

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN New York

Where are most refugees in New York from?

Bhutan  
Burma  
Iraq  
Eritrea

## REFUGEES IN NEW YORK

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 York residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to New York communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across [New York](#) welcomed [5.7% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Of the 12,015 newcomers to New York in 2013](#), 7,751 were asylees, 187 were Cuban/Haitian entrants, 3,965 were resettled refugees, and 112 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S. troops.

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN NEW YORK

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 [Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance](#) 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 NEW YORK FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS (AS OF DECEMBER 2013)

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services	State Targeted Assistance	Matching Grant	School Impact	Targeted Assistance	Elderly	Preventive Health	Cuban/Haitian	Ethnic Community Self-Help	Individual Development Accounts	Micro-enterprise Development	Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program	Services for Survivors of Torture	MED Home Based Child Care
17,550,192	12,100,000	4,082,179	1,075,673	4,235,000	947,700	300,000	121,500	170,190	169,765	320,103	1,022,535	820,000	340,000	950,000	895,547

Another service available to refugees in New York 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.

*"These are the folks that drive the farthest to come to work, and their attendance is remarkable..."*

- [Keith Gros](#), Director of Human Resources, Keymark, NY speaks about refugees' work ethic.

## REFUGEES MAKE NEW YORK STRONG

[When Win Myint](#), a Burmese refugee, was four years old, he hiked through the jungle every day to chop down bamboo and drag it back to his village for his mother to sell. Often, he returned to his village to the sound of gunshots and violence. Finally, fearing for the safety of her family, Win's mother decided to flee the violence in Burma and took him and his sister to live in a refugee camp in Thailand. There, they applied for refugee status with UNHCR and eventually entered the resettlement program in United States. They were resettled as refugees in Rensselaer, NY, where his mother works at Integrated Liner Technologies in Albany. Win and his sister attend Rensselaer High School where he is a top member of the school's varsity wrestling team.

## LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN NEW YORK

- **CWS/EMM, Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc.**, Buffalo
- **CWS/EMM, Interfaith Works of Central New York**, Syracuse
- **HIAS, FECS Health and Human Services**, New York
- **HIAS, Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County**, Buffalo
- **IRC, International Rescue Committee New York**, New York
- **LIRS, Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York**, New York
- **LIRS, Mohawk Valley Resource Center**, Utica
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities of Brooklyn**, Brooklyn,
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities**, Albany, Amityville
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities of Brooklyn/Queens**, Brooklyn
- **USCCB, Catholic Family Center**, Rochester, Rochester (URM)
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities Community Services**, New York
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre**, Amityville
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities of Onondaga County**, Syracuse, NY
- **USCCB/CWS, Catholic Family Center**, Rochester
- **USCRI, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants**, Albany
- **USCRI, American Civic Association**, Binghamton
- **USCRI, CAMBA**, Brooklyn
- **USCRI, International Institute of Buffalo**, Buffalo

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.