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SAINT LOUIS

Immersion • Investment • Inclusion

How Do Refugees Get to St. Louis?

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September 13, 2017

Becoming A Refugee

- Flight
 - Fleeing from war, persecution, usually with only the clothes on their backs
 - Usually think they will return home soon
- Gaining refugee status
 - Outside country of origin, situated in country of First Asylum
 - Fleeing well-founded fear of persecution of race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion
 - Usually UNHCR grants refugee status in country of asylum



World Wide Refugee Crisis

UNHCR Global Trends (2017):

- Est. 65.6 million refugees & internally displaced (IDP) worldwide:
 - 22.5 million refugees
 - 33 million IDP
 - 10 million stateless
- Bulk of 22.5 million refugees come from one of 3 countries:
 - Syrian - 5.5 million
 - S. Sudan - 1.4 million
 - Afghanistan - 2.5 million
- In 2016, a total of 189,300 refugees were resettled worldwide including 85,000 in the US.



UNHCR Durable Solutions



Contrary to what might be thought, permanent resettlement overseas is not most refugees' or the UN's first priority:

- 1st priority: Return to home country
- 2nd priority: Remain in country of temporary asylum
- 3rd priority: Last resort - Third country resettlement
 - ~1% of world's refugees are referred to countries by UNHCR,
 - 10 countries accept refugees: *Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States.*
 - Only the most vulnerable are referred: medical cases, religious minorities, etc.

How the US Resettlement Program Operates

****Those who depart their country of UN registration including refugees who took the cross-continent journey to Germany are INELIGIBLE for resettlement in the US!*

To be considered for the US program, applicants must already be registered and have received refugee designation from the UNHCR. They must also be continuously RESIDING IN the country where they have registered. In the case of Syrians, that means Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt or Turkey or be referred by a US Embassy in another country (latter VERY rare).

Annually, the UNHCR refers 150,000-200,000 eligible applicants to the US Program for resettlement consideration, depending on the criteria of the resettlement program at that point. Only refugees from within this pool are eligible for refugee resettlement in the US.

Applicants must then pass a rigorous 13-step vetting process to be approved for US resettlement.

Placement in US Communities

- Once refugees successfully clear the vetting process, they are allocated by US government to one of 10 national resettlement agencies (e.g. VOLAGS).
- Referred by VOLAG to local sponsor agency
- Preferences for community placement:
 - Other family in community
 - Language & service capacity
 - Available housing
 - Available jobs for Limited English Proficiency (LEPs)



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Clearance for Travel



- Application processing & clearance can take 18-24 months
- **Medical** conditions; contagious conditions treated prior to travel.
- **Security:** Level depends on country of origin; 13 extensive & time-limited vetting steps must be cleared.
- **Cultural orientation:** 3 hours to several days provided, depending on location.

Travel to US

- Intergovernmental Office of Migration (IOM) arranges travel
- Prior to departure, refugee must sign promissory note agreeing to repay US for travel costs
- National sponsoring agency and local affiliate receive travel details, usually 1-2 weeks before arrival

