What Is the USRAP?

Refugees access resettlement through a referral process that is part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).
What Are Priority Categories?

All refugees admitted to the United States must be designated “of special humanitarian concern” to the U.S. government.

Those who enter the program do so through one of three priority categories: P-1, P-2, or P-3.

Note: These priorities allow a refugee applicant to gain access to the USRAP and be referred for an interview with a USCIS officer to determine their eligibility and admissibility.

Once a refugee applicant has access to the USRAP, they go through the same process, regardless of their priority category.

Pre-event slide. We will begin our presentation at 2 p.m. Eastern time.
An Overview of the Priority Categories

**Priority 1**
Individual referrals to the USRAP by UNHCR, a U.S. embassy, or a designated non-governmental organization (NGO).

**Priority 2**
Specific groups whose members need resettlement as identified by the Department of State in consultation with USCIS, NGOs, UNHCR, and other experts.

**Priority 3**
Family reunification cases for spouses, children or parents of individuals lawfully admitted to the United States as refugees or asylees, as well as certain Afghan and Iraqi nationals who entered on Special Immigrant Visas.

Pre-event slide. We will begin our presentation at 2 p.m. Eastern time.
The Refugee Interview
Conducted by Highly Trained USCIS Officers

**USCIS Officers Conduct**
Extensive overseas and in-person interviews or video telephonic interviews with all applicants

- Confirms basic biographic data of the applicant.
- Verifies the applicant had proper access to the USRAP.
- Determines whether principal applicant has been persecuted or fears persecution based on: race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion in their home country.
- Determines whether applicant is admissible to the United States and has not persecuted others.
- Determines whether principal applicant is firmly resettled in another country. This would cause the applicant to be ineligible for resettlement through the USRAP.
- Determines whether discretion should be used favorably to approve the application.

Pre-event slide. We will begin our presentation at 2 p.m. Eastern time.
Fiscal Year 2023 Regional Allocations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America/Caribbean</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near East/South Asia</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unallocated Reserve</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Admissions Ceiling</strong></td>
<td><strong>125,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multilingual Resource Center

We have resources in several languages on a variety of topics.

Visit our Multilingual Resource Center at uscis.gov/multilingual-resource-center.
Electronic Reading Room


Pre-event slide. We will begin our presentation at 2 p.m. Eastern time.
Don’t Miss Our Engagements!

We post information about our national and local engagements at uscis.gov/outreach.

Pre-event slide. We will begin our presentation at 2 p.m. Eastern time.
USCIS REFUGEE PROCESSING

Quarterly Stakeholder Engagement

June 20, 2023
Disclaimer

Materials presented today are for informational purposes only and are not legal advice. The information disseminated today and statements made by USCIS personnel are intended solely for the purpose of providing public outreach to the agency’s stakeholders about issues of mutual interest. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit.
Reminders

1. Send questions from media to media@uscis.dhs.gov.

2. Send questions from congressional offices to usciscongressionalinquiries@uscis.dhs.gov.

3. Today’s engagement is not being recorded.

4. Find engagement materials in the Electronic Reading Room at uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room

5. Submit written questions through the Q&A box.
USCIS Refugee Processing Updates

Drew Loizeaux, Acting Chief, International and Refugee Affairs Division, RAIO
Interview Data
Quarter 1 and 2 Progress Updates

• In Q1 and Q2 of FY 2023, USCIS completed nearly 41,000 initial interviews and more than 3,000 reinterviews of applicants.
  — Compared to 44,000 total initial interviews in FY 2022.

• Approved over 35,000 individuals for refugee status; denied approximately 800 individuals.

• Over 18,000 refugees admitted to the United States through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for the first half of the year. As of today, the number is nearly **29,000**.
Circuit Ride Locations in Q1

- Deployed 173 officers to 28 overseas locations.
  - Video-teleconference interviews conducted with applicants in Albania, Lebanon, and Mexico.
- Implemented concurrent processing in four locations to reduce start-to-finish processing times.
  - Model used in Guatemala, Turkey, Malaysia, and Tanzania.
  - Half of USCIS decisions made within 30 days of the interview.
- Continue with concurrent processing in the same countries in Q2.

FY23 Q1 & Q2 INTERVIEW LOCATIONS

- Deployed officers to 65 countries
- Of those 65 locations, sent circuit rides to 9 new concurrent processing sites
- Employed video teleconferencing for interviews in 10 locations
Specific Populations: Afghan Nationals

- For cases outside of CAS, we continue processing Afghan nationals in countries worldwide, primarily in United Arab Emirates, Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Turkey, Tajikistan, Poland, as well as other locations.

