



Welcome To Illinois

Supporting New
Arrivals,
Refugees, and
Asylees in IL



What is Welcome To Illinois?

- ❑ Consortium of non-profits and community-based organizations that have come together to support people who have been dropped off by bus from TX.
- ❑ There are also people coming to IL not only by bus, but other ways as well. Most recently, during the last week in April, 71 people arrived at O'Hare.
- ❑ Welcome To Illinois website can be found here:

<https://welcometoil.org/>

Arrival Estimates

- ❑ 108 buses have arrived in the Chicago area.
- ❑ 5,146 people have arrived, as of May 1st.
- ❑ 11 shelters in Chicago have been housing individuals and 11 shelters in the suburbs have been housing families.

Numbers are
fluctuating
with arrivals...
Why?

- ❑ Title 42 public health order was in place as of Dec. 21, 2022.
- ❑ DHS announced on Jan. 6, 2023 the following:

Nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, and their immediate family members, may request to come to the United States in a safe and orderly way. Qualified beneficiaries who are outside the United States and lack U.S. entry documents may be considered, on a case-by-case basis. They need to have a supporter in the United States. Source: <https://www.uscis.gov/CHNV>

Updated Announcement on May 11, 2023:

Source: News Conference with DHS Secretary Mayorkas:

Where are
people
coming from?

- Venezuela
- Ukraine
- Afghanistan
- Cuba
- Haiti
- Nicaragua

Why are people coming?

- Leaving war torn country
- Persecution related to religion, race, ethnicity
- Fear of safety
- Looking for economic stability

Who are we supporting?
Nuances between the status/titles given to individuals...

- ❑ **Asylee** - a person who has also fled their country due to the fear of being persecuted, possible war in their home country. (Seek documentation in their country of destination).
- ❑ **Refugee** - a person who has fled their country and can't return due to the fear of being persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality. Once their application is accepted, they may be cleared to travel to their destination country. *Explain: "lily pad concept."
- ❑ **Migrant** - a person who has left their country of origin purely for financial or economic reasons (for example, seasonal agricultural workers).

Lily Pad Concept Source: Rishan Habte, Lutheran Social Services Program Officer

Source: <https://www.lirs.org/refugees-asylum-seekers-migrants-whats-the-difference/#:~:text=An%20economic%20migrant%20is%20different,not%20flee%20because%20of%20persecution>

Steps on coming to the U.S. as a new arrival.

There are numerous entities involved in bringing **Refugees** to the United States including:

UNHCR=UN High Commissioner Refugees

USCIS=US Citizenship & Immigrant Service

IOM=International Organization for Migration

BPRM=Bureau of Population Refugees & Migration

ORR=Office of Refugee Resettlement

10 Resettlement Agencies within the U.S.

Asylees are going through a vetting process at the border prior to being sent via TX buses, and now airplanes.

How can we support asylees, refugees, and new arrivals?

- Housing access – shelter and permanent
- Food – grocery store access
- Travel – how to use public transport
- Jobs – how to connect with networks, local hiring
- ESL – classes at community colleges
- School – enrollment for children
- Healthcare – medical and mental healthcare access

Literacy Minnesota

Youtube link here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx-YHG72FxE&list=PL-NrZkT8VAsYlyi4hMgy9ojAjJv5Ssp0i&index=29&t=3s>

Example of
working with
New Arrivals

Important things to consider for staff and instructors when working with asylees and refugees:
Trauma & Stress

4 Stressors Instructors

May Notice:

- Traumatic Stress
- Resettlement Stress
- Acculturation Stress
- Isolation Stress

Source:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/bilingual/pd/pp/newcomer16/CreatingTraumaInformedEnvironmentforELLs.pdf>

Key takeaways for creating support when working with refugees and asylees because stress can manifest in many ways.

- Welcoming environment
- Patience with language barriers
- Connecting to information and networks
- Creating consistency and routine
- Finding relatable materials to real world examples

Resource:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JD7Ttp11DZewMsaHynwgoe9T5lfBoTPXlZWaXH4rLug/edit#gid=26112289>

These are currently being released into the field.

Business size card are available in 4 languages:

- Spanish
- Farsi
- Ukrainian
- Haitian Creole

“Free English classes for adults”

Resources

Refugees by state – IL is on page 8:

<https://www.wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals/>

Resources from Welcome To Illinois Group:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1O-BRhU_tlOOyYDXe-wsQnxbxG5EgHrH

Illinois Benefits / Programs for Migrants:

(Hard copies on table from Shriver Center on Poverty Law) *Can email pdf.

Resources on teaching Adult ELL students provided by ALRC:

(Hard copies on table from Adult Learning Resource Center) *Can email pdf.

Questions?

If I can't answer your questions,
I will find and answer.

Thank you so much for your
time today!

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