

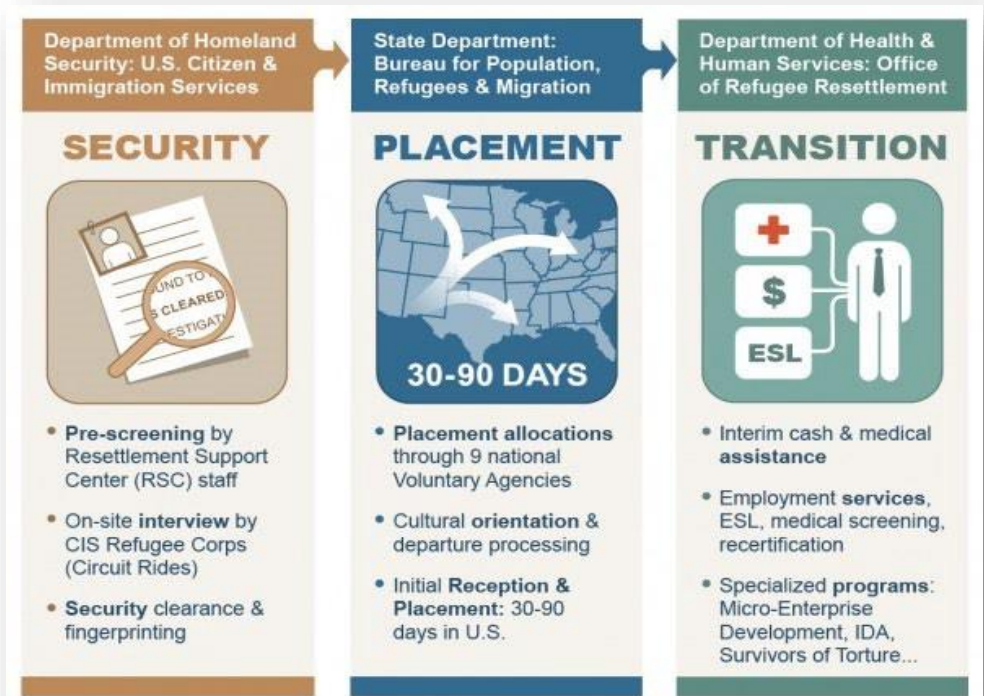
U.S. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OVERVIEW

The refugee resettlement process to the United States begins with the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*, where identifying documents and bio data on individuals seeking refugee status are initially collected and assessed. If the need for resettlement is determined and the individual(s) is a strong candidate, additional screening is conducted and a referral to the United States for resettlement is made. *Note: not all cases are referred from UNHCR

Cases are first received and processed by one of nine world-wide Resettlement Support Centers (RSC) which are funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM). Under PRM's guidance, the RSCs prepare eligible refugee applications for U.S. Resettlement consideration.

SECURITY

- Once refugees are referred to an RSC, the screening process continues in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security: U.S. Citizen & Immigration Services (USCIS).
- Applicant files are created with identifying documents collected; file prepared for biographic security check.
- USCIS agencies screen the candidate against several security databases (FBI, State Department, Counterterrorism).
- Interviews are conducted by specially trained USCIS Officers, fingerprints are collected, and biographic security check information is completed.



Graphic Source: Office of Refugee Resettlement

PLACEMENT

- If an applicant is cleared for resettlement, a medical screening is conducted, and any treatment needed for communicable diseases is provided.
- An assessment is done to determine which resettlement location within the US is best for the applicant (factors include family/community ties, medical needs, etc.); cultural orientation classes are provided during this phase prior to placement.
- The RSC works with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to make travel arrangements to the U.S. and make connections with the Resettlement Agency that will be meeting the applicants upon arrival.
- USCIS may conduct a final screening prior to entry into the U.S.

TRANSITION

- Individuals/families are met by Resettlement Agencies at the airport to welcome them and begin reception and placement services.
- The reception and placement services include, but are not limited to: assistance with housing, application completion for Social Security Cards, driver's licenses, and public assistance, enrollment of children into school, English language training, and connection to community resources.

For more information about the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, visit the following:

- Office of Refugee Resettlement: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr
- US Department of State: www.state.gov
- UNHCR: www.unhcr.org

SAN DIEGO REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS

County of San Diego Refugee Employment Services



Refugees arrive in San Diego – they are met by one of four local Resettlement Agencies (RAs) for Reception and/or Placement Services

The RAs ensure that basic needs are met, and knowledge and skills are built so clients may focus on finding employment, adjusting to life in the US, and becoming self-sufficient.

(30 – 90 days of support)*



Within the first 30 days of arrival, refugees receive screening and health services from the Refugee Health Assessment Program.



*Note: Afghan Humanitarian Parolees are also eligible for Afghan Placement Assistance to assist with additional services & fiscal support for up to 90 days after arrival.



Families with children are referred to the County for public assistance including CalWORKs (up to 48 months of services), Medi-Cal, and CalFresh.



Families without children are referred to San Diego Newcomers Project (SDNP). SDNP provides employment services, social and acculturation services, and case management (for up to 60 months of services) – along with Refugee Cash Assistance for up to 8 months.



Refugees eligible for the CalWORKs Welfare to Work (WTW) program are referred to County service providers for employment services. Those that are not eligible for WTW, or those that self-refer & remain non-aided are also eligible for services for up to 60 months from date of entry.



Single cases without children are referred to the County for public assistance including Medi-Cal and CalFresh.



San Diego County's Resettlement Agencies

- Alliance for African Assistance
- Catholic Charities Dioceses of San Diego
- The International Rescue Committee in San Diego
- Jewish Family Service of San Diego
- La Maestra Community Health Centers/Community Partner

The County of San Diego's Welfare-to-Work Service Providers

- East, South, North Central & Central Regions: Public Consulting Group (PCG)
- North Regions: Equus

For more information about refugee services in San Diego, visit the following:

The County of San Diego, Office of Immigrants and Refugee Affairs (OIRA): www.sandiegocounty.gov/OIRA