

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN New York

## REFUGEES IN NEW YORK

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 York residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees contribute to New York communities. In 2016, communities across [New York](#) welcomed [6% of refugees arriving in the U.S.](#) including 5,026 refugees and 4,985 unaccompanied children who were released to the care and custody of sponsors.

Where are most refugees in New York from?

Dem. Rep.  
Congo  
Somalia  
Syria  
Burma

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN NEW YORK

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 [Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance](#) serves as the refugee resettlement office for the state. Primary program services include cash and medical assistance, English language classes, and vocational and employment assistance. [Discretionary grants](#) are 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	Elderly	Refugee Health Promotion	Ethnic Community Self Help	Individual Development Accounts	Micro-enterprise Development	Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program	Services for Survivors of Torture	Refugee family child care micro-enterprise	Cuban/Haitian
\$25,777,835	\$14,736,942	\$3,884,002	\$2,045,250	\$1,171,426	\$300,000	\$121,500	\$175,000	\$150,000	\$1,088,657	\$242,982	\$340,000	\$1,180,660	\$175,000	\$166,416

The early employment program [Matching Grant Services](#), is 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.

Many ethnic community-based organizations (ECBOs) exist throughout the state to help various communities integrate and succeed in their new homes. These organizations are run by refugees to aid fellow refugees by providing a variety of direct services, increasing civic participation, and preserving the community's cultural identity and history.

*"These are the folks that drive the farthest to come to work, and their attendance is remarkable..."*

- [Keith Gros](#), Director of Human Resources, Keymark, NY speaks about refugees' work ethic.

## REFUGEES MAKE NEW YORK STRONG

When [Win Myint](#) was four years old, he hiked through the jungle every day to chop down bamboo and drag it back to his village for his mother to sell. Often, he returned to his village to the sound of gunshots and violence. Finally, fearing for the safety of her family, Win's mother decided to flee Burma and took Win and his sister to a refugee camp in Thailand. There, they applied for refugee status with UNHCR and eventually entered the resettlement program. They were resettled as refugees in Rensselaer, NY, where his mother works at Integrated Liner Technologies in Albany. Win and his sister attend Rensselaer High School where he is a top member of the school's varsity wrestling team.

## LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN NEW YORK

- **CWS, Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc.**, Buffalo
- **EMM, Interfaith Works of Central New York**, Syracuse
- **HIAS, FECS Health and Human Services**, New York
- **HIAS, Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County**, Buffalo
- **IRC, International Rescue Committee New York**, New York
- **LIRS, Mohawk Valley Resource Center**, Utica
- **Catholic Charities of Brooklyn**, Brooklyn
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities**, Amityville
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities**, Buffalo
- **USCCB, Catholic Family Center**, Rochester
- **USCCB, Catholic Family Center**, Rochester (URM)
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities of Onondaga County**, Syracuse
- **USCCB, Toomey Residential and Community Services**, Syracuse (URM)
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities of Onondaga County**, New York
- **USCRI, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants**, Albany
- **USCRI, American Civic Association**, Binghamton
- **USCRI, CAMBA**, Brooklyn

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- **USCRI, International Institute of Buffalo**, Buffalo

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