

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Georgia

REFUGEE POPULATION OF GEORGIA

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. Georgia residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to GA communities. In 2016, organizations and communities across [Georgia](#) welcomed 4% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Georgia welcomed 3,017 refugees and 1,735 unaccompanied children who were released to the care and custody of sponsors.

Where are most refugees in Georgia from?

Burma
Dem. Rep.
Congo
Syria
Afghanistan
Bhutan

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN GEORGIA

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 [Georgia Department of Human Services](#) 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 GEORGIA FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS								
Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services	Targeted Assistance Program	School Impact	Elderly Services	Preventive Health	Services for Survivors of Torture	Ethnic Community Self Help
\$11,252,577	\$6,321,695	\$2,199,411	\$1,135,073	\$742,798	\$97,200	\$160,000	\$296,400	\$300,000

Another service available to refugees in Georgia 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.

"Maybe you can call me a former Lost Boy of Sudan. But I'm no longer a lost boy right now"
- Jacob Mach

REFUGEES MAKE GEORGIA STRONG

[Jacob Mach](#) lived in a refugee camps for 14 years after traveling barefoot for hundreds of miles across East Africa as one of the Lost Boys of Sudan--the thousands of boys displaced by the Sudanese civil war in the 1980s. In 2001, now 21 years old, he was granted refugee status and was brought to Clarkston, Georgia. He went on to bring his wife to the US and they started their family after having a son. Mach went on to gain American citizenship and earn a bachelor's degree from Georgia State University. In 2017, after years of training, Mach became a police officer for the Atlanta Police Department where he protects and serves his community each day.

LOCAL AFFILIATES AND OFFICES OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN GEORGIA

- CWS, New American Pathways, Atlanta
- IRC, The International Rescue Committee, Atlanta
- LIRS, Lutheran Services of Georgia, Atlanta
- USCCB, Migration and Refugee Services, Atlanta
- LIRS, Lutheran Services of Georgia, Savannah
- WR, World Relief Atlanta, Stone Mountain
- USCCB, Remote Placement Georgia

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.