants, particularly people of darker complexions from less developed countries.

WHO? ICE agents have teamed up with newly appointed immigration judges seeking to deport those being denied their request to live in the United States. Too often these ICE agents and judges lack the appropriate education and credentials expected from police and court justices. The trickle down effect of these actions are creating anxiety and fear throughout our immigrant friends and neighbors. Some are afraid to travel or go to doctor’s appointments, etc.

Editorial comment: When social dynamics and technology impact jobs, and social dynamics shift too quickly, anxiety rises as a nation tries to find its new normal. Politicians frequently tap into this anxiety and look for someone to blame. Harnessing the anxiety into a sense of threat that some “others” are causing the problems plays well for offering quick solutions to complex issues. Politics and Media don’t do nuance. They prefer slogans, and dog whistles.

For 50 years ISC has served waves of legally documented refugees and immigrants. We have seen this political dynamic before and always seek to support immigrants and refugees through anxious, fearful times. Please keep our immigrant neighbors in your thoughts and prayers as this season of politically motivated, unreasonable, fearfulness plays out.

Refugee Re-interview Travel Assistance

On February 18, 2026, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a memorandum requiring a comprehensive review—and, in many cases, re-interviews—of refugees admitted to the United States between January 21, 2021, and February 20, 2025. As part of this process, each individual's original refugee claim must be reexamined, along with any potential grounds of inadmissibility that could affect eligibility for lawful permanent resident status.

In the Harrisburg Capital Region alone, more than 300 Afghan refugee families will be affected by this policy. Many are currently in the process of adjusting their immigration status and must now undergo additional scrutiny that may significantly delay—or even jeopardize—their path to permanent residency. Fortunately, the dedicated staff of the International Service Center (ISC) will support these families by providing interpretation, cultural mediation, and case management services to help ensure that the re-interviews are conducted fairly and that families can effectively navigate this complex process.

The financial impact of this mandate is substantial. Affected families are required to travel to the Newark Asylum Office in New Jersey, approximately 200 miles from

Harrisburg, creating a significant financial and logistical burden. The estimated cost of each trip—including fuel, tolls, and parking—is approximately \$300.

In response to this urgent need, Mrs. Becky Cotich of Pine Street Presbyterian Church and Pastor Allison Smith of Market Square Presbyterian Church have generously organized a fundraising campaign to raise \$16,626.20. These funds will enable the ISC to provide transportation assistance for 55 low-income Afghan refugee families as they travel to their required re-interviews.

On behalf of the families who will benefit from this extraordinary generosity, we extend our deepest gratitude to the following Golden Hearts for their compassion, commitment, and support.

\$50.00 from Mr./Mrs. Kenneth & Joan Hays;
\$50.00 from Mrs. Amy Chick;
\$50.00 from Ms. Angela M. Salvadia-Zook;
\$100.00 from Mr. William Mader;
\$100.00 from Mr./Mrs. Jeffrey & Stephanie Sharp;
\$200.00 from Ms. Elizabeth A. Alwine;
\$200.00 from Ms. Emily Webb;
\$300.00 from Mr./Mrs. Richard & Alicelyn Sleber;
\$500.00 from Rev. Russell Goodman & Dr. Joyce Davis;
\$500.00 from Mrs. Emily C. Cotich;
\$1,000.00 from Mrs. Peggy Grove;
\$4,380.00 from Pine Street Presbyterian Church (Cremonisi Fund);
\$9,196.20 from Market Square Presbyterian Church.



One Congregation Adopts One Refugee Family

Historically, we have seen successful integration of refugee families into the United States occurs best when a local congregation adopts a family and consistently provides help, resources, support, and encouragement. When congregational members listen to the refugee stories, it increases their compassion index and expands their hearts. It helps the refugees and the congregation members, both.

Sunday, June 21, one local congregation invited two ISC refugee staff members to share their stories from the pulpit for the sermon that week. This congregation had adopted an Afghan refugee family over the last few years. Support included practical actions such as providing transportation, helping the children enroll in school, assisting the family with donations, etc. At a recent meal where the refugee family invited several of the congregation to their home, the pastor presented the family with their first American flag to hang proudly from their flagpole.

This kind of win-win ministry blesses both the refugee family and the congregation. Might your faith community consider adopting a refugee family?

“It Takes a Village”

This month we honor and lift the work of our staff member, Rakia, as she helped a refugee family connect with many different resources in the community.

