

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN New Hampshire

REFUGEES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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. New Hampshire residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to New Hampshire communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across [New Hampshire](#) welcomed less than [1% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Of the 405 newcomers to New Hampshire in 2013](#), 24 were asylees, 379 were resettled refugees, 1 was a Cuban/Haitian entrant, and 1 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S. troops. Many of New Hampshire's refugees live in Hillsborough County, with significant resettlement also in the Concord, Franklin and Laconia areas.

Where are most refugees in New Hampshire from?

Bhutan
Burma
Iraq
Congo

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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 [New Hampshire Department of Health and 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 NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS (AS OF DECEMBER 2013)

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Matching Grant	Refugee Social Services	School Impact	Targeted Assistance Discretionary	Elderly Services	Preventive Health	Ethnic Community Self Help
2,550,438	635,000	464,200	398,149	170,100	175,000	97,200	97,252	281,886

Another service available to refugees in New Hampshire 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.

"Bosco Ndayisaba, a Rwandan refugee, recently interviewed for a supervisor position at a bakery. We're elated in celebration for our refugee's success in the American workforce.

-International Institute of New Hampshire

REFUGEES MAKE NEW HAMPSHIRE STRONG

[Colette Ramazani](#) lived in Rwanda but fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 1994 when the Rwandan genocide erupted. In 1996 the Rwandan tensions overflowed into the DRC and began a civil war. A second civil war is still ongoing and is referred to as the Great African War. During the second civil war Ms. Ramazani began to fear for her life. She was so afraid she carried her passport on her at all times so that if she was killed her body could be identified and her family notified. She eventually found her way to a refugee camp in Kenya before being resettled in New Hampshire in 2000. She suffered from severe Post-

Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) but luckily her local resettlement agency helped her find a therapist who has helped her learn how to handle her PTSD. She still struggles with her fears in large crowds but has healed enough that she feels comfortable in most situations and she is now studying for her Masters in Global Business at Southern New Hampshire University.

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

- CWS/EMM/LIRS, Ascentria Care Alliance, Concord
- USCRI, The International Institute of New England, Manchester

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.