

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Indiana

## REFUGEES IN INDIANA

The United States has been a leader in welcoming [refugees](#) who seek safety from persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Following World War II, the U.S. began welcoming refugees and over time the system has evolved to have a strong infrastructure centered on [public-private partnerships](#). Communities across the U.S. have recognized the important economic and social benefits of resettling refugees. Indiana residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and welcomed refugees to Indiana communities. In 2016, organizations across [Indiana](#) welcomed [2% of refugees arriving in the U.S.](#), including 1893 refugees and 354 unaccompanied children who were released to the care and custody of sponsors.

Where are most  
refugees in  
Indiana from?

Burma  
Dem. Republic of  
the Congo  
Syria  
Somalia

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN INDIANA

In addition to [programming](#) to support refugees when they first arrive to the United States, the federal government provides monetary aid through grants to the state, Voluntary Agencies, and other refugee aid organizations for community and short-term refugee support. The [Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Office of Refugee Resettlement](#) serves as the refugee resettlement office for the state. Primary program services include cash and medical assistance, access to English language classes, vocational and employment assistance. [Discretionary grants](#) are also awarded to private agencies for various other self-sufficiency programs.

FEDERAL FY16 ORR FUNDING TO INDIANA FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS							
Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services	Services to Older Refugees	State Targeted Assistance	School Impact	Refugee Health Promotion	Ethnic Community Self Help
\$5,929,613	\$3,106,831	\$1,313,624	\$75,000	\$579,555	\$339,603	\$120,000	\$200,000

Another service available to refugees in Indiana is the employment [Matching Grant Services](#), administered by Voluntary Agencies in the state. An alternative to public cash assistance, private agencies match federal contributions and provide intensive case management services to help refugees get employed and become self-sufficient within 120 days of arrival.

*"Despite all the suffering he's been through, he's always looking for a way to help others...to empower them."*

- Carleen Miller, Director of Exodus Refugee

## REFUGEES MAKE INDIANA STRONG

[Emmanuel Musinga](#) grew up in the eastern mountains of Congo. He was a part of a Tutsi tribe, and lived with his family in a small village where farming was a major source of income. Emmanuel grew up only going to school occasionally because he would help his family on the farm. Without shoes, he regularly walked two miles to fetch water. In the late 1990's civil war broke out in the Congo and neighboring Rwanda, and as a Tutsi, Emmanuel was a target for the invading militia groups. He was wounded in an attack, which eventually led him to a refugee camp in Kenya. From there he was able to flee these threats and violence and come to the U.S. with his wife and children. When he first

arrived he immediately began working two jobs while also learning English and helping other refugees resettle in Indiana. Now, as pastor of a new church, a social worker, husband, and father of three children, Emmanuel strengthens his community by mentoring other refugees resettled in Indiana.

## LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN INDIANA

- **CWS, Exodus Refugee/Immigration, Inc.**, Indianapolis
- **USCCB, Catholic Social Services**, Indianapolis
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc.**, Fort Wayne
- **USCCB**, Remote Placement Indiana

In addition to these agencies, many ethnic community-based organizations (ECBOs) exist throughout the state to help various refugee communities integrate and succeed in their new homes. These organizations are run by refugees to aid in the resettlement of fellow refugees by providing a variety of direct services, increasing civic participation, and preserve the community's cultural identity and history.