

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN New Jersey

## REFUGEES IN NEW JERSEY

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 Jersey residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to New Jersey communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across [New Jersey](#) welcomed less than [1% of refugees arriving in the U.S.](#) [Of the 1,318 newcomers to New Jersey in 2013](#), 710 were asylees, 150 were Cuban/Haitian entrants, 443 were resettled refugees, and 15 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S. troops.

Where are most refugees in New Jersey from?

Bhutan  
Burma  
Iraq  
Sudan

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN NEW JERSEY

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 Department of Human Services](#) Division of Family Development is responsible for refugee resettlement in New Jersey. 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 JERSEY FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS (AS OF DECEMBER 2013)

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Matching Grant	Refugee Social Services	School Impact	Preventive Health	Cuban/Haitian	Discretionary Targeted Assistance
3,726,179	\$2,295,000	\$446,600	\$383,897	\$194,400	\$59,530	\$196,752	\$150,000

Another service available to refugees in New Jersey 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.

*"In 2010 immigrants comprised [27 percent](#) of the state's workforce. In 2006 immigrants contributed more than [\\$47 billion](#) to New Jersey's gross state product, and were more than [40 percent](#) of New Jersey's scientists and engineers with advanced degrees."*

– [Center for American Progress](#)

## REFUGEES MAKE NEW JERSEY STRONG

After three and a half months in Vietnamese prison camps resulting from three unsuccessful attempts to flee, Emily Vu escaped communist Vietnam in 1987 at the age of ten. She traveled through Cambodia and spent over three years in a refugee camp in Malaysia until she and her mother were eventually resettled in New Jersey. Even though she lost six years of education while in the camp, she wasted no time catching up and worked as a casino hotel cashier while getting her bachelor's degree at Richard Stockton College. By the age of 25, she had earned her CPA degree and a master's in business administration. Today, she is the owner of an accounting firm with three accountants providing tax services, bookkeeping and payroll to small and mid-sized businesses. She is also working on her doctorate, and she teaches as an assistant professor at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. Her mother lives with Vu and her husband, which helps connect her two daughters, ages 4 and 5, with the family's old and new lives.

## LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN NEW JERSEY

- **HIAS, Jewish Vocational Service of Metrowest**, East Orange
- **HIAS, Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County**, Milltown
- **IRC, International Rescue Committee**, Elizabeth
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities**, Camden

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.