



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Refugee Assistance Program

Who are refugees?

A refugee is someone who is outside of their home country because they are unable or unwilling to return to that country for fear of persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

Refugees fleeing their country because of violence or persecution are given this specific immigration status by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and are invited to the United States by the U.S. Department of State after they've lived in refugee camps.

Arriving from 20 to 30 countries, refugees resettling in Rhode Island vary in age from infants to older adults. Individuals designated with 'refugee status' are immediately eligible for benefits, which are considered crucial to their survival in a new country.

What benefits are available to refugees?

DHS works with three resettlement agencies, Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island, the Diocese of Providence, and the Refugee Dream Center to help refugees find a place to live, get healthcare, enroll in school, find a job, and apply for DHS benefits. Refugees may be eligible for the assistance programs listed below:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP benefits help low-income individuals and families purchase food through benefits issued to an EBT card.

Refugee Cash Assistance

This federally funded program provides 12 months of cash assistance for refugees without children.

Medicaid

The Medicaid Program provides comprehensive medical coverage for low income and disadvantaged families who may otherwise not be able to pay for healthcare.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

CCAP benefits help families cover child care costs while parents and guardians are working.

RI Works (for refugee families with children)

A financial and employment assistance program for parents and families with little to no income. Applicants must have children ages 18 or younger.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Federal grants provide assistance to help low-income families meet heating costs.

Who can refugees contact for help?

There are three resettlement agencies in Rhode Island, as well as a network of agencies that can provide client centered services; advocacy and opportunities based on expertise in family literacy and adult education; employment services; refugee resettlement; translation; interpretation; and immigration services. You can find the resettlement agencies' contact information below:

Dorcas International Institute	Refugee Dream Center	Diocese of Providence
Phone: 401-784-8600	747 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02907 tel: 401-300-0544	Phone: 401-421-7833 Ext. 229
Website: http://diiri.org/	Website: Refugee Dream Center	Website: https://www.dioceseofprovidence.org/

How to apply?

Applications for refugee cash assistance must be submitted by one of the official refugee resettlement agencies referenced above. More information about the Refugee Assistance Program is also available online at dhs.ri.gov.

If determined ineligible?

The applicant has the right to appeal the decision by requesting an Administrative Fair Hearing. The appeal instructions and required forms are available on the DHS website [Appeals Process](#) page.

Have More Questions?

Visit our website: www.dhs.ri.gov

Call: 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347) Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, except holidays, from 8:30AM-3:00PM

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