

# WELCOMING REFUGEES MAKES MINNESOTA STRONGER

Refugee resettlement is a win-win: When we welcome refugees, Minnesota's economy and community benefits.

## PEOPLE WITH REFUGEE STATUS:

### CONTRIBUTE IN TAXES

When refugees arrive, they may need some help getting on their feet. Still, studies show that, long term, refugee households contribute more in taxes than they receive in benefits, and 57% own homes.

Minnesota people with refugee status contribute\*:

**\$1.8B** Spending Power

\$381M  
federal taxes

\$227.2M  
local taxes

### FILL CRITICAL JOBS

People who come to Minnesota as refugees care for the elderly, prepare food, build homes, and fill other critical needs in Minnesota's workforce. Without workers, our economy cannot grow.

*"If not for populations of color and the foreign born, the size of Minnesota's workforce would be declining."*  
-Minnesota State demographer's office

### START BUSINESSES

Many refugees have an entrepreneurial spirit: 13% start businesses, creating jobs, boosting Minnesota's local economy, and bringing new flavors, fabrics, and ideas to our communities.

### BUILD DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Refugees bring rich ideas, traditions, and perspectives to Minnesota. Like lefse and hygge, the foods and cultural traditions being introduced will become an integral part of the fabric of our state, just like the people who bring them.

Since 2005, Minnesota has welcomed refugees from 54 countries, with the largest groups coming from Somalia, Burma and Ethiopia. 84% of former refugees become citizens.

A total of 33,073 refugees arrived to Minnesota (2005-September 2019)

13,649	8,575		
Somalis	Burmese	2,193 Ethiopians	8,656 other refugees

## TO PROSPER AS A STATE WE NEED EVERYONE

People who come to Minnesota as refugees have experienced extreme loss and work hard to start over here in the United States. These same people are now legislators, school board members, teachers, state workers, nurses, factory workers, and business owners. Their tenacity strengthens the future of Minnesota.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Nadia\*\* came to Minnesota as a refugee from Iraq with her five children. She learned English, completed training, and became a nursing assistant, **filling a gap in the health care industry**. She continued her studies and now works as a nurse, caring for children with disabilities.

Ruth\*\* arrived to the United States as a refugee from Democratic Republic of the Congo. After a few years working in the healthcare industry, she **opened her own store** selling fabrics, handmade clothing, and jewelry. She employs young people and teaches them job skills.

Nang\*\* and her family came to Minnesota as a refugee from Burma. After living and working here for more than five years, she **became a proud U.S. citizen**. Now she volunteers as an **interpreter** to help others from her community navigate the legal system.

# AS MINNESOTANS WE STRIVE TO TREAT ALL PEOPLE WITH THE COMPASSION THEY DESERVE

Refugees want to participate fully in life without the fear of violence or persecution. With a little help when they arrive, refugees become contributing Minnesotans.

Welcoming refugees is in line with our Minnesota values.



**95% OF REFUGEES  
COME TO MINNESOTA TO  
REUNITE WITH FAMILY.**

Half of refugees who come to the U.S. are children.

## FORCED TO FLEE HOME

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. As of 2019, there are 25.9 million refugees in the world.

## LIVING IN LIMBO

Many refugees wait in camps designed to be temporary. Less than 1% are approved for resettlement. After approval, the screening process takes at least two years.

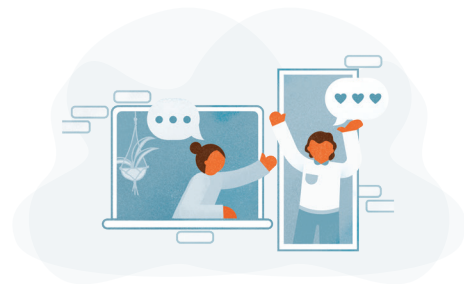
## ARRIVE IN U.S. RESETTLEMENT CITY

Refugees come to the U.S. on a travel loan they repay. They receive 90 days of support to become self-sufficient.

## MAKE MINNESOTA HOME

People who arrive as refugees buy homes, take the oath of citizenship, learn to navigate (and maybe even love!) the winter, and fully identify as Minnesotans.

**YOU CAN  
HELP** support your  
refugee neighbors.



### TALK to your neighbors.

Start conversations about the benefits that refugees bring to our state. When you hear false information, ask: "Can I share what I've experienced and learned?"



### SUPPORT policies and programs.

Ensure that Minnesota remains a welcoming home for those seeking refuge by supporting policies and programs you believe in.



### DONATE goods to resettlement agencies.

New arrivals often need household goods, toiletries, winter gear, and backpacks. Check agency websites.



### VOLUNTEER your time.

Welcome new families to our state. Form connections with new Minnesotans while you help them learn English, navigate public transportation, and get to know the city.



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



Funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services Resettlement Programs Office ([mn.gov/dhs/refugee-resettlement](http://mn.gov/dhs/refugee-resettlement)).