

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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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. New Hampshire residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to New Hampshire communities. In 2016, organizations and communities across [New Hampshire](#) welcomed [1% of refugees arriving in the U.S.](#) In 2016, New Hampshire welcomed 515 refugees and 25 unaccompanied children who were released to the care and custody of sponsors.

Where are most refugees in New Hampshire from?

D.R. of Congo
Burma
Bhutan
Somalia

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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 [New Hampshire Department of Health and 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 NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS								
Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services	School Impact	State Targeted Assistance	Targeted Assistance Discretionary	Services to Older Refugees	Refugee Health Promotion	Ethnic Community Self Help
\$2,118,799	\$952,677	\$286,961	\$175,736	\$96,786	\$175,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$281,886

Another service available to refugees in New Hampshire 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 NEW HAMPSHIRE STRONG

[Colette Ramazani](#) lived in Rwanda but fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 1994 when the Rwandan genocide erupted. In 1996 the Rwandan tensions overflowed into the DRC and began a civil war. A second civil war is still ongoing and is referred to as the Great African War. During the second civil war Ms. Ramazani began to fear for her life. She was so afraid she carried her passport on her at all times so that if she was killed her body could be identified and her family notified. She eventually found her way to a refugee camp in Kenya before being resettled to New Hampshire in 2000. She suffered from severe Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) but luckily her local resettlement agency helped her find a therapist who has helped her learn how to handle her PTSD. She still struggles with her fears in large crowds but has healed enough that she feels comfortable in most situations and she is now studying for her Masters in Global Business at Southern New Hampshire University.

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

- **CWS, Ascentria Community Services, Inc.**, Concord
- **USCRI, International Institute of New Hampshire**, Manchester

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.