

National Agency	USCCB	Affiliate Code	MIUSCC04
Office State	Michigan	Office City	Grand Rapids
Office Name	Bethany Christian Services – Grand Rapids		
Office Address	1050 36 <sup>th</sup> St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508		
<b>JOINT SITE</b>		<b>SUB-OFFICE</b>	
If joint site, with which agency or agencies?	LIRS	Sub-office	Kalamazoo, MI
		Administering affiliate	Grand Rapids, MI

<b>CASELOAD STATISTICS (number of individuals)</b>	FY 2015 Actual Arrivals		24			
	FY 2016 Acknowledged Capacity		25			
	FY 2016 Anticipated Arrivals		26			
	<b>AF</b>	<b>EA</b>	<b>ECA</b>	<b>LAC</b>	<b>NE/SA</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>PROPOSED FY 2017 ARRIVALS</b>	12	9	0	0	12	33
<b>RECENT/PROPOSED CASELOAD</b>						
Nationalities served FY 2015 – FY 2016	<b>Afghan, Bhutanese, Burundian, Congolese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Liberian, Burmese, Pakistani, Rwandan, Sierra Leonean, Somali, Sudanese, Togolese</b>					
Proposed nationalities FY 2017	<b>Afghan, Bhutanese, Burundian, Congolese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Liberian, Burmese, Pakistani, Rwandan, Sierra Leonean, Somali, Sudanese, Togolese</b>					
Languages available on staff to support the proposed caseload	<i>Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chin, Creole, Dinka, Dzongkha, Ewondo, Falam, French, Hakha, Hindi, Kachin, Karen, Kaonde, Kihemba, Kikuyu, Kinyamulenge, Kinyakore, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Lingala, Luhya, Matupi, Nepali, Newar, Oromiya, Portuguese, Rohingya, Spanish, Steswana, Swahili, Tamil, Tchiluba, Thai, Tigrinya, Urdu</i>					
Languages available from within the community of resettlement to support the proposed caseload	<i>Barawaw, Bemba, Falam, Hakha, Karen, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, Mai, Malay, Napali, Nyanja, Sgaw Karen, Somali, Swahili, Thlan, and Tlang</i>					
Other language resources used	<i>Voices for Health, Liaison Linguistics, Associated Language Consultants, PARA's interpretation services. Frequency: Weekly General circumstances of use: Court, therapist, behavior specialist, case managers, medical appointments. Usually in person appointments unless unavailable, then phone interpreters are utilized.</i>					

<b>GRIEVANCE AND PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA) POLICY</b>	
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:** There are roughly 1.3 million people in greater Grand Rapids with 200,000 in Grand Rapids proper. With its extensive history of newcomer resettlement, the community maintains a positive attitude toward current and newly arriving refugees. Within the community, there are refugee communities from Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Myanmar, Haiti, Eritrea, Bhutan, Iraq, Sudan, and Somalia, as well as many faith communities within those nationalities. The greater Grand Rapids faith community is actively involved in the provision of donation dollars and volunteer time. Grand Rapids provides a highly diversified service and manufacturing industry economic base with housing readily available within a moderate cost range. Education opportunities are numerous including ESL at the community, high school and college level. There are five colleges, three large universities and three university extensions in Kent County. Bethany has a history of cooperative relationships with residential and community social service providers in Kent County and is a member of the Freedom Flight Refugee Task Force consisting of 20 agencies who unite to offer services and support to refugees. Bethany also has a working relationship with two adult resettlement programs: Bethany Refugee Adult and Family Services (Church World Service affiliate) and Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services of Michigan).

