

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Delaware

REFUGEES IN DELAWARE

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. Delaware residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to Delaware communities. In 2016, organizations and communities across [Delaware](#) welcomed less than 1% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Delaware welcomed 275 unaccompanied children who were released to the care and custody of sponsors.

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN DELAWARE

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, and other refugee aid organizations for community and short-term refugee support. The [JFS RISE](#) (Refugee Integration Support Effort) is the name for JFS Delaware's Refugee and Émigré Services and serves as the refugee resettlement office for the state. Through intensive, culturally sensitive case management they enable refugees to integrate into their new communities, obtain and retain employment, and maintain healthy lifestyles.

FEDERAL FY16 ORR FUNDING TO DELAWARE FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS		
Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services
\$224,765	\$149,765	\$75,000

Another service available to refugees in Delaware is the early employment program called Matching Grant Services, administered Jewish Family Services of Delaware. An alternative to public cash assistance, JFS matches federal contributions and provides intensive case management services to help refugees get employed and become self-sufficient within 120 days of arrival.

Jewish Family Services of Delaware received the Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association's Public Health Recognition Award for their multi-faceted social services. The Academy/DPHA noted the work JFS does with case management, counseling, outpatient therapy, workforce development, prevention education, and refugee resettlement. Refugee resettlement in particular led to this nomination.

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REFUGEES MAKE DELAWARE STRONG

Originally from Russia, Genrietta Mazina holds a PhD in Polymers and previously worked as a senior researcher at the Scientific Research Institute in Moscow. Subjected to anti-Semitism, she and her son were forced to flee Russia in 1989, but were able to be resettled in the U.S. Despite her advanced degree, Genrietta had difficulty finding employment in the U.S. and was thus incredibly grateful for the public support and assistance she and her son received through the Jewish Family Services during their first few months of resettlement. Currently, Genrietta resides in Claymont, Delaware. In her spare time, she happily indulges in American literature, frequents the Jewish Community Center pool and is a proud grandmother of two. She has stayed active in the refugee community and participated in the UNHCR's first Refugee Congress in 2011, which celebrated the 60th anniversary on the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 50th anniversary of the Convention on Reduction of Statelessness.

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICE IN DELAWARE

- HIAS, Jewish Family Service of Delaware, Wilmington

In addition to JFS, 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.