

National Agency	Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	Affiliate Code	MILIRS02
Office State	Michigan	Office City	Lansing
Office Name	Samaritas (Formerly Lutheran Social Services of Michigan)		
Office Address	1545 Keystone Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48911		
JOINT SITE		SUB-OFFICE	
If joint site, with which agency or agencies?	Sub-office		
	Administering affiliate		

CASELOAD STATISTICS (number of individuals)	FY 2015 Actual Arrivals					14
	FY 2016 Acknowledged Capacity					17
	FY 2016 Anticipated Arrivals					17
	AF	EA	ECA	LAC	NE/SA	Total
PROPOSED FY 2017 ARRIVALS	8	2	0	0	5	15

RECENT/PROPOSED CASELOAD	
Nationalities served FY 2015 – FY 2016	Afghan, Burmese, Congolese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Iraqi, Rwandan, Somali, Sudanese
Proposed nationalities FY 2017	Afghan, Burmese, Congolese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Iraqi, Somali, Sudanese, Syrian
Languages available on staff to support the proposed caseload	Arabic, Dari/Farsi, Lingala, Somali, Swahili, Tigrinya
Languages available from within the community of resettlement to support the proposed caseload	Arabic, French, Italian, Somali, Vietnamese
Other language resources used	Voices for Health, 7C Lingo, and Worldwide interpreters in person and on phone if needed.

GRIEVANCE AND PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA) POLICY	
Indicate whether you have a grievance policy.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Indicate whether you have incorporated the IASC's six core principles for PSEA in your organization's code of conduct for all staff and volunteers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Site Rationale: The Greater Lansing Area has an approximate population of 465,732 (Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 2012). The refugee and immigrant population is estimated at approximately 30% of the area's residents, many of which speak a primary language other than English. Samaritas maintains strong partnerships with community organizations such as the Immigration and Refugee Resource Initiative, a group of organizations and community partners working toward accessibility and improvement of services for the refugee and immigrant population; state government agencies; and schools and universities. Samaritas has a pool of mentors and tutors specifically trained to support refugee youth. Schools have worked with Samaritas to resolve language barriers and provide ESL resources. The Greater Lansing

Area has a wide variety of faith institutions available, including Lutheran, Protestant, and Catholic, an Islamic Center, a Buddhist Temple, and Mosques. Many of these institutions have strong ethnic communities and services in other languages.

Comprehensive case management and related services may be provided by Samaritas up to the age of 21. URMs generally remain in care and have sufficient employment and life skills to care for themselves by the time they exit the program. Most youth receive a high school diploma or high school equivalency, and are either employed or attending college at discharge. Legal, mental health, and other service providers are matched with youth to meet their identified needs prior to program emancipation. Additional assistance with college expenses is available to youth up to the age of 23. Youth discharge with resources for housing and food as well. Samaritas' network and capacity of domestic foster care, refugee resettlement, church support and other programs is used to meet the needs of the URM program fluctuations in arrivals. This may include utilizing foster homes within the statewide organizational network who typically service domestic clients and/or partnering with the Samaritas Grand Rapids resettlement agency resources. Samaritas also has adult resettlement services in the Detroit area, and plans to expand existing service into the Metro-Detroit area via foster home growth as outreach in the Muslim community has resulted in a large number of families interested in providing service for Muslim youth. Samaritas also plans to expand residential services to unaccompanied refugee minors through the development of a URM House focused on meeting resettlement needs (mental health, education, independent living, employment) of arriving youth.

2. Health Care Access and Refugees with Special Needs: Youth with severe mental health diagnoses and/or psychiatric issues are not accepted for placement as the community surrounding Samaritas has limited resources for psychiatric service. Samaritas does regularly utilize Community Mental Health for emergency services and referrals. Samaritas is currently in negotiations with a psychiatrist to provide ongoing services and support to youth with mental health needs. Samaritas does not have the foster/host home resources to service medically handicapped individuals at this time.

