

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)

Refugees
are
Welcome



History of the USRAP

Following World War II, the U.S. admitted hundreds of thousands of displaced Europeans. In 1975, the U.S. again resettled hundreds of thousands of refugees – this time from Indochina. At this time, Congress passed the [Refugee Act of 1980](#), which standardized the resettlement services for all refugees admitted to the U.S.

The Refugee Act now provides the legal basis for the USRAP that is administered by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migrations (PRM) of the Department of State in conjunction with the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and offices in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Since 1975, the U.S. has welcomed over 3.4 million refugees from around the world in all 50 states. The average number of refugees admitted annually since 1975 is 75,120 individuals per year.

Presidential Determination (PD)

Each fiscal year, the President of the United States releases a [Presidential Determination](#) which determines the processing priorities, designated nationalities, and arrival ceilings for the USRAP.

In FY 2022, President Biden set the Refugee Admissions Ceiling at 125,000 refugees to be admitted to the U.S. However, the Department of State has a planning figure of only 65,000 refugees being resettled, and this is how many refugees the nine national resettlement agencies are currently approved to serve.

The regional admissions for FY 2022 are:

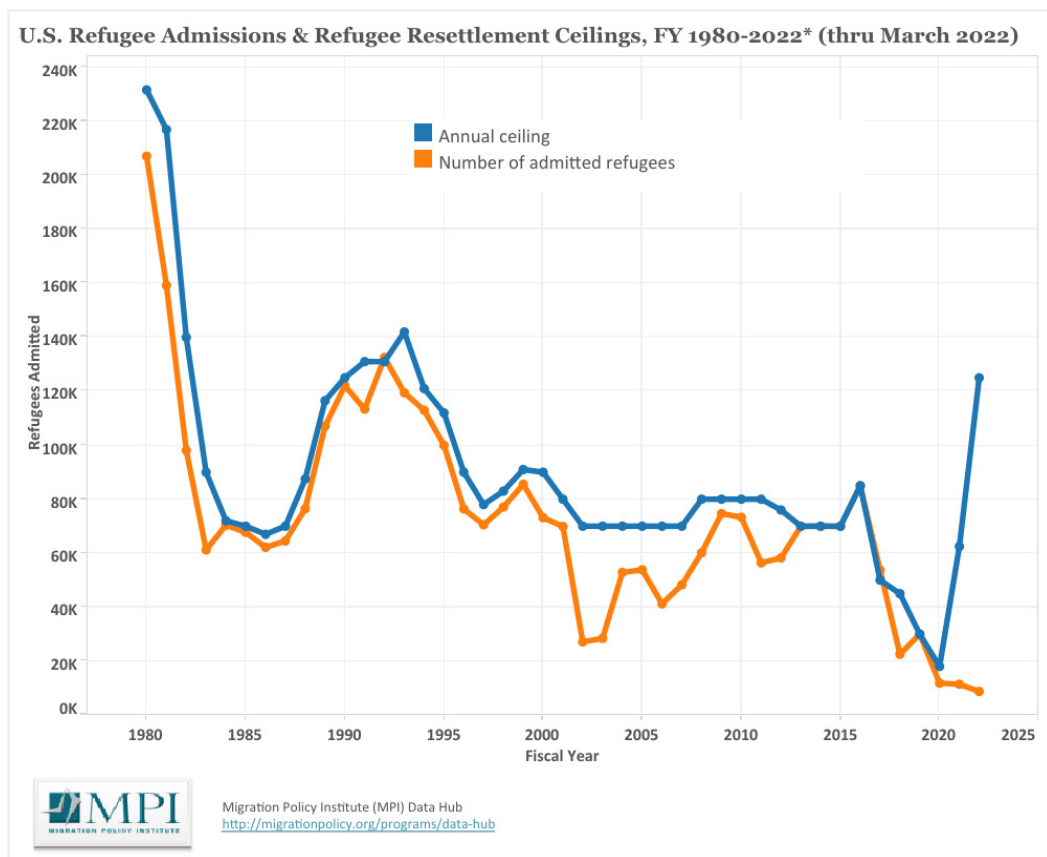
- **Africa:** 40,000 individuals
- **East Asia:** 15,000 individuals
- **Europe and Central Asia:** 10,000 individuals

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program



- **Latin America / Caribbean:** 15,000 individuals
- **Near East / South Asia:** 35,000 individuals
- **Unallocated Reserve:** 10,000 individuals
- **Total:** 125,000 individuals

The FY 2022 Report to Congress on Proposed Refugee Admissions is available [here](#).