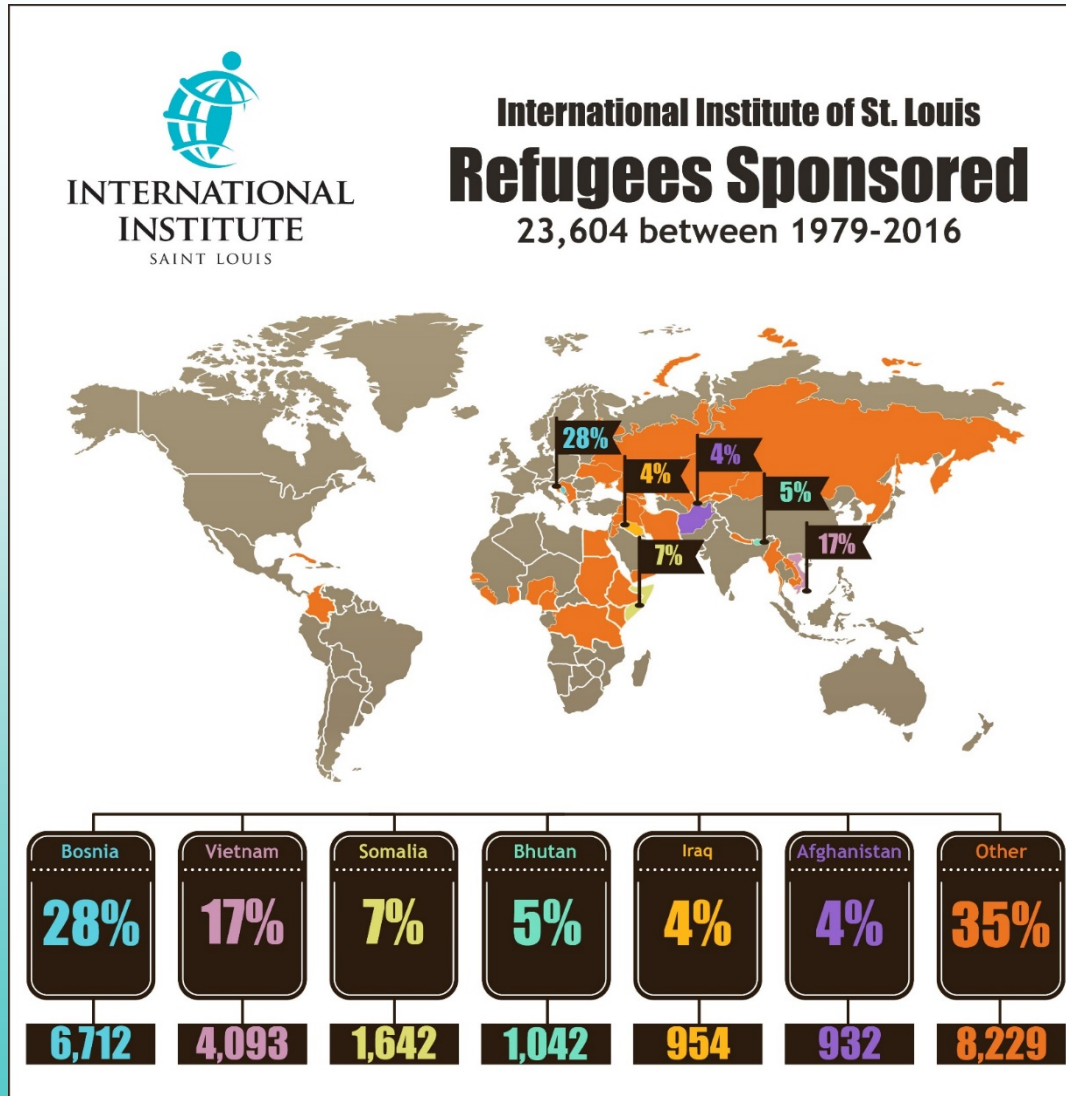


Arrival in St. Louis

- IISTL staff/family meets at airport
- Transports to apartment
 - Rent needs to be affordable
 - Must meet occupancy requirements
 - Located close to or on bus line to IISTL
 - Include contract-mandated list of furnishings



Refugees Sponsored by IISTL



Services in First Month

- **Week of arrival**
 - Orientation: grocery, apartment, bus
- **Second week**
 - Community orientation
 - Detailed intake
 - Apply for SS card & Medicaid
 - Health screening (public health issues, urgent needs)
- **Subsequent weeks**
 - School shots; school enrollment
 - ESL classes for adults
 - Job readiness class
 - Intake with job specialist



What IISTL Offers

To Refugees & Their Families

- Refugee Resettlement
 - Housing
 - Links to cash assistance & health care
 - General case management
- Mental Health
 - Counseling & casework
- Elderly
 - Socialization
 - Case management
- ESOL
 - For literate & non-literate
 - Citizenship & computer prep
- Employment
 - Short-term job training
 - Initial entry-level jobs
 - Career Path services
 - II Global Farms
- Economic Development
 - IDAs
 - Microloans & TA

