



LIRS

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) welcomes newcomers who seek safety, support, and a share in the American dream. In collaboration with partners across the country, we run programs in two core areas: Children and Family Services and Refugee and Migrant Services.

HOW WE WELCOME

REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

North Dakota has welcomed newcomers from all over the world in partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) for more than 80 years. Our work touches the lives of immigrants and refugees from arrival at the airport through employment in a meaningful career and beyond. Accompanying New Americans on their journey is part of what we call “the long welcome,” which nurtures community support and recognizes the incredible impact of immigrants and refugees in our state and beyond.

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WE WELCOME AND RESETTLE REFUGEES.

RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT

In partnership with the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), LIRS is one of ten national agencies authorized to resettle newly arriving refugees to the United States. When a refugee first arrives at the airport, they are greeted by LIRS North Dakota staff and brought to a home or apartment that has been prepared for them in advance—stocked with modest furniture, culturally familiar foods, and all of the basic amenities of an American home.

Over the course of the next few months, case managers support the individual or family in learning to navigate their new community. Adults are enrolled in English language classes, children are enrolled in school, and LIRS partners direct newcomers to community resources. They are introduced to new neighbors and church and community groups that will play an important role in providing each refugee with support and companionship for years to come.

PREFERRED COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Preferred Communities Intensive Case Management program is a client-centered program that empowers the most vulnerable to achieve their highest degree of independence through education, individualized/trauma-informed case management, and holistic community integration support.

WE PROMOTE ECONOMIC, WORKFORCE, & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES

Refugee Support Services help refugees and other ORR populations gain economic independence by helping them find and maintain employment, preferably within a year of being enrolled in the program. The Support Services focus on training and job development, certification, and placement while addressing barriers to employment through English language instruction, cash assistance, interpretation and translation, day care for children, and more.

MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

LIRS provides employment and case management services to refugees, asylees, and other immigrants with the goal of economic self-sufficiency through employment within six months of enrollment.

SERVICES FOR OLDER REFUGEES

The Services for Older Refugees Program ensures that refugees aged 60 and older have access to applicable services for the aging and provides qualifying newcomers with appropriate services not currently available in the community—supporting physical and emotional health, integration into new communities, and independent living.

REFUGEE AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RAPP)

RAPP equips refugees with the skills necessary to improve their livelihoods and attain economic self-sufficiency through increased knowledge and skills in agriculture and food systems. Participants receive training and technical assistance in farming production techniques as well as farming safety, health, and nutrition. Access to plots of land puts newly learned skills into practice, and participants receive business-related training in retail, developing business plans, and financial literacy.

LIRS is the largest faith-based national nonprofit dedicated to immigration and refugee resettlement in the United States.



A FORMER SUDANESE REFUGEE, FARGO RESIDENT MATUOR DOT ALIER OPENS DOORS FOR OTHERS BY SERVING ON THE LIRS BOARD.

75%

of LIRS North Dakota staff are immigrants or former refugees

"WE ARRIVED IN THE COUNTRY OF SAFETY...WE WERE SO HAPPY."

Sharif and Khadeeja, Syrian refugees resettled by LIRS ND

In March of 2021, following the closure of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, LIRS opened a field office in Fargo for the purposes of resettling refugees.

445

individuals served as of May 2023



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service