

A Refugee's Journey to the United States

Refugee Flees Persecution



The Refugee flees persecution in their country of origin.

1

Refugee Applies to the U.S. for Admission

Individuals who wish to pursue refugee status must first register with, and get a referral from, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Their application is then reviewed and processed through one of the overseas Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs).



2

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program Processes the Application



The refugee undergoes a rigorous security screening by multiple U. S. security agencies. The process takes 18 to 24 months to complete.

3

Case is Approved

Refugee's case is approved for resettlement by the federal U.S. Government.



4

National Resettlement Agency



Refugee's case is assigned to a National Resettlement Agency.

5

Allocation to a Location in the U.S.

The Resettlement Agency allocates the Refugee's case to a location in the U.S.



6

Refugee is Informed of the Location



The Refugee is informed of the resettlement location in the U.S.

7

Preparation for the Refugee's Arrival

The local affiliate prepares for the Refugee's arrival. In Wisconsin, there are four resettlement agencies that have local affiliates.



8

Refugee Arrives in the U.S.

The local affiliate meets the Refugee (and their family) at the airport to help transition to life in the U.S. One year after arrival, they may become Lawful Permanent Residents. Five years after arrival, they may apply to become U.S. Citizens.

9

10

Services Provided to Refugee

Refugee receives support needed to thrive in their new community. They may enroll in social, employment, and educational programs funded by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call the Bureau of Refugee Programs at (414) 270-4744. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) - 711 to contact the department.