3. Foster Care: Samaritas has a marketing and recruitment team to recruit foster families. Current foster parents are an excellent referral source and incentives are offered for their assistance. Samaritas attends community events and builds relationships with a variety of churches to expand community partnerships. The organization also uses a Facebook page and develops videos for recruitment. Samaritas strategically targets Spanish-speaking families, Muslim families, families engaged with the LGBT community, and families open to treatment foster care. This has increased our number of inquiries and families moving through the licensing process. To become licensed, foster parents must attend orientation and eight sessions of PRIDE training, five of which must be completed prior to licensing. The remaining three are completed within the first six months of licensure. The licensing process also includes a home evaluation, extensive background checks, and additional training on fostering a URM youth. During the pre-licensure training, potential refugee foster families receive a "Refugee 101" training. This training provides the definitions of Undocumented Children, URMs, and various status possibilities for youth. Assessments review family histories, motivation for becoming a foster parent, family preferences in placement, and financial stability. During the family development and licensing process, various role opportunities are discussed including respite and host parent

services. Many foster homes offer respite to one another as well. Ongoing culturally specific training is offered monthly thereafter, including topics on cultures, traditions, and foods, and trauma focused treatment training and interventions to assist in parenting refugee youth. Ongoing support services are offered to ensure healthy placement of youth in homes via case aides and management, licensing, and clinical staff. Staff visit the foster home a minimum of monthly.

4. Placement Options: The primary types of placements available through Samaritas include foster care, group care through foster family group homes, Independent Living Plus, and Independent Living. In FY 2017, Samaritas will finalize Treatment Foster Care and a residential group home care for URM youth. Youth may maintain a foster care status with services up to the age of 20, unless they change placements after the age of 18. At this point, their status changes to Independent Living as a legal adult may not be placed in foster care. In this status youth may live in a host home or an independent placement approved by Samaritas. At age 20, youth may enter Michigan's Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care and continue until the end of their 21st year. Youth are provided with Independent Living Skills training in order to prepare them to live independently by the time they leave Samaritas programs, and also receive resources at discharge (medical information, food banks, employment resources, state assistance information). Samaritas also has partnership with community providers to provide Treatment Foster Care and Human Trafficking Services via a residential program with both open and secure buildings on their grounds. Per our MOU with this partner, Samaritas offers training focused on the refugee population and services provided. Samaritas co-manages each case to ensure youth's needs are met in a culturally sensitive manner, per contracts and Samaritas standards.

5. Physical Presence: Minors must be physically present in Michigan at least two business days prior to their 18th birthday to ensure the ability to enter local custody and entry into the URM program. It is preferable to have at least 30 days; however, the local court has been flexible as long as the minor arrives two days prior to age 18 and can enter court jurisdiction the day before their 18th birthday. Minors are petitioned to the local court shortly after arrival and physical responsibility is designated to Samaritas and the State.

6. Minors Close to 18 Years of Age: As stated above, Samaritas is able to accept minors close to the age of 18 if placements are available. Minors must arrive at least two days prior to their 18th birthday to enter custody of the local court and the State of Michigan. Based on the capacity of the court to hear cases their 18th birthday, Samaritas expects to be able to accept minors close to their 18th birthday. Samaritas carefully reviews youth arriving and referred this close to their 18th birthday to ensure our ability to provide all services to the youth. Placements for these youth could be foster care, independent living plus, or independent living. There is an increased focus on independent living skills for youth to work toward emancipation.

7. Major/Minor Cases: Samaritas collaborates with the Samaritas Grand Rapids resettlement program to provide services for major/minor. Minors are generally placed in foster care while majors are resettled in the community. Foster parents have been supportive and accommodating regarding transportation and visitation between parties. The Samaritas Grand Rapids office provides all adult services. The majors' role in participation in permanency planning is on a case-by-case basis but consideration is given to the relationship between major/minor and consent of the minor.