

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Nevada

REFUGEES IN NEVADA

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. Nevada residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to Nevada communities. In 2016, organizations and communities across [Nevada](#) welcomed nearly [1% of refugees arriving in the U.S.](#) In 2016, Nevada welcomed 753 refugees and 283 unaccompanied children who were released to the care and custody of sponsors.

Where are most refugees in Nevada from?

D.R. of Congo
Eritrea
Iran
Somalia
Syria

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN NEVADA

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. [Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada](#) 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 NEVADA FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS								
Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services	State Targeted Assistance	School Impact	Elderly Services	Health Promotion	Cuban/Haitian	Refugee Family Child Care MED
\$3,380,200	\$309,732	\$1,299,128	\$667,904	\$175,736	\$97,200	\$120,000	\$525,500	\$185,000

Another service available to refugees in Nevada 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.

REFUGEES MAKE NEVADA STRONG

Biar Atem fled his native South Sudan when he was just 7 years old. Atem is one of the 30,000 “Lost Boys” of South Sudan, who fled war for Ethiopia in 1987. He stayed there until he was forced out of the country in 1991 and fled back to South Sudan until 2001, when he was one of the 4,000 of the Lost Boys who was resettled in the United States. At just 21, Atem began work as a janitor for the Venetian Resort Hotel Casino, cleaning from midnight until 8 a.m., when he attended classes at the College of Southern Nevada. Since then, Atem has earned his associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees. In 13 years, Atem went from janitor to auditor at the Las Vegas Sands Corps. “I think of myself as one of the lucky people,” he said. “I was determined and motivated to get it done.”

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN NEVADA

- **ECDC, African Community Center in Las Vegas**, Las Vegas
- **USCCB, Refugee Assistance Program**, Las Vegas
- **USCRI, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants**, Reno

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.