



ILLINOIS REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

FY19 ANNUAL REPORT

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A refugee is a person who fled from his/her country due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. The Refugee Act of 1980 created the Federal Refugee Resettlement Program to provide for the effective resettlement of refugees and to assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the United States.

Refugee admissions have decreased significantly under the Trump Administration. In FY16, 84,994 refugees were admitted. In FY17, the number dropped to 53,716. In FY18, only 22,491 refugees were actually admitted even though the maximum admission ceiling was 45,000. For FY19, the refugee admission ceiling was 30,000. In FY20, the admission limit is set at 18,000. The decline in refugee admissions has had a significant impact on states and local service providers working with refugees.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported **70.8 million people** were forcibly displaced worldwide in 2018. Only **25.9 million** were considered refugees and **less than one percent** may be eligible for resettlement in another country.



ILLINOIS PROGRAM

The State of Illinois has operated a successful refugee resettlement program since 1975. More than 130,000 refugees from 86 countries have resettled in Illinois. Cuban/Haitian entrants, asylees and victims of human trafficking are also eligible for refugee services.

With funding provided by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Illinois Refugee Resettlement Program is administered by the Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services at the Illinois Department of Human Services. The goal of the program is to help refugees gain early economic self-sufficiency and integrate successfully into their new community. The program has three main components:

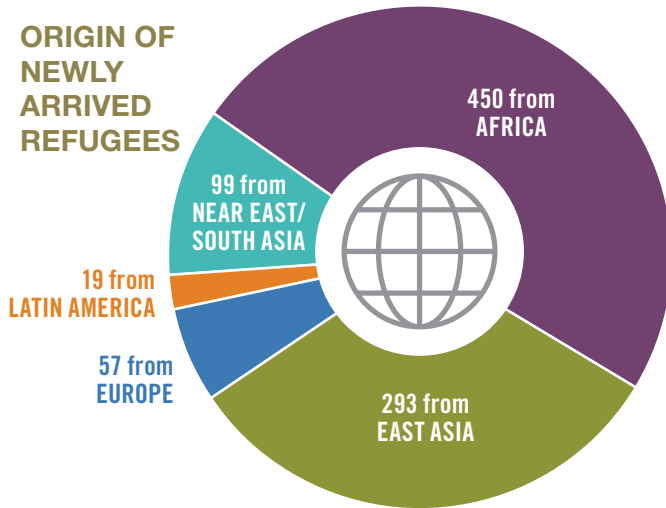
- **Short-term cash assistance** administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services. Under this program, refugees not eligible for federal cash assistance could be assisted for up to eight months.
- **Refugee Health Screening** program administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health in partnership with five local health clinics.
- **Refugee Employment and Social Service** programs operated in partnership with Illinois non-profit agencies and a community college. Services include case management, employment, mental health, youth and senior support. The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago is contracted to manage the day-to-day operation of this program.

REFUGEE ARRIVALS IN ILLINOIS

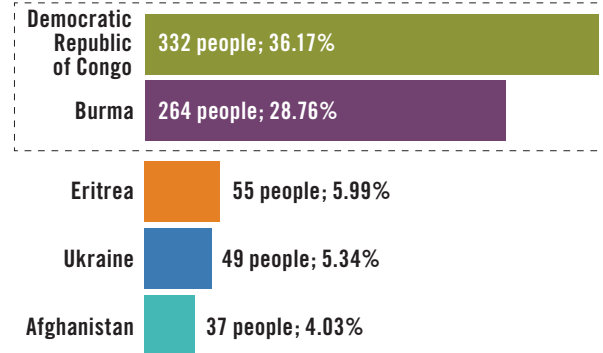
JULY 2018-JUNE 2019

Illinois resettled a total of **918 refugees** in FY19. Another **162 asylees** and **15 individuals with Special Immigrant Visa** (such as Iraqis or Afghans who worked for the U.S. Government) were also assisted under Illinois' Refugee Resettlement Program.

ORIGIN OF NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES



TOP FIVE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

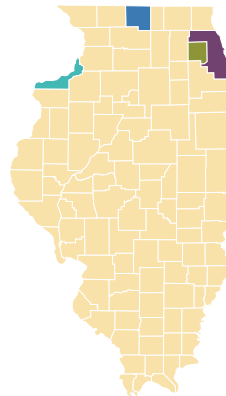


65% came from the top two countries

80% of all refugee arrivals (737 out of 918) came to the U.S. from these 5 countries.

