

Refugee Resettlement in San Diego

Refugees represent a large and growing sector of our diverse community.

How much do you know about refugees' journeys from their home countries to San Diego?

Did you know...

The **United States** admits more refugees than any other country in the world.

In 2014, **California** admitted more than 6,000 refugees, second only to Texas.

San Diego County has received more refugees than any other county in California for the last seven years in a row.



Who Are Refugees?

A refugee is someone who has fled his or her homeland and cannot return because of persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

For many refugees, home has become a place of profound fear and danger. Many have seen political upheaval, instability, war, and terror. Refugees leave their professions, possessions, and loved ones behind to seek safety.

How Many Refugees Are There?

There were 19.5 million refugees worldwide at the end of 2014. Over half of all refugees are children. The United States admits approximately 70,000 refugees annually. **Jewish Family Service, one of four refugee resettlement agencies in San Diego, has assisted refugees since its founding in 1918. Over the past 10 years, JFS has resettled more than 3,000 refugees.**

HELP



Refugee Resettlement at Jewish Family Service

Refugee Resettlement at Jewish Family Service offers a wide range of services to help refugees rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient in their new communities.

In the last year at JFS...

- 155 refugee families settled in safe and secure housing
- 72 children enrolled in school
- 21 elderly refugees connected to care programs
- 200+ adults enrolled in English as a Second Language classes
- 163 adults enrolled in employment services where they identify short- and long-term career goals
- 212 green card applications and 165 citizenship/naturalization applications filed

How Can I Help?

After their long journey to San Diego is complete, hundreds of refugee families still face tremendous challenges. **You can help welcome the stranger and ensure refugees thrive in our community.**

MAKE A DONATION

to support Jewish Family Service's refugee resettlement work.

www.jfssd.org/donate

VOLUNTEER

to help a newly resettled refugee family navigate their new community.

www.jfssd.org/volunteer

RAISE AWARENESS

among your friends, family, and colleagues by sharing what you learned today.

www.jfssd.org/refugee

A Typical Refugee Journey to San Diego

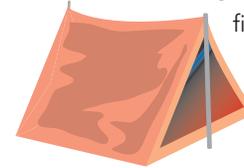


Flee

Refugees flee their homelands as a result of conflict, threats, and/or violence against themselves or their families.

Wait

Refugees flee to cities, rural areas, and refugee camps, and register with the UN. On average, refugees wait five years to be admitted to a third country, and only 1% of refugees get this opportunity. The vast majority of refugees must resettle in the country they fled to or risk their lives to return home.



Succeed

Over time, refugees integrate into and enhance their communities. They can apply to become lawful permanent residents one year after entry, and many go on to become naturalized U.S. citizens with help from JFS. They move into better jobs, pay taxes, purchase goods and services, and strengthen the local economy—contributing to the United States and rebuilding their lives in safety and with dignity.



Interview

Refugees seeking entry to the United States interview with the UN Refugee Agency and U.S. Department of Homeland Security and undergo intensive security and medical screening. Only those who can prove they are fleeing persecution are eligible for entry.



Arrive

JFS staff members meet each newly arrived refugee at the airport, transport them to a furnished apartment, and help plan their first weeks in San Diego. JFS helps them acculturate, apply for relevant benefits, access transportation, learn English, enroll children in school, build job skills, find employment, navigate health care, learn financial skills, and more. Sometimes other JFS services, including counseling, nutrition assistance, or social programming for older adults, provide additional support.



Prepare To Relocate

Admitted refugees are assigned to a national refugee resettlement agency, and then to a local affiliate—like Jewish Family Service—that will provide basic services during their initial resettlement period.



“Before I came here, I was concerned if I could make it or not because I have a family—two kids and my wife. It’s hard for somebody to move from a different country to another country far away from his home and his family. Here, I got every help I need. Thank you, JFS.”