

Refugees: Wind in Our Sails

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS PROPEL OUR STATE'S PROSPERITY

Minnesota is the land of **10,000 lakes and 100 countries**. Throughout our history, refugees and other newcomers have been the wind in our state's economic and cultural sails. A strong refugee resettlement system moves all of us forward faster.

MINNESOTA'S LABOR FORCE POWERS OUR SOCIETY

As the labor force grows, so does the economy—generating more goods, services, and overall economic activity. A shrinking labor force slows the growth of the state and weakens our communities.

REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL TAX REVENUE FOR MN

\$1.5 BILLION

In 2013 foreign-born citizens in Minnesota contributed more than **\$1.5 billion** to Social Security and Medicare.

REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS CAN HELP GROW THE LABOR FORCE



Minnesota needs to grow its population by **4.5 times** the current growth rate to maintain a healthy labor force.

MN'S LABOR FORCE NEEDS TO GROW



As our population grows older, Minnesota needs to welcome more people to our state to join our workforce and advance our economy. Our goal is to attract more than **60,000 newcomers by 2020** to meet workforce demand.

WE NEED A STRONG WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT OUR AGING POPULATION AND TO STRENGTHEN OUR COLLECTIVE PROSPERITY.

\$771 MILLION

Immigrant-owned businesses generated more than **\$771 million** in annual income for the state in 2010.

\$22.4 BILLION

Foreign-born labor accounted for **\$22.4 billion** of Minnesota's GDP in 2012.

The story of refugees is one of resilience and hope. Refugees arrive on our shores with courage and determination. They bring valuable skills, have an entrepreneurial spirit, and strengthen ties with other countries.

WHEN WE WELCOME AND SUPPORT REFUGEES, WE SUPPORT MINNESOTA

Building Wellbeing for Refugees

Minnesotans are welcoming, compassionate people. Building wellbeing is like building a house. Constructing a house requires resources, expertise, and collaboration. Building a thriving community works in the same way. The Refugee Programs Office provides refugees with the resources they need to survive and thrive."

UNIQUE BARRIERS

Less than 1% of refugees worldwide are given the opportunity of permanent resettlement.

"Refugee" is a legal immigration status that describes someone who is fleeing genocide, war and/or persecution.

REDUCTION IN ASSISTANCE

In 2017 an Executive Order **reduced the number of refugees admitted to the U.S. by 50%.**

There are currently **65 million refugees** in the world, over half of whom are **children**.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Social services include culture navigation skills, supporting student success, connecting to community resources, and supporting the process of naturalization.

BUILDING THE LABOR FORCE

Employment services include opportunities orientation to work in the U.S., vocation development, language training, and educational services.

SAFETY

Refugees go through a processing period that lasts at a minimum **18-24 months** and involve six different federal security agencies.

BUILDING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Initial resettlement services provide refugees with food, shelter, medical screenings, supplies, and winter clothing.

BUILDING FAMILIES

95% of refugees entering MN join family members already living here. Family with minor children qualify for family investment programs and health care for low income residents.

UNDEREMPLOYMENT

Foreign educational degrees, licenses and credentials are not recognized by professional organizations and employers.

A FOUNDATION FOR WELLBEING

The Resettlement Programs Office recognizes the complexity of rebuilding lives after the trauma of the refugee journey, therefore we use a holistic, person-centered approach to refugee resettlement. We partner with over 40 nonprofit and community organizations to build the wellbeing of refugees to become healthy and productive citizens that contribute to Minnesota's collective prosperity. **INITIAL INVESTMENTS IN REFUGEES YIELD LONG-TERM BENEFITS TO MINNESOTA'S ECONOMY.**

Refugees successfully exit public assistance programs at higher rates than native residents.

Refugees have a higher rate of employment after three years of public assistance.

Refugees exit financial programs at a higher rate than those receiving those services.

▶ JOIN US IN BUILDING WELLBEING FOR OUR MINNESOTA!

- Write to your congressman to oppose the executive order and reduce racial and economic disparities.
- Increase your cultural awareness and engage citizens from other ethnic backgrounds in your community.
- Volunteer with any of the 44 agencies that support refugee communities.
- Donate to keep social services and public assistance programs well funded.
- Learn more about the refugee admissions program at RPO.DHS.STATE.MN.US