How to be Welcoming & Inclusive

Get Involved at IISTL

The screenshot displays the IISTL website interface. At the top left is the IISTL logo, a stylized globe with a person figure, and the text "INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE SAINT LOUIS". To the right are social media icons for Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, followed by a purple "DONATE" button. A teal "Get Involved" button is also present. On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with blue buttons for "Home", "About Us", "Services to Immigrants", "Economic Development", "Community Connections", "Southwest MO Branch Office", "Get Involved", "Donate", and "Contact Us". Below this is the "II Business Solutions Center" menu with buttons for "Translation", "Interpretation", "Consulting", and "Training". Further down is the "Our Other Sites" section with buttons for "Festival of Nations", "the i", and "iiShop". At the bottom left of the menu area is a small photo of a woman with glasses and the text "St. Louis' Language Translation Authority" and "INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE". The main content area features a "Volunteer" section with a photo of a smiling woman, a "Volunteer Opportunities" section with a link to a full list of opportunities, and a "View the volunteer handbook" link. At the bottom right are two circular logos for "AMERICORPS A VISTA".



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Volunteer

Annually almost 1,000 St. Louisans, individually and in groups, volunteer their time and energy to the Institute. Volunteer assignments range from weekly, to once a year opportunities. The dedication of our volunteers is unparalleled; large numbers of volunteers enable the Institute to provide top-notch services to thousands of refugees and immigrants annually.

[Click here to apply today!](#) For more information contact Carrie Brickey.

Volunteer Opportunities

[Click here to view a full list of all our current volunteer opportunities.](#)

Prospective and new volunteers should read the Volunteer/Intern Policy & Procedures Handbook. [View the volunteer handbook](#)



How to be Welcoming & Inclusive

Examples

- Adopt-a-Family at the holidays
- Resume Preparers
- Marketing & Web Consultants
- Accounting & Legal Services
- Computer Class Instructors
- Archivists & Oral Historians
- Subject Experts for CAIP
- LPFM mgmt. & on-line DJs
- Gardening @ Global Farms
- Prepare food & attend one of our monthly potluck lunches
- Festival of Nations volunteer



How to be Welcoming & Inclusive

Emergency Support for Refugee Families

The William K. Y. Tao Fund of IISTL is comprised of funds to help newly arrived refugees meet emergency needs. We invite you to partner or make a donation!

Household Size	Single Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People
Spending Money	\$20	\$30	\$30	\$40	\$40
Security Deposit	\$500	\$500	\$550	\$650	\$800
Rent (3 months)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,650	\$1,950	\$2,400
Home Set-Up	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$900	\$1,100
Utilities (3 months)	\$945	\$945	\$945	\$1,100	\$1,100
Food @ \$5 day/each	\$150	\$300	\$450	\$600	\$750
Bus Pass (1 month)	\$90	\$180	\$180	\$240	\$240
Subtotal - Expense	\$3,605	\$3,955	\$4,405	\$5,480	\$6,430
Resettlement Allowance	\$1,125	\$2,250	\$3,375	\$4,500	\$5,625
Funding Gap	(\$2,480)	(\$1,705)	(\$1,030)	(\$980)	(\$805)

How to be Welcoming & Inclusive

Get Connected: Job Offers, Volunteerism, In-Kind Donations

Blake Hamilton @
hamiltonb@iistl.org if you have
jobs to offer refugees. On bus
line is important.

Carrie Brickey @
brickeyc@iistl.org for volunteer
questions & opportunities,
including internships.

Rebecca Niedner@
niednerr@iistl.org for furnishings
& clothing donations. A list of
most-needed items is online.



So, Why Refugees?

- **Humanitarian** - Refugee resettlement saves lives; offers hope to at least a small number of the most vulnerable refugees.
- **Economic Development** - Immigrants are more likely than native-born Americans to start businesses/create jobs. They are also a valuable source of new population, especially important in former manufacturing centers (Rust Belt).
- **Foreign Policy** - Refugees are fleeing the same terror we are facing. They are our natural allies in the war against terrorists in America and abroad.



US Refugee Travel Ban

- In June 2017, the Supreme Court upheld portions of the 120-day ban on refugee arrivals proposed by the White House.
- During the ban, only close family members and those with a “bonafide relationship” are admissible to the US.
- Ban will continue until mid-November of 2017; however unclear when the arrival number might increase again.
- Presidential Determination for the new fiscal year (begins Oct. 1) can set an admission number of anywhere between 0 and up. It is likely to be less than 50,000 for the coming year, which was the 2016-17 total.



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