To date, USCIS has interviewed over 2,900 Afghan nationals in Qatar at Camp As Sayliyah (CAS).

Approximately 700 Afghans in the refugee pathway at CAS.

SINCE FY 2022
USCIS has interviewed nearly 12,000 Afghan refugee applicants.

APPROXIMATELY 18,000 Afghans referred for initial USCIS interview.
Specific Populations:
Central American Minors (CAM)
Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA)

To date this fiscal year, INTERVIEWED OVER 430 NEW CAM APPLICANTS. and more than 2,900 new PTA applicants.

OVER 1,800 CAM and PTA arrivals from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala

FY 2023 CAM Decisions
OCT. 2022 - FEB. 2023

* 31% CAM APPLICANTS APPROVED
* 66% RECOMMENDED FOR PAROLE

3% * DENIED FOR BOTH REFUGEE AND PAROLE
Regional Processing Centers
Secure Mobility Offices FY 2023 Plans

• United States and other countries to establish multiple Secure Mobility Offices in key locations.

• First center in Guatemala.

• Stay tuned for more information.
Q1 & Q2 Accomplishments

Backlog Efforts
• Ongoing initiatives in the Africa and Middle East regions.
• As of May 2023, approximately 13,095 cases in the backlog have been closed.

Technological Improvements
• Developed a fully paperless processing system.

Staffing
• Filled 90% of Refugee Officer jobs.
• Filled 95% of Supervisory Refugee Officer positions (including Section Chief).
• Apply at USAJOBS.gov.
Office of Refugee Resettlement Updates

Ken Tota, Refugee Programs Director, Refugee Admissions Office, ORR
ORR’s Creation and Mission

The Office of Refugee Resettlement was created by order of the Refugee Act of 1980.

Mission:

“Founded on the belief that newly arriving populations have inherent capabilities when given opportunities, ORR provides people in need with critical resources to assist them in becoming integrated members of the American society.”
ORR Service Priorities

- **Cash and medical assistance** to support refugees as they enter the workforce and integrate into their new communities up to 12 months after arrival.

- **Early employment** as a path to self-sufficiency and longer-term integration; economic mobility.

- Intensive strengths-based **case management** for vulnerable populations.

- **Health, mental health and well-being** assessments and services.

- Services for children and youth to ensure successful transition to adulthood, as well as integration for the elderly; **whole-family approach**.

- **Foster care** for unaccompanied minors.
## Four Key ORR Program Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goals</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support Health &amp; Behavioral Health</td>
<td>Refugees achieve well-being and self-sufficiency through appropriate physical and behavioral health services and support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Employment &amp; Economic/Social Stability</td>
<td>Refugees are economically self-sufficient, connected to sustainable forms of income and economic mobility, and progressing toward their personal and professional goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Children &amp; Youth</td>
<td>Refugee children and youth achieve English language proficiency, access education to reach their academic and professional goals, and receive support to promote their social adjustment and integration in U.S. communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Social Adjustment &amp; Integration</td>
<td>Refugees build successful new lives in the U.S. by becoming actively engaged in their communities and gaining equitable access to and participation in social and economic systems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Office of Refugee Resettlement Resources

Resettlement Services
acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees

Fact Sheets: Eligibility & Benefits
acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/factsheets

State Contacts
acf.hhs.gov/orr/grant-funding/key-state-contacts

State Programs Directory
acf.hhs.gov/orr/map/find-resources-and-contacts-your-state

Afghan Resources
acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/afghan-assistance-resources

Ukrainian Resources
acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/ukrainian-assistance-resources

Funding Opportunities
grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=%22orr%22

Training & Technical Assistance Providers
acf.hhs.gov/orr/training-technical-assistance/training-and-technical-assistance-providers
USCIS Resources

Refugees
uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/refugees

Form I-131, Application for Travel Document
uscis.gov/i-131

Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition
uscis.gov/i-730

Refugee Processing Data
uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies/refugee-processing-data/refugee-processing-data

Exploring Refugee Officer Careers
uscis.gov/about-us/careers/career-opportunities/exploring-refugee-officer-careers

Upcoming USCIS National Engagements
uscis.gov/outreach

Electronic Reading Room
uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room
Department of State Resources

Department of State Refugee Processing Center
wrapsnet.org

Admission & Arrivals Report
wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals

Welcome Corps
welcomecorps.org
Next Quarterly Engagement

What’s on your mind?

• Please send any topics of interest for our next engagement to public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.

• Include in the subject line: Next USCIS Refugee Processing Engagement Topics.
Concluding Remarks

• For additional questions, please email public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.

• For more information on our national engagements, visit uscis.gov/outreach.

• Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and LinkedIn.
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