

About HIAS

Founded in the 1880s to help resettle Jews fleeing persecution, HIAS is the world's oldest refugee agency. Today, guided by our Jewish values and history, we bring more than 130 years of expertise to our work providing services to all refugees in need of assistance, regardless of their national, ethnic, or religious background.

HIAS Success

The Matching Grant (MG) Program is a successful public-private partnership employment program that assists refugees to enter the workforce without utilizing federal or state assistance programs.

In fiscal year 2017, of the 812 HIAS clients participating in MG, 87.5 percent were employed and able to financial sustain themselves and their families within six months after arrival to the United States.

Refugees in the United States

The Trump Administration has set the refugee admissions ceiling for fiscal year 2018 at 45,000. This is the lowest ceiling in the history of the U.S. refugee program, and it comes at a time when the UN Refugee Agency, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), reports that there are more than **22.5 million refugees in need of protection worldwide**, of which 1.2 million are in need of resettlement.ⁱ Fewer than one percent of refugees will be resettled in 2018.



Refugees revitalize our communities through homeownership.

Refugee households have a high level of homeownership - in 2015, 57.4 percent of refugee-led households owned their homes outright.ⁱⁱ

Displaced Persons Worldwide (Millions)

■ Refugees Needing Resettlement ■ Refugees
■ Total Displaced Persons



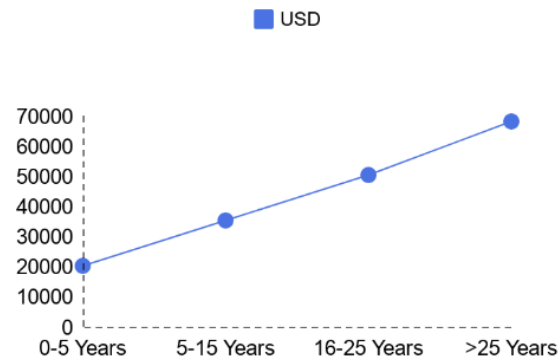
Refugees in particular tend to move into blighted neighborhoods, which can reverse neighborhood population decline and problems stemming from housing vacancies, including in cities like Akron, Ohio; Buffalo, New York; St. Louis, Missouri; Alexandria, Virginia; and Garden Grove, California.ⁱⁱⁱ

Because of their positive economic impact, local elected officials across the country have welcomed refugees with open arms.^{iv}

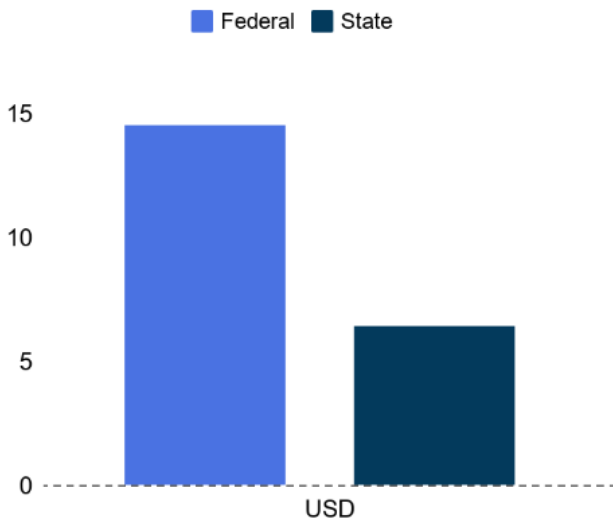
Refugees and their families have a long-term, positive economic impact that far exceeds any immediate, short-term, costs incurred resettling refugees in the United States. They are customers in our stores and businesses; small business owners who pay taxes; and, our neighbors.

Refugees want to - and do - work. Over time, resettled refugees climb the ladder to success and start their own businesses at high rates. 67 percent of refugee men are employed.^v For example, among recent Somali arrivals, 23 percent work in white-collar jobs. After 10 years, that number jumps to 43 percent.^{vi} **Refugees also start their own businesses, filling much needed gaps in sectors like healthcare and manufacturing.** Thirteen percent of refugees are entrepreneurs, and in 2015, 181,000 refugee entrepreneurs brought in \$4.6 billion in business income.^{vii}

Median Household Incomes of Refugees, By Years in the United States



Refugee Tax Contributions (Billions)



Refugees are taxpayers and over time they contribute on average more in taxes than it costs for their initial resettlement. In 2015, refugees earned a collective \$77.2 billion in household income, contributing \$20.9 billion in taxes - \$14.5 billion in federal taxes and \$6.4 billion in taxes to state and local governments.^{viii} **Over a twenty year period, refugees fully pay back the cost of resettlement and other related benefits,** contributing on average \$21,324 more in taxes than any costs associated with their initial resettlement.^{ix}

ⁱ <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/protection/resettlement/593a88f27/unhcr-projected-global-resettlement-needs-2018.html>

ⁱⁱ New American Economy (2017). *From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America*.

ⁱⁱⁱ Center for American Progress and Fiscal Policy Institute (2016). *Refugee Integration in the United States*. New York, New York.

^{iv} For more information, please see the following articles: [Bosnians revitalized St. Louis neighborhood](#); [Muslim immigrants revitalized Akron, OH](#); [Vietnamese rejuvenate Oklahoma City neighborhood](#); [Utica, NY welcomes & needs refugees](#)

^v The Heritage Foundation (2017). *The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program: A Roadmap for Reform*.

^{vi} Center for American Progress and Fiscal Policy Institute (2016). *Refugee Integration in the United States*. New York, New York.

^{vii} New American Economy (2017). *From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America*.

^{viii} New American Economy (2017). *From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America*.

^{ix} National Bureau of Economic Research (2017). *The Economic and Social Outcomes of Refugees in the United States: Evidence from the ACS*.