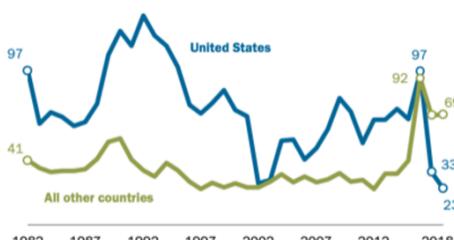


Presidential Determination

Each October, the President issues the Presidential Determination of the number of refugees to be admitted into the United States during the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) and the specific admission categories. FFY 2021's Presidential Determination allows for the admission of up to 15,000 refugees – a more than 80% reduction from previous administration's annual ceilings. The Presidential Determination include specific admission categories including those who have suffered or fear persecution on the basis of religion, Iraqis whose lives have been endangered by their assistance to the United States, and those from El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras. There is an "other" category restricted to specific refugee groups such as those referred for resettlement by a U.S. Embassy. Notably excluded from these categories are those in Africa suffering from one of the most volatile and long-lasting crises in the world today and who have consisted of 48% of individuals resettled in Tennessee in the last four years.

U.S. trailed rest of world in refugee resettlement in 2017 and 2018 after leading it for decades

Number of refugee admissions, in thousands, by calendar year



Note: Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees data, accessed June 12, 2019.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

U.S. trailed rest of world in refugee resettlement after leading it for decades.

Source: Pew Research Center

New Administration

On January 20, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were inaugurated as President and Vice President of the United States. While there are many unknowns about how the new administration's policies will impact refugee resettlement services, President Biden has expressed his intention to raise the Presidential Determination to a ceiling of 125,000 refugees next year, and to raise the current year's Presidential Determination to 62,500 individuals. The revised 2020 Presidential Determination is awaiting the President's signature. Refugee advocates and service providers have provided recommendations to the president's administration to raise the ceiling of admitted refugees, as well as to expand the categories for admission. Regardless of any change in the Presidential Determination, COVID-19 is expected to continue to impact overseas processing and travel through the summer of 2021.

[Learn more about the Future of Refugee Resettlement in our blog](#)

Overseas Processing and Travel

Refugees that meet the admission categories under the current FFY Presidential Determination and are ready to travel are doing so as flights are available. Refugees traveling to the United States will receive COVID-19 testing within 72 hours prior to departure and refugees with positive test results will not be cleared to travel until the CDC-recommended isolation period of at least ten days is complete. Refugees will be assessed for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to departure and refugees with symptoms will not be cleared to travel until a ten-day isolation period is complete. Those with close contact with a person with COVID-19 will not be cleared to travel until the CDC-recommended 14-day quarantine is complete. Refugees are encouraged to observe a 14-day stay at home period upon arrival in the U.S. As the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, it will be integrated into the existing immunization process for refugees traveling to the U.S.



Director of Federal Resettlement Office Announced

Cindy Huang has been named the new Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. This position is filled by Presidential appointment. The Office of Refugee Resettlement is a department of the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We are eager to welcome Cindy Huang into the role and look forward to a partnership dedicated to helping refugees rebuild their lives and achieve their full potential.

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