

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Utah

REFUGEES IN UTAH

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. Utah residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to UT communities. In 2013, organizations and communities across [Utah](#) welcomed 1.7% of [refugees arriving in the U.S.](#) Of the 1,250 newcomers to Utah in 2013, 17 were asylees, 4 were Cuban/Haitian entrants, 1,189 were resettled refugees, and 40 were Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who served alongside U.S. troops.

Where are most refugees in Utah from?

Bhutan
Iraq
Eritrea
Congo

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN UTAH

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 [Utah Department of Workforce 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 UTAH FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS (AS OF DECEMBER 2013)								
Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Refugee Social Services	State Targeted Assistance	School Impact	Targeted Assistance Discretionary	Preventive Health	Matching Grant	Survivors of Torture
\$8,965,039	\$5,600,000	\$823,424	\$323,441	\$340,000	\$175,000	\$108,774	\$1,269,400	\$325,000

Another service available to refugees in Utah 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.

"By partnering with local businesses, Catholic Community Services' Job Development team offers newly arrived refugees the contacts and skills needed to succeed in the American job market."

– Salt Lake City,
[Intermountain Catholic](#)

REFUGEES MAKE UTAH STRONG

[Adalberto Diaz](#) is a refugee from Cuba who resettled in the United States in 2000, escaping the Communist country after being labeled a criminal for the offense of running a private bakery, which is illegal. Once the Cuban military police discovered his private enterprise, the only way to ensure his safety was to escape. His journey as a political refugee took him to Salt Lake City, where he has been able to build upon his passion for cooking and baking that was instilled in him as a young boy in Cuba helping his grandmothers and mother prepare food for the family. Since 2000, Diaz has made a name for himself in Utah's food industry, working in many of the state's top restaurants, hosting cooking segments on television and instructing aspiring chefs at Utah Valley University's Culinary Arts Institute. "I really enjoy sharing my recipes with so many people," Diaz says. "I spend a lot of time working in the kitchen, practicing and coming

up with recipes." He also gives back to his community by donating his time and money to charitable organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Utah and The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN UTAH

- IRC, International Rescue Committee, Salt Lake City
- USCCB, Catholic Community Services of Utah, Salt Lake City

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.