



# SUPPORTING FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD

With the refugee ban executive order on January 20, 2025 banning refugee admissions, followed by the swift stop work orders abruptly ending critical reception & placement (R&P) services for refugees already in the United States, there had already been a significant impact on refugee stranded overseas and the domestic services for refugees in the U.S. Amid the chaos and uncertainty of the stop work orders and funding halts, resettlement offices all across the country furloughed or laid off staff. With the terminations of agreements with resettlement agencies, the local resettlement offices may soon be forced to close programming – unless the administration reverses course.

President Trump and the State Department have ended the U.S. resettlement program. No refugees are being processed, no refugees are arriving, and the State Department terminated its agreements with the resettlement agencies and nonprofits, including faith groups, that welcome and serve refugees in the U.S. and abroad, while the State Dept funding freeze remains in place for core resettlement services.

This is an unprecedented assault on our ability to welcome refugees and to meet the moral and contractual obligations we have to support new arrivals on a path towards self-sufficiency.

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) was historically a strong public-private partnership that drives U.S. economic growth, advances global stability and peace, and supports our national security and diplomatic priorities.

Refugees are net contributors to the U.S. economy. From 2005 to 2019, refugees contributed a staggering \$123.8 billion more than they cost in government expenditures.

The U.S. resettlement program has enjoyed overwhelming bipartisan support throughout its history. Since its inception in 1980, the U.S. regularly resettled over 100,000 refugees a year under Republican presidents in the 1980s and early 1990s. In response to a previous attempt to block refugee admissions by the first Trump administration, the vast majority of both Democratic and Republican governors proactively affirmed they wanted to continue to welcome refugees.

## Policy Ask #1

Urge the Trump administration to abide by recent court orders and immediately resume refugee processing and admissions. It is equally imperative that the State Department restore its agreements with (and issue reimbursements to) resettlement agencies and the nonprofits that provide life-saving reception services for refugees in the United States and support refugees in the queue for processing to the U.S. from overseas. Refugee resettlement brings huge social and economic benefits to our community and makes our country stronger, safer, and more prosperous.

## Policy Ask #2

Publicly express your support for refugees and the bipartisan U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and the Office of the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts (CARE) – in public statements, at press conferences, in floor speeches, through hearings and briefings, via oversight letters, and through legislative vehicles or resolutions. Recognize and speak to the impact of the refugee ban and termination of the U.S. resettlement program (including contract terminations and reimbursement freeze on refugee resettlement services) in your community. Listen to and collect stories of your constituents who have been impacted.

## Policy Ask #3

Stand up for refugees and newcomers in upcoming congressional funding and legislative deliberations. Support funding for key spending accounts (such as the Migration and Refugee Assistance account and Refugee and Entrant Assistance accounts) and include safeguards around the Trump administration's use of this funding through clear authorizing and appropriations language dictating how that funding should be used to best serve refugees, newcomers, and the communities that welcome them. Reject any harmful legislation that seeks to divert massive funds away from humanitarian assistance and refugee protections.