

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Nebraska

REFUGEES IN NEBRASKA

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. Communities in Nebraska have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to Nebraska communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across [Nebraska](#) resettled [1.4% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Of the 1,054 newcomers welcomed in Nebraska in 2013](#), 26 were asylees, 10 were Cuban/Haitian entrants, 997 were UNHCR-referred refugees, and 21 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S.

Where are most refugees in Nebraska from?

Bhutan
Burma
Iraq

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN NEBRASKA

The federal government provides monetary aid through grants to the state, Voluntary Agencies, and other refugee aid organizations. The Nebraska Office of Health & 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 NEBRASKA FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS (AS OF DECEMBER 2013)

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Matching Grant	Refugee Social Services	State Targeted Assistance	School Impact	Targeted Assistance Discretionary	Elderly Services	Preventive Health
\$4,269,553	\$2,305,000	\$429,000	\$794,000	\$202,701	\$194,400	\$150,000	\$97,200	\$97,252

One notable employment service provided to refugees in Nebraska 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.

“Behzad Samani made a drastic transition in jobs coming to the United States from Iran. In Iran, Behzad worked as a businessman and acted as his own manager. He made good money and easily provided for all his family’s needs. In the United States, Behzad works for Lincoln Industries...”

- [The Daily Nebraskan](#).

REFUGEES MAKE NEBRASKA STRONG

[Burmese refugee, Ner Clay](#), resettled in Omaha in 2008. As an associate pastor at the Karen Christian Revival Church, he saw Karen teens going down the wrong path. Wanting to use his influence to help these youth he helped orchestrate the partnership between the police department, Omaha Public Schools, and several community groups. The group decided to create a five-day academy geared toward Karen refugees’ needs. The outpour of community support for this program has led to over \$4,000 in donations and services. Thanks to the collective action of this refugee and the Omaha community, youth refugees have been empowered to achieve their goals in the United States.

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN NEBRASKA

- ECDC, Southern Sudan Community Association, Omaha
- CWS/LIRS, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Omaha and Lincoln
- USCCB, Catholic Social Services, Lincoln

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.