

North Carolina

Largest Refugee Populations Represented in NC

Bhutan
Burma
Iraq
Eritrea
Congo

REFUGEE POPULATION OF NORTH CAROLINA

The United States has been a leader in humanitarian responses, especially concerning refugees. Following World War II, the US began welcoming refugees and over time the system has evolved to have a strong infrastructure centered on public-private partnerships. Communities across the US have recognized the important economic and social benefits of resettling refugees. North Carolinian communities have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have in return provided positive contributions, strengthening these communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across North Carolina resettled 3.4% of refugees arriving in the US. Of the 2,686 newcomers to North Carolina, 164 individuals were asylees, 81 were Cuban/Haitian entrants, 2,377 were resettled refugees, and 64 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S. troops. Most refugees settle in Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, High Point, New Bern, and Raleigh. Among other resettled populations, North Carolina communities have proudly resettled many Montagnards, an indigenous group from the Central Highland of Vietnam, making the state the only place with a higher number than the Central Highlands themselves.

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN NORTH CAROLINA

The federal government provides monetary aid through grants to the state, Voluntary Agencies, and other refugee aid organizations. The North Carolina 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, and vocational and employment assistance. Discretionary grants are also awarded to private agencies for various other self-sufficiency programs.

FEDERAL FY14 ORR FUNDING TO NORTH CAROLINA 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	Preventive Health	Cuban/Haitian	Microenterprise Development Grants
8,452,965	2,825,000	2,017,400	2,018,791	427,083	425,238	200,000	97,200	148,877	98,376	195,000

Another service available to refugees in North Carolina 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.

REFUGEE SUCCESS STORY

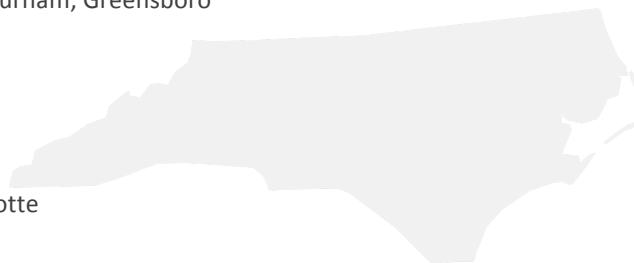
"As we started hiring refugees, I was impressed by their work ethic, loyalty, and eagerness to learn. They made great employees."

- Beverly Sytz, owner of Gateway to Employment and Beverly Knits in Gastonia, NC

"I'm just so happy I survived and I am here" she told reporters in Greensboro on election day. Love Oodee Nuate is a Nigerian refugee. She was persecuted by the Nigerian government, arrested by soldiers in 1996 and spent three years in prison, where she was tortured. Upon her release and return home to her village, an ambush killed her husband and burned down her home. Nuate fled with her three sons to Guinea, where she lived until her family resettled in the U.S. in 2007. With the help of the Church World Service in Greensboro, Nuate began attending school for the first time and learned English. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen this past August. This Tuesday, she became a first-time voter. "When I was in Nigeria, it's not easy to vote...but here is something that everybody—if you be a citizen—you have the right to vote. To vote means respect, and the government—the way they arrange everything—is good. So, I'm so happy and excited that I can be among the people that stand today and vote."

LOCAL AFFILIATES AND OFFICES OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

- CWS, Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program, Durham, Greensboro
- ECDC, North Carolina African Services Coalition, Greensboro
- EMM, Interfaith Refugee Ministry, Akron, New Bern
- HIAS, Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency, Charlotte
- LIRS, Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, Raleigh
- WR, World Relief, Durham, High Point
- USCCB, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, Charlotte
- USCRI, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Raleigh



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.