Upon the family’s arrival, an ISC volunteer, Judy, played a vital role in their initial resettlement and stabilization. She personally raised funds to cover their rent during the early period, helped them secure more affordable housing, and supported them throughout their moving process. She also assisted in registering the children in school, provided financial help toward the purchase of a car, and enrolled the family with the New Hope Food Bank. In addition, she supported the family with green card applications and connected them with a pro bono attorney for legal representation. Judy helped both parents enroll in English classes, completed EBT application forms on their behalf, and regularly provided transportation to important appointments.

Another key support came from volunteer and ESL instructor Bibi Pakray, who worked with the family on several occasions to improve job-related vocabulary through practical examples and learning activities, helping strengthen her communication skills for future employment opportunities. They were off and running!

This winter, however, the family reported a serious concern regarding high heating bills. Rakia contacted SAC Energy on their behalf and followed up with complete eligibility documentation. As a result of this advocacy, \$1,000 in fuel assistance was successfully delivered to the household. Later, when the family continued to have trouble with high electricity bills, Rakia applied for the LIHEAP program, so their electricity bills are now being directly paid through that program to PPL, providing long-term financial relief.

In addition to financial assistance, Rakia also supported the mother's emotional wellbeing. Because the client was experiencing depression, she shared relevant community resources and invited her to participate in self-love and yoga sessions held at PAIRWN, aiming to reduce stress and improve mental health. She also ensured continuous support by connecting the client with ISC volunteers, including Bob Little, who assisted the family with vehicle-related mechanical issues.

Rakia Rasoli also assisted with the family's health concerns. She helped them through the Penn Home Care application process, communicating directly with the agency, and sending the physician certification form to the primary doctor to complete. She also acted as the client's authorized representative with consent to ensure proper follow-up and service coordination.

Overall, this case demonstrates strong collaboration between volunteers and case management, resulting in meaningful improvements in the client's financial stability, housing security, healthcare access, education, and emotional wellbeing. Through continuous advocacy and coordinated services, the client and her family have been able to overcome significant challenges and move toward greater stability and independence. Having spent so much time not only in the office but above and beyond office hours, Rakia says she feels like this is her family. She celebrates that true case management goes beyond services. It is about trust, dignity, and long-term human support.

We Interviewed Rakia

QUESTION: Many Americans assume that the rest of the world wants to come to the United States because they envy our lifestyle, independence, and prosperity—the American Dream. How does this viewpoint fit with your reasons for coming to this country?

Rakia's Response: "Before coming to the United States, we had a good life. We had jobs and lived with our family, a normal life that everyone wants to have in their own country. Personally, as a woman, I completed my education up to a master's degree in Afghanistan and had my desired job as a university lecturer and worked in an office. I never imagined that one day I would come to the United States, but the situation became unpredictable, and this was not something we knew in advance.

Our country fell into the hands of the wrong people. The first thing they did was take away women's freedom, education, and right to work. People were living in deep fear because they knew that this regime would not allow people to breathe freely and that everything would be ruled in an authoritarian way. The main issue was that those who had worked with the U.S. forces were the most at risk, fearing for their lives under this government.

The only reason we Afghan people left our country was to save our lives and our families, because the Taliban considered those who had worked with U.S. forces as

enemies and would kidnap and kill them. For this reason, many of us tried to leave the country, especially those who had worked with U.S. forces applied for assistance through their respective offices. Since I worked in an NGO funded by the United States, we were in a program through which we had to leave the country and go to a third country while our case was processed. I followed this process, and eventually the United States helped me and my family find safety. I am grateful to the U.S. government for saving my and my family's lives.

Now I consider the United States of America as my own country. I love it, and I want to serve its people and help other immigrants who come here sincerely and honestly.

Go Back to Haiti: The Grief Behind an Order That's Breaking Haitian Families

"Go back to Haiti." Three words that once meant nothing more than a phrase now land like a blade for so many Haitian families. Since the announcement of the cancellation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) on June 5, 2026, our community isn't just facing legal and financial uncertainty — it's living through grief, fear, and a deep, aching sense of exclusion.

As a Program Assistant at ISC (International Service Center), I have the privilege of working closely with Haitian families as they try to rebuild their lives here in Central Pennsylvania. But this past week, what I witnessed wasn't just work — it was testimony to real pain. I've seen eyes filled with tears. I've heard voices shake over the phone. I've felt the weight of a community that feels the ground shifting beneath its feet all over again.

