

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Oregon

REFUGEES IN OREGON

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. Oregon residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to OR communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across [Oregon](#) welcomed [1.25% of refugees arriving in the U.S. Of the 1160 newcomers to Oregon in 2013](#), 93 were asylees, 158 were Cuban/Haitian entrants, 875 were resettled refugees, and 35 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S. troops.

Where are most refugees in Oregon from?

Bhutan
Burma
Iraq
Congo
Sudan

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN OREGON

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](#) 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 OREGON FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS (AS OF DEC 2013)

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services	School Impact	Elderly	Preventive Health	State Targeted Assistance	Cuban-Haitian	Survivors of Torture	MED Home Based Childcare
\$5,320,703	\$3,000,000	\$807,792	\$272,160	\$97,200	\$97,252	\$362,923	\$98,376	\$410,000	\$175,000

"There's a pipeline," Dar says. "Kids who have gone through the program and are now studying at Lewis and Clark, or PCC or PSU, come back to tutor kids at Wilson; the Wilson kids help out at Jackson; the Jackson kids help out at Markham."

-[Dar, Director of the African Youth](#) and Community Organization.

REFUGEES MAKE OREGON STRONG

Lopez Lomong, resident of Lake Oswego, escaped the Sudanese civil war after being kidnapped from Catholic Mass and forced to join the Sudan People's Liberation Army (PLA). Because he could not carry an AK-47, he was left to die in a PLA camp. Instead, he found refuge in the United States as one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. He escaped his captors by running for three days into neighboring Kenya, and he continues to run today participating in both the 2008 and 2012 Olympics in track and field. Utilizing his icon status and drawing from his past, Lopez founded the 4 South Sudan team. This team is a partnership between the Lopez Lomong Foundation and World Vision to provide clean water, health care, education and nutrition to the people of South Sudan. After receiving new opportunities as a refugee in the United States, Lopez has taken responsibility to help those who were not as fortunate as he was.

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN OREGON

- CWS, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees, Portland
- LIRS, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Portland
- USCCB, Catholic Charities, Portland

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.