

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Mississippi

## REFUGEES IN MISSISSIPPI

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. Mississippi residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to MS communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across Mississippi welcomed [less than 1% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Of the 13 newcomers to Mississippi in 2013](#), 6 were asylees, 3 were resettled refugees, and 4 were Cuban/Haitian entrants.

Where are most  
refugees in  
Mississippi from?

Congo  
Somalia

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN MISSISSIPPI

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. Benefits to refugees are managed by the [Mississippi Department of Human Services](#). The program offers financial assistance to eligible refugees for up to 8 months after arrival in the United States.

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

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services
\$1,280,000	\$1,205,000	\$75,000

*"I had a lot of opportunities to have a scholarship to college," said Gang, who thought he would turn his interest in math and science into a medical career.*

-[Isaac Gang](#), One of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan, Jackson, MS

## REFUGEES MAKE MISSISSIPPI STRONG

[Peter Malual](#), a refugee from South Sudan, fled when the war broke out. After traveling through Ethiopia, back to Sudan, and to Kenya, the United States government relocated him to Jackson Mississippi. Julie Hines Mabus, CEO of the Sudan Reconstruction Skills Search Project, took in Peter and many others like him; she acted as a mother figure to all the youth. Peter is a junior at Jackson State University. He is studying Spanish at school. His dream is to eventually go to Pharmacy school so he can help his family and his community back at home with disease prevention. Ms. Hines Mabus is a former first lady of the governor of Mississippi, so she has been able to use her political connections to help out the refugees with getting tutoring and jobs, as well as applying for scholarships. She has also raised money on their behalf.

## LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN MISSISSIPPI

- USCCB, Catholic Charities, Jackson
- USCCB, Catholic Social and Community Services, Inc. Migration and Refugee Center, Biloxi, Jackson

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.