



# International Rescue Committee



# International Rescue Committee

- Founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein
- **First to Land, Last to Leave**  
Emergency response team sent to crisis site within 72 hours, stay until stability
- **From Harm to Home**  
resettle displaced people in the U.S. with the goals of integration and self-sufficiency





A refugee is a person who is **outside of his or her country** and is unable or unwilling to return because of **persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution.**





# Five types of persecution:



Race



Religion



Nationality



Social Group



Political Opinion



## Displaced... now what?

1. Referral (embassy/NGO)
2. Pre-Screened (start case at RPC)
3. Interview (UNHCR grants status)
4. Resettlement Assignment
5. Security Clearances (CIA, FBI, DHS)
6. Medical Clearances
7. Agency Allocation (one of ten)
8. Verification of Placement (HQ contact local)
9. Assurance (HQ contact PRM)
10. Flight Coordination (IOM books, visas)
11. Cultural Orientation
12. Departure

From referral to resettlement,  
it can take three to five years!

### Common delays:

- clearances expire
- lose contact with U.S. ties
- visa complications

Average time between VOP  
and arrival is 4 - 6 months if  
no delays with processing



# IRC Resettlement Department in Numbers

---

**7,000 – 13,000** Refugees resettled yearly

**155** Ethnicities from all regions of the world

**10,000** Refugees resettled by IRC in FY2015

**29** Resettlement offices nationwide





# The IRC in San Jose

*Since opening in 1979, our office has resettled over 20,000 refugees, and served hundreds of asylees, victims of trafficking, and special immigrants*

## Our Programs:

Immigration  
Resettlement  
Vocational ESL  
Employment  
Anti-Human Trafficking  
Economic Empowerment





## Some of the populations we serve\*:

**Special Immigrants:** Special Immigrant Visa program available to persons who worked with the U.S. Armed Forces or under Chief of Mission authority as a translator or interpreter in Iraq or Afghanistan.

**Ethiopian:** Due to an enduring border war with Eritrea, chronic drought, famine, and unemployment have created a significant refugee population in the area.

**Eritrean:** The 1998-2000 Border War, chronic drought, forced military conscription, religious persecution, lack of human rights and an aggressive government have forced Eritreans to flee.

**Religious Minorities: e.g. Iran.** Religious persecution and discrimination pose a serious threat to personal security.

\*The populations that we serve are diverse and change as different international threats and crises emerge, yet people of all backgrounds have the same right to safety and dignity





# IRC Immigration Department

Permanent Residency – refugees have to adjust their status after one year from arrival

Naturalization – after five years of permanent residency (three if married to a citizen), can apply for citizenship





# IRC Resettlement Department

---



Have a cooperative agreement with the U.S. State Department to provide **core resettlement services** to help our clients access:

- Cultural orientation
- Affordable and safe housing
- Financial assistance
- Employment/ESL referrals
- Health Care

For refugees directly resettled by the IRC, during the initial period of arrival (90 days)



# Reception & Placement: Core Services

**Core Services** address the basic needs of food, shelter and legal rights for refugees in the early, critical stages of resettlement in order to begin their transition toward rapid self-sufficiency.

|                                 |                                  |                          |                                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Apartment rental                | Basic furnishings                | Initial Food             | Basic Clothing                       |
| English Language Classes        | Health Screening                 | Application for benefits | Application for Social security card |
| Child Immunization              | School Enrollment                | Cultural Orientation     | Employment Orientation               |
| Follow up medical & dental care | Transportation to job interviews | Job Placement            | Anti-trafficking                     |

# Anti Trafficking

Client base: pre-certified and certified survivors of labor or sex trafficking

Program: case management to support survivors during initial recovery and stabilization period, and coordination with law enforcement, immigration, and legal assistance.



**LEARN  
THE SIGNS  
TO **END**  
**TRAFFICKING****





# Learning English with the IRC



\* RCA clients receive aid for 8 months and CalWorks for 24 months, but they are only in VESL programs for 6 months

RCA and CalWorks clients can ask to be referred to the IRC's VESL program, with benefits such as:

- Highest work placement rate
- Close to public transportation
- Many volunteers to provide personal assistance in ESL and job development



## The Way to Self-Sufficiency and Success: Matching Grant Employment Program

- Refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking, special immigrants
- Enroll within 30 days of arrival or asylum grant
- Financial assistance for 120 days; continue to receive even if working or if hired after enrollment!
- Casework assistance up to 180 days



We have the highest work placement rate, and help our clients increase their earning potential over time after making a resettlement plan and thinking of goals.



# The IRC Employment Philosophy



- Essential to **integration and self-sufficiency**
- Financial and time limit to aid programs
- Entry-level job part of path to **re-establishing a career**

# Economic Empowerment

Client base: refugees, asylees, SIVs, and certified VOTs

Program: Our Scholarship provides financial assistance for vocational or certification programs that will pave the way for a career path for clients. IDA is a financial savings program that aims to assist clients interested in purchasing a car, furthering education, or starting a small business.





## From Surviving to Thriving: Career-Based Training Scholarships

*"Since I came to the U.S., I have been struggling to get a job to support myself. All I found were part-time jobs until I received the financial support [of the Grove Scholarship]. Now I've found a great job with good benefits as a truck driver."*

*-Client completed program for Commercial Truck Driving License in 2012*

- For recent or former refugees, asylees, special immigrants, or victims of trafficking
- To achieve a career goal and increase their earning potential
- Grants are up to \$5,000 and programs of one year or less

# New Initiatives

- Career development
- Financial literacy
- Volunteer Supported Housing Initiatives



# Questions?



# Thank You!



As a non-profit, we greatly value your generous time and efforts to serve populations of great need.

---

**75** YEARS FROM  
HARM TO HOME