For years, TPS was more than a legal document — it was a breath, a second chance. It allowed Haitian families to work without fear, pay rent, raise their children, and rebuild their lives with dignity after fleeing violence, insecurity, and instability in Haiti. So many learned to live again — learning English, enrolling their children in school, paying taxes, becoming true members of their communities.

Since the announcement, all of that has been trembling. Families are calling our office, their voices breaking, asking: "What do we do now?" Some have already lost their jobs — we've heard from workers in fields like home care, let go with a heavy heart by employers who had no choice, despite years of loyal service. Others are waiting for a phone call that could upend everything, any day. They don't know how they'll pay next month's rent, or how they'll put food on the table.

But the hardest part isn't money. It's the feeling of no longer belonging in the place they call home. And this fear isn't only for TPS holders — it's spreading through the Haitian community across the U.S. more broadly. These are no longer just anonymous words buried online: they're being said out loud, in public, by people whose voices carry weight. Comments like this do more damage than any anonymous post ever could. Each one leaves a mark, telling families they don't belong, even after years of honest, hard-earned lives.

The hardest part is for the children. The new school year is starting, and parents are terrified their kids will hear these words in the schoolyard, terrified they won't feel "good enough" to belong, terrified it will shatter the fragile confidence they've worked so hard to build.

As someone who also immigrated from Haiti, I remember the day I arrived here. I remember the relief — for the first time in years, I could walk down the street without looking over my shoulder, without fearing kidnapping, without listening for gunfire. I could go to work, go to appointments, live in peace.

Today, after hearing the pain so many families are carrying, some of what I thought I'd left behind has come back. The stress has returned. Like so many in the Haitian community, I hold onto hope for a future where families can live safely, work with dignity, and keep building the lives they now call home.

At ISC, we remain here — to provide accurate information, compassionate support, and trusted resources as Haitian families navigate this difficult and uncertain time.

Kind Thoughts from One of Our Unsung Heroes

In January my husband and I had lunch with two couples from our church. While we were eating, I discovered that both wives volunteered with ISC. Since I retired in 2024, I had been thinking and praying about finding some meaningful volunteer work. Both Cindy and Cheryl shared how much they enjoyed the work they were doing. Cheryl works directly with immigrant families and Cindy provide transportation.

As a result of that conversation, I contacted Christine and expressed interest in driving some ladies to their ESL class at Trinity Lutheran. That phone interview led to my assignment of driving Bibi and Khaleda to class. The first week I was very nervous about how I would communicate with them. After I picked up both ladies, they began to happily chat with each other in their home language. I obviously felt like an outsider, but it was a good uncomfortable feeling. I got a small sense of what these precious ladies dealt with in coming to the United States. How difficult it must be for them to be in settings where they have no idea what is being said.

After a few weeks, I began to enjoy listening to them as these two friends excitedly greeted each other and chatted non-stop on the way to the church. I also began to be able to talk to them about the weather, the beautiful spring flowers and our children. It was a rewarding experience, and I look forward to doing it again in the fall.

— Delores Reese, ISC Volunteer

Kudos to our wonderful Good Samaritans for their impactful contributions

The below report summarizes the volunteer activities of the Harrisburg/Mechanicsburg group of the ISC. Each volunteer who contributed in June 2026 is listed with the hours they spend aiding ISC clients.

The total combined number of hours of volunteer support was 76.5 hours.

David Castonguay - 4.5 hrs.

Drove Maryan Parwani to Harrisburg - 6/10

Delivered donations to Veroshka - 6/12

Assisted Hyatt with donation pick up - 6/15

Christine Filipovich - 14 hrs.

Facilitated communication and coordination related to client needs and volunteer activities - 6/1 - 6/30

Keevin Graham - 4 hrs.

Assisted Zahra Bayat with driving instruction - 6/1, 6/3, 6/23

Barbara Hamm - 16.5

Communicated with Samad and Anh about ISC donations - 6/1-6/4, 6/7-6/8

Delivered baby items to Adiba - 6/9

Took Van der Walt shopping - 6/10

Drove Veroshka home from work - 6/17

Communicated with and assisted Van der Walt, Anh, Veroshka, Nezil family, and Andres about various needs - 6/1-6/30

Richard Krampe - 4 hrs.

Assisted Dr. Warren with moving furniture - 6/16

Assisted Hayat family with furniture - 6/19

Olivia Long - 2 hrs.

Logging volunteer hours and constructing monthly report - 6/4

Cheryl and Bruce Martin - 3.5 hrs.

