

IOWA REFUGEE STATISTICS

2019

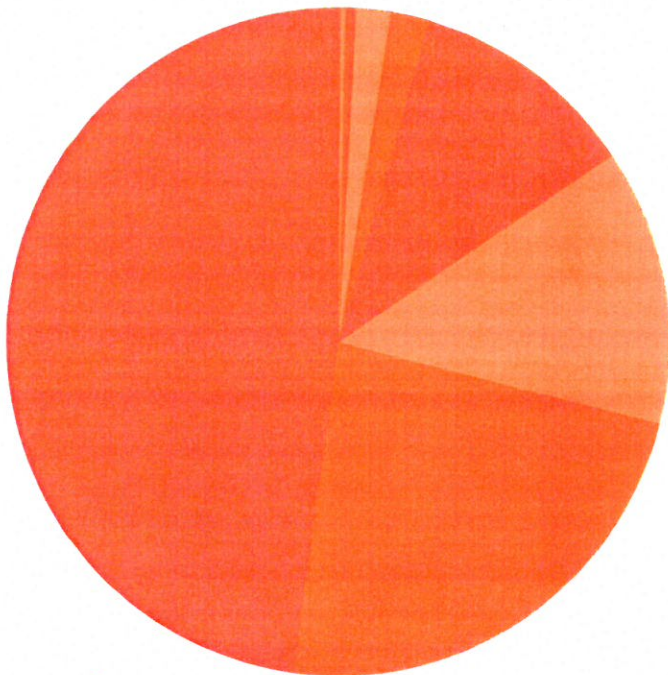


The United Nations says 20 people must flee their home country each minute due to war and violence. Since the 1970s, under the leadership of Gov. Robert Ray, Iowa has been a home for these refugees as they build a new life for their families.

A refugee is a person forced to flee their home country to escape persecution, war, or violence.

SINCE 1975, IOWA HAS WELCOMED MORE THAN 30,000 REFUGEES.

In 2018, Iowa welcomed refugees from:



Democratic Republic of Congo (256) **Bhutan** (60) **El Salvador** (2)
Burma (124) **Burundi** (10) **Nepal** (1)
Eritrea (71) **Sudan** (9) **Rwanda** (1)

Iowa has large refugee communities in:

Cedar Rapids	Ottumwa
Columbus Junction	Perry
Denison	Sioux City
Des Moines	Storm Lake
Marshalltown	Waterloo

Refugee Resettlement in Iowa

383 in fiscal year 2018
637 in fiscal year 2017
1,084 in fiscal year 2016

Refugee Resettlement in the U.S.

22,491 in fiscal year 2018
53,716 in fiscal year 2017
84,995 in fiscal year 2016

The Federal Refugee Resettlement Program was created in 1980. Since then, the U.S. has welcomed an average of 80,000 refugees per year under the leadership of both Republican and Democratic presidents. President Trump has set the lowest ceiling in U.S. history at 30,000. At the current rate of arrivals, the U.S. will resettle fewer than 21,000 people in 2019.

THE PATH TO RESETTLEMENT

1. Persecution, war, or violence breaks out in a refugee's home country. Many individuals and families are forced to make a dangerous journey and cross the border into neighboring countries.
2. Refugees often arrive at refugee camps or in temporary host countries with nothing. Most refugees then wait for decades, hoping for the war to end or to be allowed to resettle in another country.
3. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) may recommend refugees and their families for resettlement in the U.S. **Roughly 8 percent of the world's refugee population is recommended for resettlement, and fewer than 1 percent are ever resettled.** Once a family has been recommended for resettlement and the U.S. determines which groups it will prioritize, eight U.S. government agencies conduct interviews and security checks with families.
4. Once refugee families arrive in the U.S., they are connected to support services like LSI's Refugee Community Services, which empower them as they build their new life. Refugees and their families receive social and health service benefits, as well as immediate and indefinite work eligibility.
5. After one year in the U.S., refugees receive the status of Legal Permanent Resident (LPR). They are also responsible for repaying their Travel Loan. After five years of living in the U.S., refugees may become U.S. citizens after passing the citizenship exam.

HOW LSI HELPS



LSI empowers refugees through education, family services, and economic development programs.



We walk alongside the people we serve by providing English classes, work readiness training, and support in preparing for the U.S. citizenship exam.



Our Child Care program lifts up families interested in establishing licensed in-home child care businesses.



The Global Greens program reconnects former refugee farmers with the land by helping them establish family farm businesses.



LSI's Individual Development Accounts (IDA) program provides financial education for refugees as they start a business, return to school, or purchase their first car or home.



We partner with elderly refugees as they transition to life in the U.S., fostering community connections and helping them towards their goal of citizenship.