

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Ohio

REFUGEES IN OHIO

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. Ohio residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to Ohio communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across [Ohio](#) welcomed [3.9% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Of the 2,987 newcomers to Ohio in 2013](#), 133 were asylees, 32 were Cuban/Haitian entrants, 2,788 were resettled refugees, and 34 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S. troops.

Where are most refugees in Ohio from?

Bhutan
Burma
Iraq
Congo
Eritrea

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN OHIO

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 [Ohio Refugee Services Program](#) is part of [Ohio's Department of Job and Family Services \(ODJFS\)](#) and 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 OHIO FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS (AS OF DECEMBER 2013)

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Matching Grant	Refugee Social Services	Targeted Assistance Program	School Impact	Elderly	Preventive Health	Individual Development Accounts	MED Home-Based Child Care	Supplemental Services	Micro-enterprise Development (MED)	Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program
12,587,005	6,950,000	1,623,600	2,281,312	309,516	364,500	97,200	145,877	200,000	180,000	\$100,000	250,000	85,000

Another service available to refugees in Ohio 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.

"More people working means more jobs and a stronger economy. Which means more jobs for everybody."

-[Doug Page](#), Dayton City Commissioner

REFUGEES MAKE OHIO STRONG

Nimala Ghimirey and her family arrived in Akron in April 2009 with nothing but the clothing on their backs. Nimala was born and raised in a refugee camp in Nepal after her family was forced out of Bhutan. Upon arriving in America, Nimala and her brother Kailash began attending school in Akron. They navigated through their language barrier in the English as a Second Language curriculum at their schools. Nimala graduated as valedictorian of her class and is now attending Kent State University and majoring in biology. She hopes to become a physician one day. Nimala was also awarded the Womanhood Award in 2012, an award she was chosen to receive by her fellow classmates.

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN OHIO

- **CWS/EMM, Community Refugee and Immigration Services**, Columbus
- **HIAS, US Together**, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo
- **USCCB, Catholic Charities SW Ohio**, Cincinnati
- **USCCB, Cleveland Catholic Charities**, Cleveland, Cincinnati
- **USCCB, Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley**, Dayton
- **USCRI, International Institute of Akron**, Akron
- **USCRI, The International Services Center**, Cleveland
- **WR, World Relief Columbus**, Columbus

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.