The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

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The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

• Offers resettlement in the United States to persons overseas who have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution based on one of the five statutory grounds: race, religion, nationality, political opinion, membership in particular social group.

• Focuses on refugees with protection vulnerabilities while in refugee hosting countries.

• The goal of the program is economic self-sufficiency through employment as soon as possible.
Partners

International

• UNHCR
• International Organization for Migration (IOM)
• Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
• Resettlement Support Centers (RSC)

Domestic

• Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
• Resettlement agencies
• State and local governments
• Social service organizations
• Volunteers, including former refugees
How is a refugee admitted to the U.S.?

- **Access** to the program is granted by the Department of State upon receipt of a referral from UNHCR, a U.S. Embassy, or certain qualified and trained non-governmental organizations. In special circumstances individuals may self-apply.

- Case is **prepared** by a State Department-funded Resettlement Support Center. Security checks are launched.

- Case is **adjudicated** by Department of Homeland Security officer in a face-to-face interview. Fingerprints are taken.

- If case is **approved**, RSC coordinates medical exam, provides cultural orientation, requests assurance from resettlement agency, and works with IOM to book travel to the United States.
RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT CENTERS

• Nine RSCs operated by NGO, IOM, or State Department (Havana)
• Work under cooperative agreements with PRM with a single country focus (Cuba; Austria) or a regional basis.
• Interview applicants; take persecution claim, family information.
• Initiate security checks.
• Schedule and support DHS/USCIS adjudication teams.
• Provide pre-departure cultural orientation.
• Work with IOM to finalize travel once all clearances obtained.
Reception and Placement (R&P) Program
a public-private partnership

• Program administered by PRM to help refugees with initial resettlement in the U.S.
• Nine national resettlement agencies place refugees throughout the U.S.
• PRM provides a *portion* of the funding necessary to fulfill the R&P requirements. ($2,075 per capita in FY2017)
Role of Resettlement Agency

- **Sponsor** and arrange for reception and placement of refugees
- **Provide** refugees with basic necessities and core services during initial resettlement (30-90 days)
- **Assist** refugees in achieving self-sufficiency through employment as soon as possible in coordination with refugee service and assistance programs
- **Coordinate** with other community partners
Determining Resettlement Capacity

• Each year, national resettlement agencies work in partnership with their local affiliates to assess the number of refugees that can be resettled to a particular city in the upcoming year.

• The affiliates engage in consultations with many relevant state and community partners to arrive at the proposed capacity.

• Resettlement agencies present proposed placement plans to PRM for review and approval.
Top Ten Resettlement States
California
Texas
New York
Michigan
Ohio
Arizona
North Carolina
Washington
Pennsylvania
Illinois
Basic Necessities and Core Services

• **Basic necessities**: housing, furnishings, necessary seasonal clothing, food, pocket money

• **Assistance** applying for cash and medical benefits, social security cards; enrollment in English language programs and employment services; health screenings and appropriate health services; school enrollment for children

• **Cultural orientation**
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(Refugee Act of 1980)
Economic Self-Sufficiency

Economic self-sufficiency means earning a total family income at a level that enables a family unit to support itself without receipt of a federal or state cash assistance grant.
U.S. Department of State

www.state.gov/j/prm

Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange

www.coresourceexchange.org