

Eligibility for Federal Resettlement Services

Not all newcomers are treated the same or deemed eligible for the same benefits under U.S. law. In actuality, only noncitizens with certain statuses are eligible to receive federally-funded assistance to resettle in the United States.



Eligible Populations

Specific groups have been authorized by Congress to receive assistance funded through the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (often known as ORR-eligible populations). They can be broken down into three categories:

People Resettled via the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program



People with Refugee Status (Refugees)

Aghan and Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa Holders

Certain Groups of Vulnerable Noncitizen Children



Unaccompanied Refugee Minors

Unaccompanied Children without Status (Limited)

Other ORR-Eligible Populations



People Granted Asylum (Asylees)

Cuban and Haitian Entrants

Victims of Human Trafficking/Torture

Certain Afghan and Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees



In addition to belonging to one of these groups, potential beneficiaries may need to meet certain other requirements, such as entering the United States within the past five years. Members of these groups may also be eligible for “mainstream” federal benefits, such as SNAP and Medicaid.



Populations that Generally Do Not Qualify for Federal Assistance

Migrants Seeking Asylum

Humanitarian Parolees

Employment-based Immigrants

Family-based Immigrants

DACA Recipients

Temporary Protected Status Holders

Stateless Persons



Learn more about federally-funded resettlement services at www.acf.hhs.gov/orr

What is a National Resettlement Agency?

Ten national resettlement agencies receive funding from the federal government and partner with community-based organizations to assist ORR-eligible populations. They are a key part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops serves as one of these organizations.