Assisting Shahnaz Khetabi with ELL and at food pantry- 6/15, 6/22, 6/29

John and Susanne Robinson - 16 hrs.

Delivered donations to Mrs. Bayani and assisted her with sewing projected - 6/3

Drove Mr. Bayani to appointment and assisted with paperwork- 6/15

Drove Mr. Bayani to appointment - 6/17

Barbara Sunderlin - 4 hrs.

Drove M Sarshar to appointment - 6/5

Drove M Sarshar on errands - 6/6

Assisted M Sarshar with scheduling appointments - 6/29

Michael Varano - 8 hrs.

Drove Veroshka - 6/19, 6/20, 6/24

Drove Mrs. Popal to Project Share - 6/25

ISC's Refugee Support Services Outcomes

1. Refugee Support Services (RSS) Program

During June 2026, the ISC Refugee Support Services (RSS) Team provided essential services to ORR-eligible refugees representing a variety of national origins, including:

A. Case Management and Barrier Removal Services

Case management and barrier removal services were provided to 8 refugees, including 1 from Afghanistan, 3 from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and 4 from South Africa. Services focused primarily on medical appointments, public benefits enrollment, English

as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, PennDOT driver's licensing requirements, employment and career advancement, public transportation, housing assistance, and landlord-tenant responsibilities.

B. Immigration Assistance and Naturalization Services

Immigration assistance and naturalization services were provided to 13 refugees, including 2 from Bhutan, 1 from the Central African Republic, 4 from South Sudan, 1 from Sudan, and 5 from Venezuela. Assistance included preparation and submission of immigration applications, including USCIS Form I-485 (Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status), Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization), and Form I-912 (Request for Fee Waiver).

C. Employment Services

Culturally and linguistically appropriate employment services were provided to 7 refugees, including 3 from Afghanistan and 4 from South Africa. Employment services resulted in 9 permanent full-time job placements.

2. Ukrainian Refugee Support Services (URSS) Program

During June 2026, the ISC URSS Team provided comprehensive services to ORR-eligible Ukrainian clients, including:

A. Case Management and Barrier Removal Services

Case management and barrier removal services were provided to 86 Ukrainian refugees. Services included assistance with medical appointments, housing and landlord-tenant issues, PennDOT driver's licensing requirements, employment and career advancement, public assistance and government benefits, education and foreign credential evaluation, immigration processes, protective services for children and older adults, consumer education, and small business development.

B. Immigration Assistance

Immigration assistance was provided to 24 Ukrainian clients. Services included assistance with USCIS Form I-131 (Application for Travel Document/Re-Parole), Form I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record), Form I-821 (Application for Temporary Protected Status), Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization), and Form I-912 (Request for Fee Waiver).

C. Employment Services

Culturally and linguistically appropriate employment services were provided to 3 Ukrainian clients, resulting in 2 permanent full-time job placements.

3. ASA Team – GAPS Program

During June 2026, the ASA Team provided GAPS services to 42 at-risk refugees, including:

A. Case Management

Individualized case management services were provided to 35 clients, addressing immigration, healthcare, employment, education, government benefits, transportation, housing, and coordination of social services.

B. Immigration Services

Immigration-related assistance was provided to 22 clients, including support with Form I-485, AR-11 Change of Address submissions, I-94 updates, travel document guidance, Employment Authorization Document (EAD) follow-up, DCA requests, USCIS inquiries, interpretation of official notices, and referrals for legal immigration services.

C. Interpretation and Translation

Interpretation and translation services were provided to 8 clients during communications with healthcare providers, banks, employers, insurance companies, home care agencies, schools, volunteers, legal representatives, and government agencies.

D. Medical Services

Medical screening coordination, follow-up appointments, laboratory testing guidance, vaccination coordination, and communication with Sadler Health Center and other healthcare providers were provided to 2 clients.

E. Employment Services

Employment-related assistance was provided to 8 clients, including referrals to PA CareerLink®, RSS employment services, employment monitoring, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) coordination, CDL and driver's license guidance, communication with recruiters, and job referrals.

F. Public Benefits and Financial Stability

Assistance with County Assistance Office (CAO) applications, SNAP and Medicaid benefits, EBT guidance, housing concerns, emergency assistance requests, insurance matters, and other public benefits were provided to 12 clients.

G. Housing Assistance

Housing and relocation assistance was provided to 5 clients, including affordable housing searches, lease renewal support, landlord coordination, furniture donations, household goods assistance, and volunteer coordination.

