US REFUGEE ADMISSIONS
Year End Report FY2021

Admission Goals

Before leaving office, the previous administration set a final record-breaking low refugee admissions goal for fiscal year 2021 (FY21) of just 15,000. Several months after taking office, President Biden raised the refugee admissions goal to 62,500 for the remainder of the fiscal year, and restored regional admissions categories. The amended regional admission categories were Africa (22,000), East Asia (6,000), Europe (4,000), Latin America/Caribbean (5,000), Near East/South Asia (13,000). None of the actual arrivals met those goals.

Actual Arrivals
Oct. 1, 2021 - Sep. 30, 2021

Numbers list the cap for each category, and the YTD refugee admissions.

Admissions used between Oct. 1, 2020 - Sep. 30, 2021

Unused admissions

Top 5 States Welcoming Refugees
1. California - 986
2. Texas - 914
3. New York - 708
4. Kentucky - 652
5. Michigan - 533

Top 5 States Countries of Origin
2. Syria - 1,246
3. Afghanistan - 872
4. Ukraine - 803
5. Burma - 772

This is the lowest resettlement number in the history of the program.

Year End Total
The US resettled 11,411 refugees out of the 62,500 goal, or 18%.

18%

The State of Resettlement

Months after the inauguration, President Biden raised the fiscal year (FY) 2021 refugee admissions goal from 15,000 to 62,500 and restored regional admission categories. However, despite the adjusted refugee admissions goal, the US welcomed the lowest number of refugees in the history of the resettlement program in FY21.

On October 8th, Biden set the refugee admissions goal for FY22 at 125,000. RCUSA had recommended the administration set the higher goal of 200,000 in response to unprecedented global need and the dire circumstances facing Afghans and other vulnerable refugees. RCUSA will work to hold the administration and Congress accountable for rebuilding and investing in needed infrastructure and welcoming the full 125,000 refugees.

RCUSA recommends the following policy priorities that Biden and Congress can take to demonstrate their commitment to welcome:

- Make robust investments to strengthen and expand resettlement infrastructure in the United States and overseas
- Pass the Afghan Adjustment Act to provide pathways to permanent protection for Afghans evacuated to the United States
- End “Title 42” expulsions and other anti-asylum measures, and restore all asylum protections
- Halt all deportations and expulsions of those seeking humanitarian protection, particularly Haitian asylum seekers and migrants

Go to rcusa.org to learn more and take action in support of refugees.