Refugee Resettlement

How it works

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

Refugee resettlement in the United States is a federal program.

Each year in October, the President, in consultation with Congress, sets the number of refugees to be admitted for U.S. resettlement. Resettlement is then coordinated through the U.S. State Department and involves many federal divisions that provide security clearance.

The U.S. State Department works with nine national voluntary organizations that facilitate resettlement with help from nearly 200 nonprofit organizations in local communities that carry out direct support refugees need.

Our role is humanitarian. LSS helps refugees secure housing, enroll in school and English language classes, find jobs, offer cultural and safety orientation, tend to medical needs and connect to other community resources to help refugees start their new lives.

Here in Minnesota, resettlement is focused on family reunification, meaning that refugee arrivals are joining family members who are already here. Refugees who arrive in the U.S. wish to resettle near their families and where there are safe communities, good schools and job opportunities — not unlike the reasons why most people live where they do. Just like any U.S. resident, refugees are free to relocate to another community at any time.

Organizations like LSS rely on volunteers and philanthropic support to carry out this work. Congregations, businesses, foundations, civic groups and community volunteers all play a vital role in helping us carry out our mission to inspire hope, change lives and build community.

LSS of MN currently resettles refugees primarily from Burma, Somalia, Ethiopia and Iraq.

By the Numbers

25.4 million	Refugees worldwide in 2019
18,000	U.S. Refugee Admissions for fiscal year 2020 *(October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020)*
9	National organizations coordinating resettlement nationwide
13	Minnesota ranking among states for number of refugees resettled
5	Resettlement organizations in Minnesota (LSS, Catholic Charities of Winona, Minnesota Council of Churches, International Institute, Arrive Ministries
848	Refugees assisted by Minnesota resettlement organizations in FY 2019 *(October 1st, 2018 to September 30th, 2019)*
165	Refugees resettled by LSS in FY 2019
1,175	Dollars that each refugee receives to help them resettle (a federal, one-time grant)
1,000	Dollars that LSS receives per refugee to help them resettle
90	Days that LSS works with refugees when they arrive
11	Dollars per day that LSS receives to help a refugee
$659 billion	Estimated lifetime earnings of immigrants in Minnesota*
$793 million	Estimated state and local taxes paid annually by immigrants in Minnesota*

**Minnesota Chamber of Commerce*

CONTACT US TODAY

Get more info or donate

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