

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Massachusetts

## REFUGEES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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. Massachusetts residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to Massachusetts communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across [Massachusetts](#) welcomed [2.6% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Of the 2,173 newcomers to Massachusetts in 2013](#), 229 were asylees, 55 were Cuban/Haitian entrants, 1,829 were resettled refugees, and 60 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S. troops.

Where are most refugees in Massachusetts from?

Bhutan  
Burma  
Iraq  
Congo  
Eritrea

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN MASSACHUSETTS

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 Massachusetts Office for Refugees & Immigrants](#) 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, and vocational and employment assistance. [Discretionary grants](#) are also awarded to private agencies for various other self-sufficiency programs.

FEDERAL FY14 ORR FUNDING TO MASSACHUSETTS FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS (AS OF DECEMBER 2013)

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Wilson Fish RCA	Matching Grant	Refugee Social Services	State Targeted Assistance	School Impact	Targeted Assistance Discretionary	Elderly Services	Preventative Health	Cuban/Haitian	Individual Development Account	Survivor of Torture	Micro-enterprise	MED-Home Based Child Development
22,085,557	12,700,000	4,280,777	635,800	1,582,022	502,523	408,240	186,225	97,200	145,877	98,376	230,000	825,000	250,000	143,517

Another service available to refugees in Massachusetts 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.

*“The majority of our agriculture workforce is made up of immigrants, and their hard work has helped America’s farmers and ranchers lead the world.”*  
-[Jon Niedzielski](#),  
Massachusetts State Executive Director, USDA

## REFUGEES MAKE MASSACHUSETTS STRONG

[When a rock](#) with a death threat wrapped around it was thrown into her house in Baghdad, Saba Al Khadady, 31, and her family knew it was time to leave Iraq. The threat prompted Al Khadady and her family to pack their bags and head to Syria. Al Khadady, who is part of the Mandaean religious minority, says she believes her religion might have been the cause behind the violence against her family. The Al Khadady family moved to the United States in May 2008 and was relocated to Worcester, MA by Lutheran Social Services. Sixteen percent of new arrivals in Massachusetts are from Iraq. Since arriving, Al Khadady has found two stable jobs — one as a professor at Worcester State University and the other as a Case Management Coordinator at Lutheran Social Services. She said that although she misses

Iraq, Worcester now feels like home and she’s grateful for the welcome.

## LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN MASSACHUSETTS

- CWS/EMM/LIRS, Lutheran Social Service of New England, Wellesley, Worcester, West Springfield, Newton Center
- ECDC, Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center, Jamaica Plain and Worcester
- EMM, Refugee Immigration Ministry, Malden
- HIAS, Jewish Family Service of Metrowest, Framingham
- HIAS, Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts, Springfield
- IRC, International Rescue Committee, Boston
- LIRS, Lutheran Social Services of New England, West Springfield, Worcester
- USCCB, Catholic Charitable Bureau, Archdiocese of Boston, Boston
- USCCB, Catholic Charities, Worcester
- USCRI, International Institute of Boston, Boston
- USCRI, International Institute of Lowell, Lowell

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.