To prepare youth for independent living, Bethany offers each youth a volunteer or paid tutor, weekly group after-school tutoring, a mentor match program and life skills education. Youth are provided a 10-week Newcomers Orientation upon arrival to the program, and all program clients are offered the opportunity to participate in a bi-monthly Boys and Girls Club. Youth who have demonstrated leadership ability among their peers are encouraged to participate in the Youth Leadership Council. Financial assistance is available to clients pursuing a college degree until the age of 23 through the Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV). Bethany collaborates with Lighthouse Academy to provide intensive ESL-based high school curriculum which enables older youth to obtain a high school diploma within two years. Bethany also collaborates with Covenant House Academy who provides online education within a traditional classroom structure and youth are allowed to attend school until the age of 22. In 2016 Bethany anticipates 22 youth will graduate from high school. All youth are served within the context of Sanctuary, an evidence-based agency practice model developed to address trauma for youth and agency staff. Each client is also referred for assessment for Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), proven to have excellent results in treating the effects and symptoms of trauma. The Refugee Transitional Living Center (TLC), a highly supportive environment and intensive preparation for independent living, housing up to 13 males, has been in operation since 2009. Casa del Sol, a group home housing up to 12 males, is a therapeutic placement in operation since 2011. The programs are committed to helping refugee youth adjust and achieve independence by providing each youth with education, intensive ESL services, life skills training, a matched mentor and weekly individual and group TF-CBT. Bellaview, a group home with up to 8 females, is a therapeutic placement in its second year of operation. On 10/29/2015, the Independent Living Plus (ILP) program placed their first older teen male in the home, and a second ILP home is now open, with total capacity for 20 male youth in this program that provides staff-supported independent housing for youth in transition from a foster home or residential to independent living, as well as intensive independent living services.

- 2. Health Care Access and Refugees with Special Needs:** At the present time, Bethany is able to accommodate the needs of any refugee referred to the program, given the availability of a trained and willing foster home or appropriate therapeutic residential placement. With a world-renowned children's hospital and extensive hospital networks, medical needs are able to be addressed with exceptional treatment. Ongoing training for staff and foster parents

covers a range of topics including trauma history and trauma-informed care and the needs of LGBTQ youth. Foster parents have been open to placements with varying needs, including blindness, special medical needs, physical disabilities, and emotional impairments. Mental health needs can be met and addressed within the agency, including a bilingual therapist trained in TF-CBT, a bilingual behavioral specialist, and agency psychiatrist.

3. **Foster Care:** Foster families are recruited through local churches, mosques, informational meetings and events in the community, radio, television, print advertisements, billboard, car and yard signs, and word of mouth. Once recruited, families attend two hours of orientation on Refugee Foster Care, 21 hours of PRIDE (*Parent Resource for Information Development Education*), and 6 hours of Trauma-Informed Parenting. Simultaneous with training, a home study and background checks are conducted per state licensing requirements, and appropriate families are recommended to the state for licensure. Licensed homes must complete an additional eight hours of training annually, including at least two hours of culturally specific training. Bethany offers cultural and mental health trainings monthly, has an extensive Refugee Foster Care Library with resources for the foster families, and supports foster families through the following efforts: monthly support groups in English/Spanish, weekly to monthly visits by the case manager depending on need, as-needed quarterly visits from licensing specialists, crisis support from the Training and Development Coordinator, a Foster Parent Mentoring Program, and an annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner. Foster parents are supported through family team meetings, a behavioral specialist, and a foster care rate based on the youth's needs. Foster parents identify respite care at licensure and are encouraged to use their respite caregivers as regularly scheduled support.
4. **Placement Options:** Bethany has many placement options for refugee youth which include foster homes (basic and therapeutic), Transitional Living Center, and Casa del Sol group home for male youth, Bellaview group home for female youth, independent living homes, ILP staff-supported independent housing, and supervised independent living homes, as well as residential treatment in the community.
5. **Physical Presence:** A youth must be present in Kent County at least 120 days before they turn 18 years old for the court process to establish local court wardship.
6. **Minors Close to 18 Years of Age:** Bethany is unable to accept any youth close to age 18 because the length of dependency proceedings in the Kent County Family Court requires that URM's be placed in the Bethany URM program at least 120 days before they turn 18 years old.
7. **Major/Minor Cases:** Bethany has the capacity to provide services to Major/Minor cases due to its relationship with Bethany Refugee Adult and Family (Church World Service affiliate) and the Samaritas (Lutheran Social Services of Michigan) adult resettlement program. The adult and URM programs have consistently coordinated services for this population with positive outcomes.