

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Mississippi

REFUGEES IN MISSISSIPPI

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. Mississippi residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to MS communities. In 2016, organizations and communities across [Mississippi](#) welcomed less than [1% of refugees](#) arriving in the U.S. In 2016, Mississippi welcomed 13 refugees, 42 unaccompanied refugee minors, and 300 unaccompanied children who were released to the care and custody of sponsors.

Where are most
refugees in
Mississippi from?

Eritrea
Afghanistan
D.R. of Congo

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN MISSISSIPPI

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. Benefits to refugees are managed by the [Mississippi Department of Human Services](#). The program offers financial assistance to eligible refugees for up to 8 months after arrival in the United States.

FEDERAL FY16 ORR FUNDING TO MISSISSIPPI FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services
\$1,764,942	\$1,689,942	\$75,000

"I think we should value humanity in general. Most people come to America (as refugees) to have a better life and find a job."

- Akech Garkouth

REFUGEES MAKE MISSISSIPPI STRONG

[Akech Garkouth](#), came to the United States in 2009, resettled by the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URM) run by Catholic Charities in Jackson, MS. Akech was fleeing the war in South Sudan and did not speak any English when she arrived. Nevertheless, she went on to graduate high school in 2013, as well as obtain an associate's degree from Hinds Community College in 2016. Now she is at Mississippi College, working towards a bachelor's degree in business administration. Akech is now an American citizen and returned to the URM to work as a program specialist at one of the program's group homes, helping other young refugees with homework and meals. She sends money back to her mom who remains at a refugee camp in Kenya. (Story courtesy of *Jackson Free Press*)

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN MISSISSIPPI

- USCCB, Catholic Charities, Jackson (URM)
- USCCB, Remote Placement Mississippi

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.