

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Kansas

## REFUGEES IN KANSAS

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. Kansas residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to Kansas communities. In 2016, organizations and communities across [Kansas](#) welcomed [1% of refugees arriving in the U.S.](#) In 2016, Kansas welcomed 914 refugees and 326 unaccompanied children who were released to the care and custody of sponsors.

Where are most  
refugees in  
Kansas from?  
Dem. Rep. Congo  
Burma  
Somalia  
Iraq

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN KANSAS

In addition to [programming](#) to support refugees when they first arrive to the U.S., 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. [Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas](#) is the largest refugee resettlement site in the state. Primary program services include cash and medical assistance, access to English language classes, and vocational and employment assistance. [Discretionary grants](#) are also awarded to private agencies for various other self-sufficiency programs.

FEDERAL FY16 ORR FUNDING TO KANSAS FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS			
Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services	State Targeted Assistance
\$1,944,475	\$1,472,345	\$363,349	\$108,781

Another service available to refugees in Kansas 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.

*"So I came to the country that has freedom and has all of the rights. Life is better. And that is why I feel very good, and I feel happy when I am here... Everybody helped me to come here, and now I want to give something back."*

-Nguyet Ha-Le

## REFUGEES MAKE KANSAS STRONG

[Nguyet \(pronounced new-YET\) Ha-Le](#) fled Saigon on one of the last mega-choppers airlifting Americans and some Vietnamese off the roof of the gated and locked American Embassy in Saigon on April 29, 1975. She and some family members grabbed a ladder from a nearby police station to reach the embassy roof, but when it reached only eight of the 10 stories necessary, they tried another idea. 'They put a table on the table and smaller table and smaller table and on the top,' Nguyet told me, 'they put a chair, but it was still not enough, so they had to put a ladder on the chair.' Despite all that, she made it, and after stops in Guam and Arkansas (they thought they'd be taken to California), she got to Kansas City, where today she works as a translator for three different companies.

## LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN KANSAS

- USCCB, Catholic Charities Of Northeast Kansas, Inc., Kansas City
- EMM, Saint Francis Migration Ministries (SFMM), Wichita
- IRC, International Rescue Committee, Wichita
- USCCB, Remote Placement Kansas

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.