



# Refugee Resettlement Program

Immigration Law 250  
February 26, 2025  
Carmella Iacovetta

Executive Order 14163



Revokes: EO 14013

PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

# REALIGNING THE UNITED STATES REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE ORDER

January 20, 2025

## Catholic Charities in Houston lays off 120 employees amidst refugee resettlement suspension

President Donald Trump signed an executive order in mid-January that suspended the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and stopped federal funding for organizations that have helped refugees for decades. Three national nonprofits are part of a lawsuit filed Monday to challenge the suspension.

[Patricia Ortiz](#) | February 11, 2025, 4:14 PM (Last Updated: February 11, 2025, 4:37 PM)



AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

Afghan refugees pick out clothes at an Afghan refugee camp at Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, N.J., Monday, Sept. 27, 2021.

# What is the big deal?



## Ninety-sixth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Began and held at the City of Washington on Thursday, the third day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and eighty

## An Act

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise the procedures for the admission of refugees, to amend the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 to establish a more uniform basis for the provision of assistance to refugees, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Refugee Act of 1980".

## TITLE I—PURPOSE

Sec. 101. (a) The Congress declares that it is the historic policy of the United States to respond to the urgent needs of persons subject to persecution in their homelands, including, where appropriate, humanitarian assistance for their care and maintenance in asylum areas, efforts to promote opportunities for resettlement or voluntary repatriation, aid for necessary transportation and processing, admission to this country of refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States, and transitional assistance to refugees in the United States. The Congress further declares that it is the policy of the United States to encourage all nations to provide assistance and resettlement opportunities to refugees to the fullest extent possible.

(b) The objectives of this Act are to provide a permanent and systematic procedure for the admission to this country of refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States, and to provide comprehensive and uniform provisions for the effective resettlement and absorption of those refugees who are admitted.

## TITLE II—ADMISSION OF REFUGEES

Sec. 201. (a) Section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is amended by adding after paragraph (41) the following new paragraph:

"(42) The term 'refugee' means (A) any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, or (B) in such special circumstances as the President after appropriate consultation (as defined in section 207(e) of this Act) may specify, any person who is within the country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, within the country in which such person is habitually residing, and who is persecuted or who has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The term 'refugee' does not include any person who ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on



Jimmy Carter



# **The United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) Consultation and Worldwide Processing Priorities**

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Department of Homeland  
Security: U.S. Citizen &  
Immigration Services

## SECURITY



- **Pre-screening** by Resettlement Support Center (RSC) staff
- On-site **interview** by CIS Refugee Corps (Circuit Rides)
- **Security** clearance & fingerprinting

State Department:  
Bureau for Population,  
Refugees & Migration

## PLACEMENT



- **Placement allocations** through 9 national Voluntary Agencies
- Cultural **orientation** & departure processing
- Initial **Reception & Placement**: 30-90 days in U.S.

Department of Health &  
Human Services: Office  
of Refugee Resettlement

## TRANSITION



- Interim cash & medical **assistance**
- Employment **services**, ESL, medical screening, recertification
- Specialized **programs**: Micro-Enterprise Development, IDA, Survivors of Torture...

**Acceptable  
documents for  
refugees  
admitted under  
§ 207 of the INA**

**Documents/Codes**

I-94 Arrival/departure record noting that the individual has been admitted under §207 of the INA

RE-1 admission code on the I-94

RE-2 admission code on the I-94

RE-3 admission code on the I-94

RE-4 admission code on the I-94

RE-5 admission code on the I-94

I-766 Employment Authorization Document with the code A03

DHS Form I-571

I-730 Approval Letter

Visa 93 (or V-93) on the I-94 Arrival/departure card

**Comments**

Notations may include references to employment authorization, indefinite status, and the requirement to obtain permission before leaving the United States

Principal Refugee

Spouse of principal refugee

Child of principal refugee

Collateral relatives of principal refugee

Certain Haitian refugees

None

United States Refugee Travel Document<sup>z</sup>

The I-730 Approval Letter may be used as proof of refugee status for derivatives

May be accompanied by the words "section 207"; Individual is the spouse or minor child of a previously admitted refugee<sup>a</sup>

Department of Homeland Security  
Security: U.S. Citizen & Immigration  
Services

Security



Department of State: Bureau for  
Population, Refugees & Migration

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VOLAGS

Church World Service  
(CWS)

Ethiopian Community  
Development Council  
(ECDC) (secular)

Episcopal Migration  
Ministries (EMM)

Hebrew Immigrant Aid  
Society (HIAS)

International Rescue  
Committee  
(IRC) (secular)

US Committee for  
Refugees and  
Immigrants  
(USCRI) (secular)

Lutheran Immigration  
and Refugee Services  
(LIRS)

United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops  
(USCCB)

World Relief  
Corporation (WR)

Bethany Christian  
Services

Placement

Department of Health & Human Services:  
Office of Refugee resettlement

Transition

Are they public charges?

# Citations