



ILLINOIS REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

FY18 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 is 30,000. New security vetting requirements have also been added. 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 **65.6 million people** were forcibly displaced worldwide in 2016. Only **22.5 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 129,000 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:

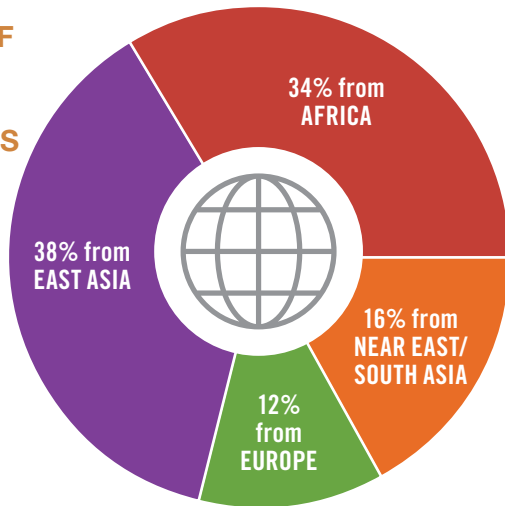
- **Short-term cash assistance** administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services. Under this program, refugees not eligible for federal cash assistance could be assisted for up to eight months.
- **Refugee Health Screening** program administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health in 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

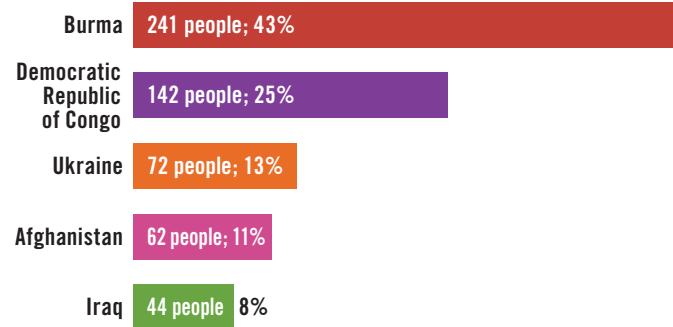
JULY 2017-JUNE 2018

Illinois resettled a total of 724 refugees in FY18. Another 93 asylees and 81 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



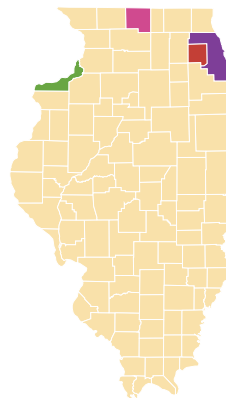
TOP FIVE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



77% of all refugee arrivals (561 out of 724) came to the U.S. from these 5 countries.

KEY ILLINOIS RESETTLEMENT SITES

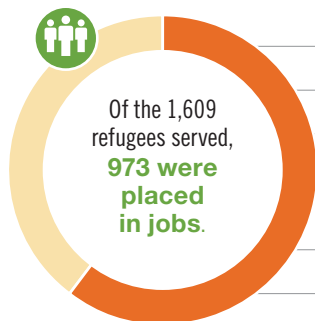
Site	Number of People	Percentage
Cook	534	59%
DuPage/Kane	199	22%
Winnebago	103	12%
Rock Island	62	7%
Total	898	



Half of all refugees are children under age 18.



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Of the refugees who were placed in jobs:

971 (99.7%) retained jobs after 90 days
271 (28%) were on assistance
896 (92%) had full time jobs
598 (61%) of the refugees placed arrived in the U.S. within the last 12 months
\$11.97 Average hourly wage



Photo by Heidi Zeiger/Exodus World Service

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

2,132 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

240 clients were served.

225 (94%) reported positive progress



EDUCATION ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEE CHILDREN

835 refugee children were served in after school programs.

419 (50%) improved in English

443 (53%) of students served had been in the US less than 1 year



241 parents were provided with services.

228 (95%) improved their understanding of U.S. schools



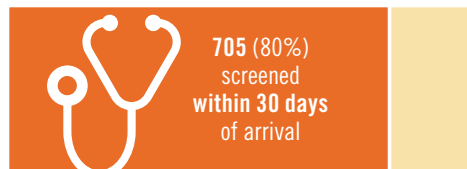
SENIOR SERVICES

144 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.

878 refugees were screened.



LOOM: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCOME AND SOCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE ARTS

Loom, a project of Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program, was launched as a social enterprise in August of 2013 with funding support from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Through Loom, refugee women are employed as artisans to create unique functional art, one-of-a-kind objects, clothing, accessories and other items. Sales of their products provide much-needed income to help the families as they rebuild their lives in the U.S.

Many of the artisans at Loom have not had the opportunity for formal education. They fled war and violence, often experiencing great loss in their journey to the U.S. Beyond creating economic opportunities, the program allows newcomers to connect with more experienced refugees to build social support. Loom participants also receive support from other artisans at art fairs, craft markets, churches and other venues. Through these networks, Loom participants also earn business and leadership skills.

The refugee women artisans chose the name Loom because the word was easy to pronounce across multiple languages. Loom also conveys the concept of people “woven together” to strengthen their families and



communities. More information on how to support Loom can be found at <http://www.loomchicago.com>.

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.*
- HIAS Chicago (a Division of Jewish Child & Family Services)*
- Iraqi Mutual Aid Society
- Pan-African Association
- RefugeeOne*
- Rock Valley College
- World Relief – Chicago*
- World Relief – DuPage/Aurora*
- World Relief – Moline*

Refugee Health Screening and Health Promotion Program

Administration

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

Community Health Clinics

- Aunt Martha's Clinic
- DuPage County Health Department
- Mt. Sinai Touhy Clinic
- 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

*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.