

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Georgia

REFUGEE POPULATION OF GEORGIA

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. Georgia residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to GA communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across [Georgia](#) welcomed [3.9% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Of the 2,923 newcomers to Georgia in 2013](#), 113 were asylees, 52 were Cuban/Haitian entrants, 2,710 were resettled refugees, and 48 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S. troops.

Where are most refugees in Georgia from?

Bhutan
Burma
Iraq
Somalia
Congo

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN GEORGIA

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 [Georgia Department of Human Services](#) serves as the refugee resettlement office for the state. 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 FY14 ORR FUNDING TO GEORGIA FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS (AS OF DECEMBER 2013)

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Matching Grant	Refugee Social Services	Targeted Assistance Program	School Impact	Elderly Services	Preventive Health	Cuban/Haitian	Ethnic Community Self Help
13,404,724	5,025,000	3,909,400	2,384,757	897,080	544,320	97,200	148,591	98,376	300,000

Another service available to refugees in Georgia 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.

"Refugees and community members want to work and want to support themselves, and do not want to be wards of the government."

- [Birendra Dhakal](#), Executive Director, Bhutanese Association of Georgia

REFUGEES MAKE GEORGIA STRONG

[Faduma Ahmed Mohamed](#) fled Somalia as a torture victim. After airing her story on YouTube, she was embraced by the Atlanta community. Taking the lead in the effort to help her was Hussien Mohamed, a former refugee himself and radio personality at Emory University. The community came together to raise money to try to bring Faduma to Atlanta where she would be safe and would have access to proper medical treatment. Using the Emory University and Center for Disease Control network, this Atlanta community was able to connect Faduma to a CDC doctor in Kenya and eventually bring her to the United States through the resettlement program. Faduma shared with a reporter, "I feel the love. It makes me feel good. It gives me hope." Her dream is to go into medicine and help burn victims.

LOCAL AFFILIATES AND OFFICES OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN GEORGIA

- CWS/EMM, Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta, Decatur
- IRC, The International Rescue Committee, Atlanta
- LIRS, Lutheran Services of Georgia, Atlanta, Savannah
- USCCB, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Atlanta
- WR, World Relief Atlanta, Stone Mountain

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 to aid in the resettlement of fellow refugees by providing a variety of direct services, increasing civic participation, and preserve the community's cultural identity and history.