

Refugees Are Ready to Work!

Hiring them through Catholic Social Services is easy and legal.

Refugees referred to your business by Catholic Social Services...

- Have been carefully screened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the U.S. State Department before they arrive here
- Are legally allowed to work immediately upon arrival in the U.S.
- Can provide the necessary documents to complete their I-9 and other tax documents
- Have no time limitation on how long they can legally work here
- Are a smart and legal choice for your company!



For questions, call Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley's Refugee Resettlement Team at (937) 223-7217

How a refugee gets to the United States

For a refugee, getting from another country to the United States can be a long and difficult process.



The refugee leaves the country that is persecuting him/her and flees to a neighboring country.



After arriving in the neighboring country, the refugee applies to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for protection. If the United Nations recognizes the refugee's need for protection, he/she may be given a card and allowed to live in a country or refugee camp.

If the refugee wants to be admitted to the United States, the UNHCR will refer him/her to a Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA) or U.S. Embassy.



At the JVA or U.S. Embassy, the refugee assembles the necessary documents and waits for a response. It can take months or years for the JVA or embassy to respond. In the meantime, the refugee waits.



Definition of a refugee

A person who flees from his/her home or country to seek refuge elsewhere, as in a time of war, political or religious persecution.



Finally, an interview is set up with a U.S. government official. The refugee tries to convince the official of his/her refugee status.

What a sponsor does:

- Meets refugees at the airport
- Provides housing for at least a month
- Provides a health checkup within the first 30 days
- Provides any necessary clothing
- Applies for Social Security cards
- Enrolls children in public school
- Helps adults learn English
- Helps adults become job ready and helps them seek employment

If the official approves the application, it becomes a "case" and is assigned to a resettlement agency such as Catholic Social Services.

If the official is not convinced and the application is denied, the refugee can:



- Return home
- Stay where he/she is
- Try another country

The agency finds a sponsor for the refugee. Sponsors include family members living in the U.S., churches and civic groups. The sponsor promises to help the refugee once he/she reaches the U.S.



Once the sponsor is found, the refugee travels to the U.S.

Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Wayne Ellman / The Forum