Afghan Placement Program

The Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) Program was initiated in late August 2021 by the U.S. State Department and launched September 1st. Most Afghan nationals will be paroled into the U.S. through the APA program. This program will offer temporary legal status in the U.S. and expedited work authorization. Individuals will be resettled with existing refugee resettlement agencies and connected to various means of support for a 30- to 90-day service period.

During this program period, resettlement agencies will provide basic core services that are similar to core services under the USRAP. This includes, but is not limited to, airport reception, accessing safe

and appropriate housing, providing adequate food supplies, accessing seasonal clothing, accessing health care and other public benefits as eligible, assistance with school enrollment for minors, cultural orientation, and limited financial assistance. The APA program is expected to serve over 50,000 Afghan parolees across the U.S.

Partner Agencies

- **Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)**

The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) focuses on refugees, other migrants, and conflict victims. Their mission is to provide protection, ease suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and uprooted people around the world on behalf of the American people by providing life-sustaining assistance, working through multilateral systems to build global partnerships, promoting best practices in humanitarian response, and ensuring that humanitarian principles are thoroughly integrated into U.S. foreign and national security policy.

- **Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)**

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) helps new populations maximize their potential in the U.S. by linking them to critical resources that assist them in becoming integrated members of American society.

ORR provides time-limited cash and medical assistance to new arrivals, as well as support for case management services, English as a Foreign Language classes, and job readiness and employment services – all designed to facilitate refugees' successful transition to life in the U.S. and help them to attain self-sufficiency.

ORR also supports additional programs to serve all eligible populations beyond the first eight months post-arrival, including micro-enterprise development, ethnic community self-help, and agricultural partnerships. In addition, ORR provides services for survivors of torture.

- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the government agency that oversees lawful immigration to the United States. USCIS' mission is to secure America's promise as a nation of immigrants by providing accurate and useful information to newcomers, granting immigration and citizenship benefits, promoting awareness and understanding of citizenship, and ensuring the integrity of the immigration system. If a refugee is referred to the USRAP, then it is a USCIS officer who will determine whether they are eligible for refugee resettlement in the United States.

- **International Organization of Migration (IOM)**

IOM is an inter-governmental organization in the field of migration that works closely with governmental, other inter-governmental, and non-governmental partners. The organization

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program



arranges travel for all refugees approved for the USRAP and contracts with the State Department to perform the medical examination(s) refugees must undergo prior to their departure.

- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was created in 1950 in the aftermath of World War II to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes.

Today, all refugees admitted to the USRAP must first register as a refugee with UNHCR, which will determine which durable solution(s) are available to the individual – whether it be repatriation to the country they have fled, integration into the country that is hosting them, or being resettled in a third country.

- **Refugee Processing Center (RPC)**

The Refugee Processing Center (RPC) manages the software system START that is used to assist the processing of refugees bound for resettlement in the U.S., managing the information sharing between overseas Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs) and domestic resettlement agencies (RAs). The RPC also hosts the weekly allocations meeting in which all new refugee and special immigrant visa (SIV) cases are allocated between the nine RAs.

Resettlement Agencies (RAs)

In FY 2022, there are nine refugee resettlement agencies that hold contracts with PRM to serve the refugees and special immigrant visa holders (SIVs) who are expected to be resettled through the program each fiscal year. In FY 2022, the State Department has approved these nine agencies to resettle 65,000 refugees and 10,000 SIVs (75,000 individuals total) through the Reception and Placement (R&P) program.

Resettlement Agency	FY 2018 Capacity	FY 2019 Capacity	FY 2020 Capacity	FY 2021 Capacity	FY 2022 Capacity
US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)	11,887	7,010	4,773	6,848	12,292
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	9,818	7,627	5,528	8,651	11,862
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services (LIRS)	8,069	5,263	3,653	5,408	10,868
Church World Service (CWS)	6,625	4,576	3,146	4,529	9,616
US Committee for Refugees & Immigrants (USCRI)	7,919	5,841	4,046	5,969	9,417
World Relief (WR)	6,070	3,324	2,396	3,893	7,318
Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)	3,325	1,791	1,276	1,966	5,432
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)	3,191	2,442	1,696	2,513	4,995
Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM)	3,096	2,126	1,486	2,225	3,200
Total Capacity of USRAP	60,000	40,000	28,000	32,000	75,000

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program



These nine agencies collectively have over 250 resettlement offices throughout the country approved to resettle newcomers through the R&P program. An Affiliate Contact Directory for all 9 RAs' networks is available [here](#).



RA's provide basic needs and core services for the first 30 to 90 days after arrival, including:

- Locating housing
- Enrolling in public assistance and social services
- School enrollment
- Access to English language instruction
- Cultural orientation
- Enrolling in employment services
- Access to health care
- Basic necessities