

# Refugee Council USA

## The US Resettlement Program in California

### Refugee Population of California:

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. California residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to CA communities. In 2012, organizations and communities across [California](#) welcomed [24% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Of the 14,511 newcomers to California in 2012](#), 8,588 were asylees, 15 were Cuban/Haitian entrants, 5173 were resettled refugees, and 735 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S. troops.

#### Largest Refugee Populations in CA

- Iraq
- Iran
- Burma
- Somalia
- Afghanistan
- Bhutan
- Eritrea

### Services Available to Refugees in California:

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 California Department of Social Services manages state-wide refugee assistance, and Catholic Charities manages refugee assistance in San Diego. Primary program services include cash and medical assistance, access to English as a second language classes, vocational and employment assistance. [Discretionary grants](#) are also awarded to private agencies for various other self-sufficiency programs.

Federal FY12 ORR Funding to California for Refugee Programs (as of July 2013)

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Matching Grant	Refugee Social Services	Targeted Assistance Program	Wilson Fish RCA	School Impact	Targeted Discretionary Assistance	Elderly	Preventive Health	Individual Development Accounts	Survivor of Torture	Micro-enterprise Development (MED)	MED Home Based Child Care	Supplemental Services	Ethnic Community Self-Help	Preferred Communities
50,771,598	25,400,000	3,077,800	7,775,287	4,498,895	3,585,317	1,000,000	350,000	175,000	150,000	925,804	1,501,000	580,000	175,000	450,000	1,046,495	81,000

Another service available to refugees in California is the employment [Matching Grant Services](#), 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.

“She brings the African tradition of meticulous hair braiding to Hanford.”

-article about [Aimee Beumo](#) a refugee who started her own business in California.

### Refugee Success Story:

[Ruta](#) Tesfamicael finished her fourth year of medical school at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria; however, her journey to arrive where she is today was much different than many of her classmates. At the age of six, Ruta and her family fled the Horn of Africa and were resettled as refugees in California. She attended UCLA during undergrad and calls California home. Because of the welcoming spirit of San Diego, where she grew up, and the opportunities available to her in the United States, Ruta is on her way to practicing internal medicine. On Match Day in March, she found out that she got her number one choice: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She says, "The opportunity that we have in the states is unlike any other in the world. You know I go back, I'm going to go back there in three days and I'm going to be visiting 95 percent of my family who can't even imagine this kind of opportunity."

## Grantees for Torture Treatment Services in California

- **The Center for Torture Survivors at Asian-Americans for Community Involvement**, San Jose
- **Program for Victims of Torture**, Los Angeles
- **Torture Survivors Project at Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles**, Los Angeles
- **Survivors of Torture, International**, San Diego

## Local affiliates and offices of Voluntary Agencies in California:

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- **CWS, Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Service**, Los Angeles
  - **CWS, Opening Doors, Inc.**, Sacramento County
  - **CWS/EMM/LIRS, Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Services of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles**, Los Angeles
  - **ECDC, African Community Resource Center**, Los Angeles
  - **ECDC, Alliance for African Assistance**, San Diego
  - **ECDC, East African Community of Orange County**, Anaheim
  - **HIAS, Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay**, Walnut Creek, San Francisco
  - **HIAS, Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco**, San Francisco
  - **HIAS, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles**, Los Angeles
  - **HIAS, Jewish Family Service of Silicon Valley**, Los Gatos
  - **HIAS, Jewish Family Service of San Diego**, San Diego
  - **IRC, International Rescue Committee**, Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, Turlock, Sacramento
  - **LIRS, Crittenton Services for Children and Families**, Fullerton (URM)
  - **LIRS, Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service**, Los Angeles
  - **USCCB, Catholic Charities**, Santa Ana, Santa Rosa, San Bernardino, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles, Orange County
  - **USCCB, Immigration and Refugee Services**, Glendale
  - **WR, World Relief**, Garden Grove, Modesto, Sacramento

In addition to these agencies, 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, for refugees to provide a variety of direct services, increase civic participation, and preserve the community's cultural identity and history.