H. Medical Examination Assistance

3 clients received DCA assistance related to required medical examination fees.

4. UHP Team – GAPS Program

During June 2026, the UHP Team provided GAPS services to 92 Ukrainian clients, including:

- 1 client received document translation services, including translation of a Supplement to a Higher Education Diploma.

- 2 clients received interpretation services.
- 6 clients received assistance with County Assistance Office (CAO) matters and application follow-up.
- 15 clients participated in cultural orientation sessions covering passport renewals, legal resources, emergency medical services, driver's licensing, educational opportunities, address changes, CHIP enrollment, SSI benefits, divorce-related documentation, medical screening requirements, school enrollment, volunteer opportunities, and community resources.
- 2 clients received assistance scheduling medical and dental appointments.
- 2 clients received legal guidance regarding Temporary Protected Status (TPS), re-parole applications, and Employment Authorization Documents (EADs).
- 3 clients received assistance establishing World Education Services (WES) accounts, obtaining diploma translations, understanding credential evaluation procedures, and monitoring evaluation status.
- 4 clients received assistance applying for or renewing public benefits.
- 3 clients received medical guidance, including assistance changing primary care providers.
- 10 clients received assistance with USCIS matters, including case expedite requests and responses to Requests for Evidence (RFEs).
- 3 clients received employment consultations and job search guidance.
- 2 clients received assistance completing Form I-131.
- 2 clients received information about available ESL classes and assistance with enrollment.

5. REA Team – GAPS Program

During June 2026, the REA Team provided GAPS services to 10 refugees and asylees, including:

- Provided French interpretation for 7 Congolese clients during the PennDOT learner's permit process and Creole interpretation for 1 client during a home visit.
- Translated and explained service-related correspondence, USCIS notices, including Requests for Evidence (RFEs), and other official documents.
- Assisted 7 families with immigration services, including establishing USCIS online accounts, preparing and mailing EAD correspondence and expedite requests, and updating addresses with USCIS and EOIR.
- Referred 1 family to an immigration attorney for legal representation.
- Assisted 3 clients with SNAP and Medicaid applications through the Dauphin County Assistance Office and supported 1 client in successfully obtaining benefits.
- Participated in a Haitian community meeting hosted by Gather the Spirit for Justice and enrolled 3 clients in Saturday English language classes.

6. PIR Program

During June 2026, the PIR Program provided resettlement services to 10 refugees, including:

- Assisted 3 South African clients with intake, eligibility determination, document collection, program orientation, and community resource information.
- Provided transportation services to 4 South African clients for banking, Social Security Administration appointments, grocery shopping, medical appointments, and employment.
- Scheduled required medical examinations for 3 South African clients.
- Assisted 3 South African clients with scheduling Social Security Administration appointments and completing the application process.
- Assisted 3 South African clients with opening bank accounts and understanding basic banking services.
- Assisted 8 South African clients with public benefits applications, follow-up activities, and understanding available assistance programs.
- Supported 4 South African clients with employment planning, job readiness, and job search assistance.
- Assisted 5 South African clients with housing searches, rental applications, and securing stable housing.

7. Outreach, Linkage, Networking, Coordination, and Collaboration

During June 2026, ISC staff participated in several outreach, networking, and collaborative activities that strengthened community partnerships and expanded services for refugee and immigrant populations.

A. Community Outreach Event – Second Presbyterian Church (June 21, 2026)

ISC staff participated in a community outreach event at Second Presbyterian Church in Carlisle, engaging volunteers and providing updates on current challenges affecting refugee and immigrant communities. The event strengthened community partnerships, encouraged continued volunteer engagement, and promoted advocacy efforts supporting refugee families throughout Central Pennsylvania.

B. Community Outreach Event – Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (June 23, 2026)

ISC hosted a community outreach event featuring representatives from the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR). The event connected refugee and immigrant families with vocational rehabilitation services, employment resources, and community partners, promoting workforce participation, community integration, and long-term self-sufficiency.

C. Kipona Festival Coordination Meeting (June 30, 2026)

ISC staff attended the City of Harrisburg Special Events Office's Kipona Festival 2026 coordination meeting to discuss ISC's participation in the Multicultural Tent initiative. The meeting strengthened collaboration with community partners, advanced cultural inclusion efforts, and coordinated plans to showcase the diverse cultures and contributions of refugee and immigrant communities during the Kipona Festival.