

New York State Enhanced Services to Refugees Program



July 2019

THE NEW YORK STATE ENHANCED SERVICES TO REFUGEES PROGRAM began in 2017, as a remarkable response to the federal government’s radical retreat from refugee resettlement. New York took on what no other state did: it helped resettlement agencies to get through a difficult period, and also to rethink their role in their communities.

The program, known as NYSESRP, has been a huge success, and is a beacon for other states around the country. NYSESRP helps refugee resettlement agencies repurpose their staff and facilities to more fully serve refugees already in their communities, and to help attract others to areas that recognize refugees as contributors to population growth and economic revitalization.

New York communities know that refugees are resilient, and they see how these agencies help refugees get on their feet and succeed. Refugees learn English, get jobs, start businesses, pay taxes, buy homes, and become citizens. Upstate New York cities have seen refugees stem population decline and in some cases tip the cities toward vital population growth. Over 90 percent of resettlement in New York is in upstate cities, but resettlement agencies play a key role downstate as well, helping not only refugees but also asylees and asylum seekers.

NYSESRP allows resettlement agencies to work with refugees beyond the 90-day period of initial resettlement funding, and is free of some restrictions attached to federal funding. The NYSESRP-funded agencies do more to help integrate refugees into the community and the workplace, with positive impacts rippling out to employers, neighbors, schools, local businesses, and more.

Raising the profile of our welcoming communities and the unique supports New York agencies also helps attract people from Bhutanese, Somali, Burmese, Congolese and other communities already in this country to New York, helping spur local growth. More prominent refugee and immigrant communities are also a key

Where are Refugees Resettled in New York?

	Number of Refugees Placed
2007 to 2016	
Erie	12,744
Onondaga	9,536
Monroe	6,332
Oneida	4,163
Albany	3,048
Manhattan	1,811
Queens	496
Brooklyn	459
Bronx	270
Rensselaer	249
Broome	173
Nassau	141
Suffolk	91
Tompkins	77
Westchester	44
Schenectady	38
Staten Island	34
Niagara	32
Ulster	25
Saratoga	20
Dutchess	19
Jefferson	18
Orange	18
Chautauqua	12
Rockland	12
Orleans	10
All Other	58
New York State	39,921

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of WRAPS data.

to attracting young people of all backgrounds who want to live in vibrant and diverse areas.

The tremendous success of this modest investment is shown in a [front-page story from the New York Times](#).



Enhanced aid to refugees helps our communities grow and thrive.

New York State Enhanced Services to Refugees Program (NYSESRP)

CAMBA Catholic Charities Community Services Catholic Charities of Buffalo Catholic Charities of Onondaga County	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Centre Catholic Family Center in Rochester HIAS New York Interfaith Works of Central New York	International Institute of Buffalo International Rescue Committee in New York Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie Counties Journey's End Refugee Services	Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants New York Immigration Coalition Fiscal Policy Institute
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