

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

in Burleigh County

Number of refugees to enter N.D. in 1997: 516 (116 of those in Burleigh County)

Number of refugees to enter N.D. between September 2018 - September 2019: 132 (24 of those in Burleigh County)

Over the last **20 years**, a total of **327 refugees** have been resettled in Bismarck.

58% of refugee arrivals in FFY18 were **employable adults**.

72% of those employable adults were employed **within eight months after arrival** (**75% full-time, 25% part-time**)

Average per hour starting wage for refugees: **\$10.63**, with employment primarily in housekeeping, manufacturing, retail and food service.

Refugees, like any legal residents of the U.S., **are required to pay all federal and state income taxes, as well as local and state sales taxes**. Once established, many New Americans begin saving to buy a home. **As homeowners, they pay property taxes** just like other members of the community.

Monthly amount of refugee cash assistance (funds are primarily used for rental and utilities. Cash assistance is **limited to 8 months post-arrival**): **\$335 for individual; \$570 for a family of three**.

Refugees go through an extensive **screening process** that involves the **U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security** and, in some cases, other **U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies**. In fact, we know more about refugees than you know about the person you might allow into your home to perform routine maintenance.

Of the **132 refugees** to resettle in N.D. in 2019:

- **85** were from the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**
- **10** were from **Afghanistan**
- **8** were from **Ukraine**
- **8** were from **Eritrea**
- **5** were from **Somalia**
- **5** were from **Sudan**
- **4** were from **Columbia**
- **3** were from **Rwanda**
- **3** were from **Iran**
- **1** were from **Iraq**



**Lutheran
Social
Services**
of North Dakota

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

about Refugee Resettlement

1. Who is a refugee?

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a refugee is someone who, because of a well-founded fear of persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular group or political opinion, is outside of the country of his nationality and, due to this fear of persecution, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. There are 25.9 million refugees in the world today, according to the UN Refugee Agency.

2. What is the difference between a refugee and an immigrant?

A refugee flees to a new country because they have nowhere else to go. Refugees are legal immigrants. Immigrants are people who move to a new country in search of better lives, not necessarily to flee persecution.

3. Do refugees come here for a certain limited period of time?

Refugees are allowed to stay in the U.S. permanently. They are required to apply for Legal Permanent Resident status (a green card) after one year and to apply for citizenship after five years.

4. Who brings refugees to the U.S.?

The refugee-resettlement program is a humanitarian program of the federal government and is coordinated by the U.S. State Department.

5. How do refugees come to North Dakota?

The U.S. State Department, in coordination with nine other volunteer agencies, determines where refugees will be resettled based on housing availability, job possibilities, family connections, etc. It has been doing so since 1948.

6. What is LSSND's role in the refugee-resettlement process?

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota helps refugees adjust to their new lives in the community and gain self-sufficiency as quickly as possible. We do this by helping them learn about their community, find jobs, get connected to English-language courses and other services.

Find complete, detailed answers at:
www.lssnd.org/refugee-resettlement

