

Refugee Resettlement in Arapahoe County and the State of Colorado

Colorado has a long and proud legacy of welcoming refugees who are fleeing war, violence and persecution. Since the Refugee Act of 1980, Colorado has welcomed more than 60,000 refugees.

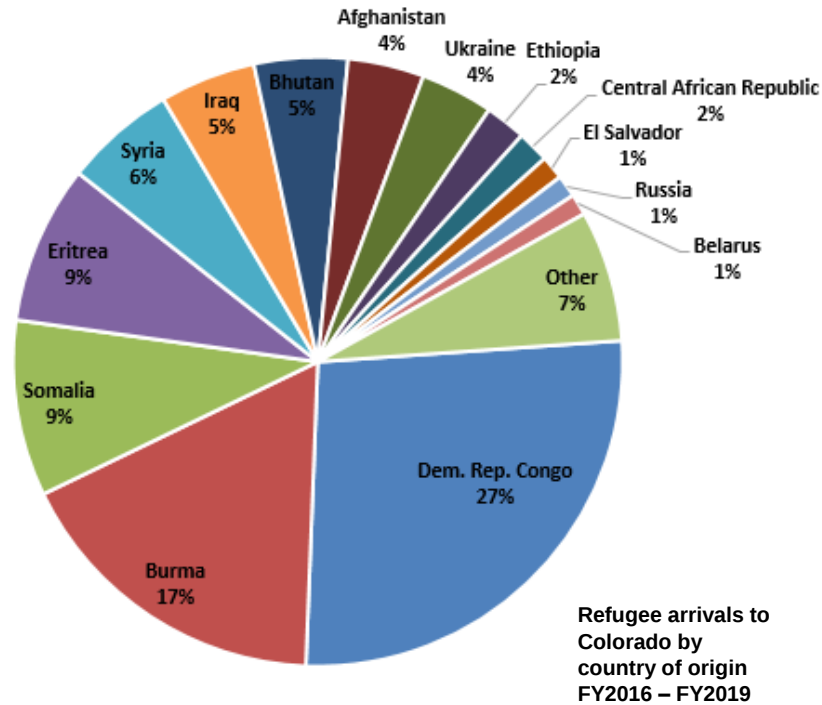
Refugee arrivals to Colorado

- FY2016: 1,983
- FY2017: 1,512
- FY2018: 710
- FY2019: 845

Refugee arrivals to Arapahoe County during the past two fiscal years

408 refugees were initially placed in Arapahoe County

- 31% two parent households
- 27% single parent households
- 33% single adults
- 6% married, childless couples



How do resettlement agencies choose where refugees are initially placed?

- Resettlement agencies (RAs) prioritize finding safe, decent and affordable housing for refugee families and individuals.
- RAs prioritize finding housing that allows refugees to easily access public transportation and community services.
- Many refugees coming to Colorado have family or friends (U.S. Ties) already living in the state. In most cases, RAs work to find housing near U.S. Ties to promote family unity and bolster social support networks.

What services do Resettlement Agencies provide to refugees in Arapahoe County?

RAs provide an array of services to newly arrived refugees that consists of: case management including housing assistance, school enrollment, community orientation, and assistance navigating public benefits while they are needed; health navigation, access to refugee health screenings and immunizations, connection to primary care, medical case management, health education, and health insurance literacy; cultural orientation, ESL resources, job readiness training, job placement services, and career counseling; financial literacy education, financial coaching and counseling, and credit- and asset-building loans; services to aid survivors of torture in healing from the lasting effects of torture, including access to legal, social, medical and mental health services; and immigration legal services to assist refugees with routine immigration matters, family reunification, and naturalization to obtain U.S. citizenship.

What do refugees contribute to Arapahoe County and the State of Colorado?

A 2017 economic and fiscal impact study commissioned by the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) found that refugees contribute to our shared prosperity and growing economy.

- For each refugee resettled in Colorado, four jobs are created.
- Through every \$1 in assistance received by a refugee, \$1.68 is generated in output.
- Through every dollar a refugee earns, over \$25 is generated in output.
- In Colorado, most refugees join the workforce less than 90 days after they arrive in the U.S.
- According to a report by the New American Economy, there are 115,576 (14.4%) immigrants living in Congressional District 1 and 117,789 (14.9%) in District 6 with a combined spending power of \$5.7B.