



Information about the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)



The USRAP offers refugees the chance to begin a new life legally in the United States. It is a **voluntary and free program**. You decide whether or not you want to apply for U.S. resettlement consideration.



The Resettlement Support Center East Asia, known as the RSC, is based in Bangkok, Thailand and managed by the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The United States Government contracts with IRC to assist refugees with their refugee application to be considered for resettlement in the United States.

The RSC will prepare your case for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) interview by collecting and verifying information about you and your family.

It is important that you provide RSC your most updated contact information. If you cannot make it for your interview, please inform RSC.



All immediate family members living with you must be present at the RSC interview. After the interview, if there are changes in your family composition (marriage, death, birth) you should inform RSC as soon as possible and provide any new documents.



What should I bring to my RSC interview?

Please bring the following to your interview:

- *Refugee registration documents*
- *Birth certificate(s) (if available)*
- *Marriage/divorce certificate(s) (if available)*
- *Hospital and medical documents (if applicable)*
- *Birth/death certificate(s) (if applicable)*
- *School records, diplomas or training certificates (if available)*
- *If you have friends or family member(s) living in the U.S. and want to live near them, bring their name, address and telephone number. **It is not necessary to have family members in the U.S. to be accepted in the resettlement program.***



Do I have to bring my entire family to the RSC interview?

Yes! All immediate family members living with you must be at the RSC interview in person. If anyone in the family cannot be at the interview for any reason, please discuss with RSC.

What if I don't know the answer to an interview question?

It is important that you are truthful at your interviews throughout the process and you do not make up any information. If you do not know, simply tell your RSC interviewer that you do not know. If you do not understand the question, please ask for clarification. Please make sure that you have good communication with your interpreter.

What happens next?

After your RSC interview, you will be scheduled for an interview with the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS).



Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

A U.S. Department of Homeland Security officer will review the file prepared by RSC. The officer will interview you to determine if you are eligible for resettlement in the United States in accordance with U.S. law. **Only the DHS officer determines eligibility for U.S. resettlement.**



At your DHS interview:

- Always tell the truth.
- If you are found to have lied to a U.S. DHS officer you may be ineligible for U.S. resettlement.
- Don't be nervous. Although interviewing with a DHS officer may seem scary, they are there to ask you about your history.
- If you do not understand the question, ask the officer to repeat the question or say you do not understand. Do not make up stories or exaggerate your claim.
- The interview will take approximately 1 to 2 hours. Every case is different and length of time for an interview may vary.



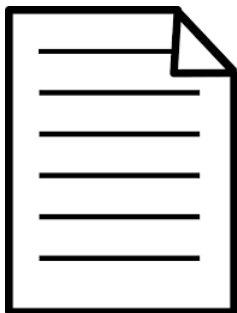
Frequently Asked Questions about DHS

When will I know if I am accepted to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program?

Following your interview with a DHS officer, RSC will distribute your DHS decision letter. In some cases, DHS may tell you that they need additional time to review your case before they can issue a final decision.

Do I have to bring my entire family to the DHS interview?

Yes! All immediate family members living with you, including young children, must be at the DHS interview in person. If anyone in the family cannot be at the interview for any reason, please discuss with RSC.



What happens if I receive a DHS decision letter telling me I am not eligible?

If you are found not eligible by the DHS officer, you have 90 days to appeal by providing a written statement containing information about why your case should be reconsidered.



Frequently Asked Questions about the USRAP Process



Who should I contact if I missed my RSC or DHS interview?

Please contact RSC to let us know your current phone number and location so that we can arrange for new interview date.

I don't have any family in the U.S. Can I resettle by myself?

Yes, you can resettle on your own. Resettlement is your choice. You do not need to have family or friends in the U.S. in order to be considered for resettlement. There are thousands of refugees from around the world who have succeeded in the U.S. without knowing anyone there!



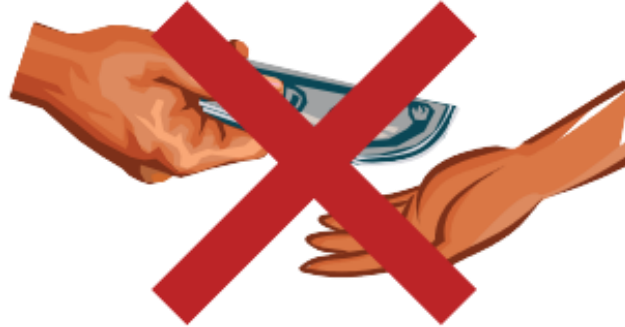
Do men have to serve in the army?

No. Every man between the ages of 18 and 26 is required to sign up for the 'selective service'. This does not mean that they sign up to fight in the army. The selective service is a pool of healthy and able young men who can be called to duty in the case of a draft. The United States has not had a draft in over thirty years. If you want to join the army, you can, but it is your choice.

Do I have to pay back the cost of my resettlement?

Refugees are required to pay back the cost of their airplane tickets. Other services – medical checks and interviews - are FREE! Refugees begin to repay the cost of the airplane ticket three to six months after arrival in the U.S. The government gives you 3.5 years (42 months) to pay off this interest-free loan. For the majority of refugees, this is a way to establish a good credit history as someone who is trustworthy and pays their bills on time. After you establish a good credit history, you will be able to borrow money from a bank for college or to buy a house.





Processing for the U.S. Resettlement is **Free**.

Payment of money to persons or organizations will:

- **NOT** provide access to the resettlement program
- **NOT** speed up your case
- **NOT** be beneficial

Please report any requests for payment or other fraud related concerns directly to the RSC East Asia. You may report via e-mail to:
ReportUSRAPFraud@Rescue.org



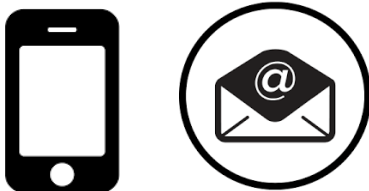
Important Reminders

Be on time for your appointments. If you miss one, talk to RSC staff about rescheduling as soon as possible.



Always tell the truth. If you do not know the answer to a question, say so. You should not make up answers.

Be honest about your age, marital status and family composition and report any changes promptly.



Let RSC know if there are changes in your contact information.

Bring all of your family's available documents to the interview.

