

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN New Jersey



## REFUGEES IN NEW JERSEY

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 Jersey residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to New Jersey communities. In 2016, organizations and communities across [New Jersey](#) welcomed [1% of refugees arriving in the U.S.](#) In 2016, New Jersey welcomed 536 refugees and 2,637 unaccompanied children who were released to the care and custody of sponsors.

Where are most  
refugees in New  
Jersey from?

Syria  
Dem. Rep. Congo  
Iraq  
Afghanistan  
Eritrea

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN NEW JERSEY

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 Department of Human Services](#) Division of Family Development is responsible for refugee resettlement in New Jersey. 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 YORK FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS							
Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services	State Targeted Assistance	School Impact	Targeted Assistance	Cuban/Haitian	Elderly
\$3,742,693	\$2,181,044	\$599,380	\$154,005	\$175,736	\$150,000	\$192,664	\$97,200

Another service available to refugees in New Jersey 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.

"In 2019 immigrants comprised 22.8% of the state's population and paid \$24.2B in taxes. 389,580 workers are employed at immigrant owned businesses and immigrant spending power is measured at \$60.9B annually."  
New American Economy

## REFUGEES MAKE NEW JERSEY STRONG

After three and a half months in Vietnamese prison camps resulting from three unsuccessful attempts to flee, [Emily Vu](#) escaped communist Vietnam in 1987 at the age of ten. She traveled through Cambodia and spent over three years in a refugee camp in Malaysia until she and her mother were eventually resettled in New Jersey. Even though she lost six years of education while in the camp, she wasted no time catching up and worked as a casino hotel cashier while getting her bachelor's degree at Richard Stockton College. By the age of 25, she had earned her CPA degree and a master's in business administration. Today, she is the owner of an accounting firm with three accountants providing tax services, bookkeeping and payroll to small and mid-sized businesses. She is also working on her doctorate and teaching as an assistant professor at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. Her mother lives with Vu and

her husband, which helps connect her two daughters, ages 4 and 5, with the family's old and new lives.

## LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN NEW JERSEY

- **CWS, Church World Service**, Jersey City
- **IRC, International Rescue Committee**, Elizabeth
- **USCRI, Interfaith-RISE**, Highland Park
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities**, Camden

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.