The Providence Journal **MARKETPLACE SUBSCRIBE NOW Search For & Place Classifieds** \$1 for the first 6 months Q 65°F [News] Sports **Obituaries Entertainment Lifestyle Food** Advertise Legals **Subscribe** eNewspaper Sign In V Advertisement - scroll for more content Cracking Good Discounts LOCAL Advertisement Migrants are arriving in RI from STORY FROM SLING TV Mexican border but not from the countries you might think Try Sling TV for NFL and NBA games for 50% off The Refugee Dream Center said it has seen about 50 migrants arrive in RI from the southern border from in the last three months. The Providence Journal spoke with some of them. **Amy Russo** Providence Journal Published 5:24 a.m. ET Oct. 5, 2023 | Updated 3:38 p.m. ET Oct. 5, 2023 **Key Points** ■ According to the Refugee Dream Center, about 50 migrants have arrived in RI from the southern border in the last 3 months. ■ But they're from a mix of countries, including Afghanistan and African nations – not just Mexico and the Northern Triangle. Internet-based Sling TV makes watching your favorite pro ■ The RDC worries it doesn't have sufficient resources to help everyone coming through its doors. and college easier and cheaper. **LEARN MORE** PROVIDENCE – A recent influx of migrants arriving in Rhode Island from the southern border has left a city nonprofit agency in need of more resources for those it serves. On a recent Monday afternoon, the lobby of the Refugee Dream Center was packed **More Stories** with new arrivals. Caseworkers are asked to offer rides to clients without the money for bus passes. Finding shelter for people is a balancing act. Day-to-day RI's Independent Man is coming down from State survival is the goal for many. House. What will he do? UNDEFINED The Refugee Dream Center is known for helping new arrivals settle in the state and become self-reliant. But the organization's director and co-founder, Teddi Jallow, **Gabe Amo agrees to only one** said that it's become tough to provide everything needed as demand has increased. debate before election day UNDEFINED Advertisement **This New Device Is Leaving Neuropathy Experts Baffled Health Insigh...** | Sponsored Links We're always working to improve your experience. Let us know what you think. Advertisement From July into September, Jallow said about 50 migrants arrived in the state by plane from the southern border. Yet they come from a wide array of countries, including Afghanistan, Senegal and the Congo, as well as Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras. Migrants from Afghanistan and African countries have been attempting to make it into the U.S. through that border, along with those from Mexico and the Northern Triangle. Advertisement

"My fear is we are seeing more migrants from the border and nobody is talking

Jallow said previously she might have seen only one migrant per month – not

counting the many refugees the center has served. Being deemed a refugee is a

as a person who was persecuted or in mortal danger in their home country.

legal process that involves a lawyer and court proceedings required to gain asylum

Yet based on the stories of the new arrivals, they may qualify for asylum – if they

could afford a lawyer. Jallow says at an average starting cost of \$7,000, a lawyer is

Large groups of migrants got past rows of law enforcement agents and vehicles in Juarez and crossed the Rio Grande on Tuesday. Many camped out along the concertina wire fencing put up by the Texas National Guard. Rey R. Jauregui / La

Where are the migrants from and why are they leaving

The Providence Journal met and interviewed three migrants who described living

in countries that made life unbearable or even potentially deadly. Their names are

Nicaragua and Mexico before entering the U.S. It took him 15 days total, he said, to

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Each arrived recently, with one man from Senegal making his way into Rhode

Island only on Sunday. He traveled through Morocco, Spain, El Salvador,

He described leaving because of political upheaval. Over the summer, the

government detained Ousmane Sonko, the leader of the country's primary

opposition party, charging him with fomenting insurrection. The party was

"A lot of my colleagues went to jail," he said. "Some are dead. So that's why I left."

Another man, who came from Afghanistan, told The Journal he arrived in Rhode

southern border. His journey took him through a dozen countries – a trip on which

A third man came from Mauritania, also traveling through a handful of countries

to get to the southern border. He told The Journal he left because of Mauritania's

ongoing use of slavery. The man said he was treated as a slave and owned nothing.

According to the United Nations, slavery still has a grip on the country, which has

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Now that these three men are in Rhode Island, life has become about surviving

"These men are just sitting here doing nothing," Jallow said of the new arrivals.

Migrants walk to a U.S. Border Patrol processing area in Eagle Pass, Texas, last month. Over the summer, state officials directed hundreds of migrants onto properties where they were promptly arrested. Jerry Lara/San Antonio Express-News

What is Rhode Island doing to help the migrants coming

Department of Human Services spokesman Jose Garcia said Gov. Dan McKee's

"People have been arriving in Rhode Island on their own for many years," Garcia

said. "Based on what the state has seen, there is no coordinated effort to bring

of needs like the one raised by the Refugee Dream Center, the agency provides

migrants to Rhode Island and the vast majority seen coming into the state come

here because they have friends and family in Rhode Island. When DHS is informed

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Garcia said those resources include emergency funds, food and clothing. But the 50

migrants Jallow referenced "are not currently eligible for public benefits due to

End of free RIPTA bus line has unearthed new struggle

translate for the man from Afghanistan, was at the same time being asked by two

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority piloted a one-year free-fare program on

its popular R-line, but that expired at the end of September, leaving clients with no

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migrants in downtown Providence to offer them a lift, as many don't have bus

Garcia added that the migrants may be able to receive work authorization

At the Refugee Dream Center, Noorulhaq Sadeqi, a caseworker who helped

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their immigration status," Garcia explained.

transportation save for rides from friends.

documents if they apply for asylum.

for migrants

passes.

deputy chief of staff, Christopher Abhulime, met with the state refugee

coordinator, Baha Sadr, last week to discuss the arrival of migrants.

assistance by helping connect migrants with private resources."

Island in mid-September after spending eight days in a refugee camp near the

The man with whom the Journal spoke said he was part of the protests.

he embarked in January via Iran. He now lives with a friend.

dissolved and protests erupted.

not enforced its anti-slavery law.

from day to day.

"Some of them are even homeless."

from the southern border?

get to the southern border before he boarded a flight into the country.

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about it," Jallow said.

too expensive for the agency to provide.

Verdad

home?

Jallow said she had to ask a caseworker at one point to drive a Mauritanian mother of six home to Pawtucket, but Jallow can't always ask that of her staff, which needs to be available to deal with new cases. Occupied seats in the lobby illustrated that point. Sadeqi said providing for these migrants and refugees is a matter of human rights. "They're all humans," he said. Tab 29 la Feed This New Device Is Leaving **These Banks Are Offering Cardiologist: Too Much Belly** Seniors Insanely High Interest Fat? Do This Before Bed **Neuropathy Experts Baffled** Savings Health Insight J... | Ad Learn More **Healthy Guru | Ad** Senior Savings Accounts | Se... | Ad

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