

ACF's Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program

Through its network of providers, the URM program serves some of the most vulnerable children and youth in the world — those who fled persecution, violence, or abuse, and entered the United States without a parent or custodian. The program provides foster care and other living arrangements, as well as the necessary care and services to help the minors develop appropriate skills to transition to adulthood.

Individuals Served Determined by Congressional Authority

- Refugees
- Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJs)
- Victims of Trafficking and derivatives of T-visa recipients
- Asylees
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolees
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees
- U Status Recipients

Client Services

- Placement in foster care/other living arrangements
- Case Management
- Family tracing/reunification
- Health/mental health care
- Cultural orientation/social adjustment
- English language training/education support
- Vocational training/career planning
- Independent living preparation
- Ethnic/religious heritage preservation
- Legal assistance on immigration cases

Quick Facts

- The URM program offers the same range of child welfare benefits and services available to other foster care children.
- Since the 1970s, the URM program has served thousands of children and youth.
- Most enter the URM program between the ages of 15-17.
- State-administered program: 14 states and the District of Columbia are funded through ORR's Cash and Medical Assistance grant (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/cma>) to administer the URM Program.

Pathways into the URM Program

Youth can potentially enter the program through two pathways: 1) Through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, where refugee youth are processed overseas for resettlement to the U.S.; or 2) By being physically present in the U.S. and identified as a possible candidate, which may include children in ORR's Unaccompanied Children Program. In order to qualify, youth need to fall under one of the categories listed above. These non-refugee applications are submitted to ORR and eligibility is determined based on the URM program's congressional authority. ORR approval is then needed.

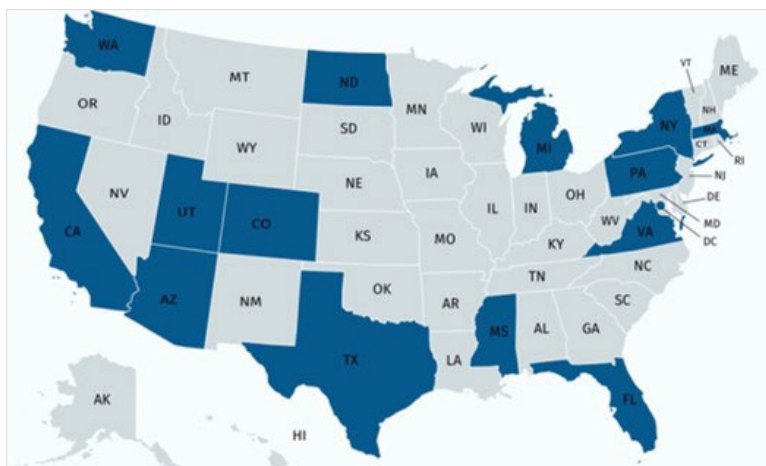
For both pathways, appropriate placement is found for the youth, and travel arrangements are made. Services begin upon a youth's arrival to the URM program location. Depending on the state, typically youth are eligible for foster care placement until age 21. However, youth may still be eligible to receive transition to adulthood benefits and services up until age 23, and support for education and/or vocational training could extend even further in some states, potentially until age 26.

Caseload

Youth represent approximately 50 nationalities. The highest representation is from Guatemala, Honduras, Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma, and Afghanistan.



Nearly 2,000 youth are served annually in: AZ, CA, CO, DC, FL, MA, MI, MS, ND, NY, PA, TX, UT, VA, and WA.



Learn more: www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/urm

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Updated December 2022