

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

Refugees have fled religious, political, or ethnic persecution and have been granted legal resident status as refugees by the United States government. Refugees undergo a rigorous approval process before being allowed to come to the United States. They often come with very little besides the clothes on their back and hope for the future.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES

Refugees who arrive in the United States are eligible for assistance through a refugee resettlement agency, such as Refugee Empowerment Center. The agencies assist with housing, English language learning, employment and temporary financial assistance.

REFUGEE EMPOWEMENT CENTER

REC is a refugee resettlement agency, meaning we welcome new arrivals and start them on their path towards self-sufficiency. Our goal is to help clients maximize their potential in the United States by linking them to critical resources, increasing skills necessary for economic advancement, developing social support networks, and achieve a better life for themselves and their children.



Refugee Empowerment Center



INTERESTED IN RENTING TO REFUGEES? CONTACT:

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RENTING TO REFUGEES

Information for Property
Owners & Management
Companies

SCREENING CRITERIA

Newly arrived refugees face barriers to renting when property management screenings rely on documentation that refugees do not typically have access to. Although refugees do not have “usual documentation,” they can provide evidence of legal status, reliable income, and have agency support to help resolve any tenant-landlord issues that might arise.

The chart lists typical screening criteria used by property management agencies and provides information about equivalent documentation that can be used to verify eligibility of refugees for housing.

SCREENING CRITERIA	USUAL DOCUMENTATION	EQUIVALENT REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION
CRIMINAL HISTORY	CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK	Refugees have been screened by the Department of Homeland Security prior to being admitted as a refugee. A I-94 card shows that an individual was admitted as a refugee and/or Employment Authorization Document (EAD) tells you that the holder has passed extensive background checks, are in the country legally, are legally authorized to work, and receive public benefits.
ABILITY TO PAY RENT	INCOME VERIFICATION CREDIT CHECK	While refugees arrive with no credit history and without employment, they are eligible for cash assistance when they arrive in the U.S. Cash assistance programs are designed to pay for housing costs for at least four months, and in some cases, up to eight months or until the family’s earned income exceeds the income limit for continued assistance. The case management agency can provide you with a written estimate of assistance for each family.
RENTAL HISTORY	LANDLORD REFERENCE	Although refugees do not have rental history in the U.S., case management agencies can provide you with an agency contact who can assist with emergencies and help resolve tenant-landlord issues. They have access to case managers, interpreters, volunteers and orientations to help acclimate to life in the U.S.

FAQ’S

HOW DO REFUGEES PAY RENT?

REC provides the deposit, pays application fees, and three to eight months rent (depending on an individuals grant type). REC also helps refugees set up utilities in their name.

HOW DOES REC HELP NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES?

REC provides case management services to newly arrived refugees starting at the airport pick up. Initial services include housing, furnishings, food, clothing, community orientation, and help finding employment. 90% of our REC refugees are employed within the first 90 days of arrival.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED TO COMMUNICATE AN ISSUE ABOUT A REFUGEE CLIENT STAYING AT MY RENTAL PROPERTY?

REC case workers and staff will be assisting refugees placed in your rental property. Staff is available to answer any questions and provide additional support to your property management staff.

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