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JERS and CCRN AWARDED \$562,500 MULTIYEAR GRANT

BUFFALO, NY, October 8, 2018 — Journey’s End Refugee Services (JERS) in collaboration with Child Care Resource Network (CCRN) was awarded a three-year \$562,500 grant by the Office of Refugee Resettlement: Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Development Program. This grant will be used to fund the “Buffalo Refugee Child Care Microenterprise Project”

Together JERS and CCRN will work to tackle the issue of “child care deserts” prevalent in Erie County. Through this collaborative three-year project, JERS and CCRN will provide professional child care training and technical assistance, microenterprise development classes, and other supports to help new refugee entrepreneurs launch and sustain family child care businesses.

Child Care Resource Network CEO Amanda Kelkenberg had this to say about the Microenterprise project “This project is a big step forward to increasing economic self-sufficiency for women in our refugee community, creating stable child care options for other working families, and providing high-quality early learning experiences for all of our community’s children.”

JERS and CCRN worked together on a similar project from 2013-2015 and were able to successfully open 15 childcare businesses, including 13 family and 2 group family child care programs. These businesses were linguistically and culturally diverse and managed by individuals from Burma, Iraq, Rowanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Nepal.

Deputy Director of Journey’s End Refugee Services Jeff Ogilvie said “We are excited to partner with CCRN again for this incredibly important child care training. We see a great opportunity to help people start businesses and provide more child care options for everyone in the community.”

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