

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN North Carolina

## REFUGEE POPULATION OF NORTH CAROLINA

The United States has been a leader in humanitarian responses, especially concerning [refugees](#). Following World War II, the US began welcoming refugees and over time the system has evolved to have a strong infrastructure centered on [public-private partnerships](#). Communities across the US have recognized the important economic and social benefits of resettling refugees. North Carolinian communities have played a vital role and refugees have in return provided positive contributions, strengthening these communities. In 2016, communities across [North Carolina](#) resettled [4% of refugees arriving in the US](#), 3,342 refugees and 1,493 unaccompanied children who were released to the care/custody of sponsors.

Where are most refugees in North Carolina from?

Afghanistan  
Belarus  
Bhutan  
Burma

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN NORTH CAROLINA

The federal government provides monetary aid through grants to the state, Voluntary Agencies, and other refugee aid organizations. The [North Carolina 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, and vocational and employment assistance. [Discretionary grants](#) are also awarded to private agencies for various other self-sufficiency programs.

FEDERAL FY16 ORR FUNDING TO NORTH CAROLINA OR REFUGEE PROGRAMS									
Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services	State Targeted Assistance	Targeted Assistance Discretionary	Elderly	Refugee Health Promotion	Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise	Cuban/Haitian	Microenterprise Development Grants
\$10,377,072	\$5,509,443	\$1,937,355	\$1,937,355	\$200,000	\$97,200	\$150,000	\$185,000	\$104,452	\$216,267

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.

## REFUGEES MAKE NORTH CAROLINA STRONG

"I'm just so happy I survived and I am here" she told reporters in Greensboro on election day. Love Oodee Nuate is a Nigerian refugee. She was persecuted by the Nigerian government, arrested by soldiers in 1996 and spent three years in prison, where she was tortured. Upon her release and return to her village, an ambush killed her husband and burned down her home. Nuate fled with her three sons to Guinea, where she lived until her family resettled in the U.S. in 2007. With the help of Church World Service in Greensboro, Nuate began attending school for the first time and learned English. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen this past August. Last November, she became a first-time voter. "When I was in Nigeria, it's not easy to vote...but here is something that everybody—if you be a citizen—you have the right to vote. To vote means respect, and the government—the way they arrange everything—is good. I'm so happy and excited that I can be among the people that stand today and vote."

## LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN NORTH CAROLINA

- **CWS, Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program**, Durham, Greensboro
- **ECDC, North Carolina African Services Coalition**, Greensboro
- **EMM, Interfaith Refugee Ministry**, New Bern
- **HIAS, Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency**, Charlotte
- **LIRS, Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas**, Raleigh
- **World Relief**, Durham, High Point, Winston, Salem
- **USCCB, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte**, Charlotte
- **USCCB, Remote Placement North Carolina**
- **USCRI, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants**, Raleigh

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 preserving the community's cultural identity and history.