Our Mission

Guided by the principles of human compassion and dignity, Refugee Services of Texas welcomes refugees, asylees, survivors of trafficking and other displaced people and supports them in integrating and thriving in their new communities.
Who is a refugee?

A refugee is someone who has been forced to leave his or her country due to a well-founded fear of persecution, based on a person's race, religion, nationality, or participation in a particular political or social group.
● Less than 1% of the world's refugee population ever gets resettled

● There are currently 70.8 million people forcibly displaced worldwide

● About 50% of the refugee population are children

● 25.9 million people are designated as refugees according to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees.

SOURCE: UNHCR 2015 Report
Texas and Refugees

- Over the course of 40 years, RST has resettled over 17,000 refugees
- RST resettles 3% of all refugees who arrive in Texas
- Refugee Services of Texas resettled 2,387 in 2015
- 80% of refugees resettled in Texas are self-sufficient within 6 months of arriving in the U.S.

SOURCES: Refugee Services of Texas, Office of Refugee Resettlement,
Durable Solutions

1. Repatriation: This is the most common durable solution.
2. Local Integration: This option allows refugees to stay in their country of first asylum.
3. Resettlement: Less than 1% of refugees resettle into a third country.

SOURCE: UNHCR
The Resettlement Process

The Refugee Journey

1. Flee country of origin to a relatively safe neighboring country or refugee camp.

2. Apply as a refugee and the UNHCR determines the best durable solution for each refugee family, then submit referrals to the U.S. or other eligible countries for potential resettlement.

3. Wait for application to be processed and for referrals to be submitted. The average wait time is seven years.

4. Approved families then travel to the United States and are greeted by the local RST office. In the United States they will find a job, learn English, and integrate into the local community.

5. Referrals are approved for resettlement. Refugees receive cultural orientation and language training based on their resettlement location.

6. Applications are approved or denied and refugee families must complete medical examinations.

7. Refugee families undergo RSC Interviews/USCIS Interviews to demonstrate the applicant qualifies as a refugee. Extensive background checks are conducted.

Source: Refugee Council USA
Who We Serve

**REFUGEES**
Individuals who fled their country of origin and cannot return due to a well-founded fear of persecution from their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in particular social groups.

**ASYLEES**
A person who left their home country as a refugee, secured their own travel to the U.S. and seeks asylum.

**UNACCOMPANIED MINORS**
A child who has no lawful immigration status in the United States; has not attained 18 years of age; and, with respect to whom, there is no parent or legal guardian in the United States, or no parent or legal guardian in the United States available to provide care and physical custody.

**SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS**
Visa offered to Iraqi and Afghani citizens who are threatened in their home countries due to work with U.S. military or contractors.

**SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
A person or group is exploited due to fraud, coercion, or force for labor or commercial sex acts. Victims of trafficking normally have their documents taken away and may have been tortured and abused.

**CENTRAL AMERICAN MINORS**
Children from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico that come to the United States to escape violence and insecurity in their home countries.
Services We Provide

- Social Adjustment Services
- English Language Program
- Reception and Placement
- Economic Empowerment
- Immigration and Legal Services

- Community Wellness Program
- Intensive & Medical Case Management
- Unaccompanied Children Program
- Central American Minors Program
- Refugee Youth Program

- Survivors of Trafficking Empowerment Program (STEP)
Getting Involved

There are so many ways for you to get involved through advocacy, volunteering or donating!

Top 5 opportunities:

- Legislative Visits
- Apartment Setups
- Airport Pickups
- Mentorship
- Host a donation drive!
Thank you for your interest, concern and kindness to serve refugees in your community.

For more information or to get involved, visit our website at:

www.rstx.org