KEY ILLINOIS RESETTLEMENT SITES

Site	Number of People	Percentage
Cook	655	59.82%
DuPage/Kane	195	17.81%
Winnebago	121	11.05%
Rock Island	124	11.32%
Total	1,095	



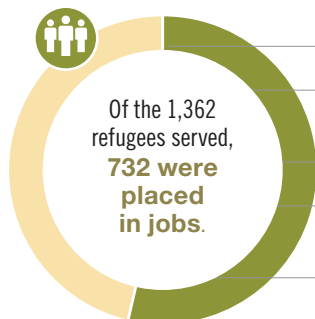
Half of all refugees are children under age 18.



Photos by Heidi Zeiger/Exodus World Service



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Of the refugees who were placed in jobs:

671 (91.6%) retained jobs after 90 days
400 (54.6%) were on assistance (RCA, TANF, SSI)
661 (90.3%) had full time jobs
512 (69.9%) of the refugees placed arrived in the U.S. within the last 12 months
\$14.48 Average hourly Wage

Photo by Heidi Zeiger/Exodus World Service



OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

1,871 refugees were provided with orientation and assistance to connect with health and human services and education opportunities designed to help them integrate successfully into their new communities.



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

140 clients were served.

121 (86%) reported positive progress



EDUCATION ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEE CHILDREN

980 refugee children were served in after school programs.

123 (21%) improved in English



205 parents were provided with services.

194 (95%) improved their understanding of U.S. schools



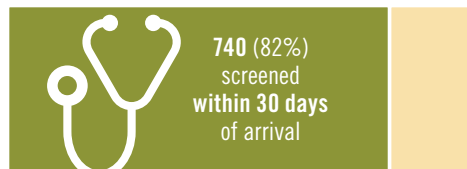
SENIOR SERVICES

149 refugee seniors (60+) accessed dedicated senior services designed to link them to programs such as food, income and utility assistance (SNAP, SSI and LIHEAP) and public transportation. In addition, seniors attended holiday parties, field trips and other group activities on a regular basis to help reduce social isolation. Based on client needs assessments, referrals to other mainstream senior services and necessary follow-up at the one- and three-month mark were provided.

REFUGEE HEALTH SCREENING

The Refugee Health Screening program provides linguistically appropriate comprehensive health assessments and early intervention. Services provided include vaccinations, follow-up and referrals to treat health conditions identified in the assessment process. The program aims to reduce the spread of infectious disease, treat any current ailments, and promote preventive health practices.

903 refugees were screened.



REFUGEES HELPING REFUGEES BUILDING A CAREER PATHWAY

Symbol Training Institute was founded in 1985 by Rex Kogan, a refugee from Ukraine. The mission of the Institute is to fill skills gap in manufacturing by providing trained CNC professionals for the industry. Many refugees accept minimum wage first jobs, but aspire to learn new skills that can help improve their career prospects and wages to provide better economic stability for their families.

Khinpang Ram and his wife arrived from Burma to the US in September 2017. He enrolled in Symbol training program in July of 2018 and graduated in January 2019. He was able to move out of his entry level job, where he made around \$12 an hour, to a job that started at around \$18 an hour and is now at \$22 an hour. His success, despite having limited English proficiency, serves as a role model for other Burmese refugees who have also sought to enroll in Symbol so that they too will have a brighter future.



Photo by Symbol Training Institute

Lian and Sian Nu, husband and wife, made a decision to have Sian pursue a career path first. After graduating from Symbol CNC training, she makes \$15 an hour as her first job in America. Her income is now supporting the family so that her husband could pursue his own dream to be trained and have an IT job.

ILLINOIS REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

Administration

Illinois Department of Human Services/Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services

Refugee Employment and Social Service Programs *Administration*

- Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago

Service Providers

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago*
- Chicago Public Schools
- Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago*
- Heartland Alliance Health
- Heartland Human Care Services, Inc.*
- Pan-African Association
- RefugeeOne*
- Rock Valley College
- World Relief – Chicago*
- World Relief – DuPage/Aurora*
- World Relief – Moline*

*These agencies are known as Resettlement Agencies which have Refugee Reception and Placement contracts with the U.S. Department of State to assist refugees in their first 90 days of resettlement in Illinois. One other Illinois Resettlement Agency is the Catholic Charities in Rockford.

Refugee Health Screening and Health Promotion Program

Administration

- Illinois Department of Public Health/Center for Minority Health Services

Community Health Clinics

- Antillas Clinic
- Aunt Martha's Clinic
- DuPage County Health Department
- Rock Island County Health Department
- Winnebago County Health Department

Health Education, Interpretation and Case Management

- Heartland Alliance Health
- World Relief – DuPage/Aurora
- Pan-African Association