



Empowering refugees
and immigrants
since 1983

Do you desire to make a difference and ensure that your community is welcoming to newcomers?

Begin by educating yourself and building skills!

ECDC, as one of nine national refugee resettlement agencies, aims at increasing public awareness and support for newcomers across the United States. The work of becoming more aware, culturally competent, and intentionally inclusive is a continuous process. ECDC has put together a list of resources (and will continue adding to it) that might be helpful for individuals and groups who are interested in getting involved in the refugee resettlement program in their community. The links to useful websites and videos are arranged into themes to help individuals find resources on the topics that interest them most.

The Refugee Resettlement Process

[The U.S. Department of State](#) – This website gives an overview of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program including the application and case processing steps that happen overseas and the Reception and Placement program provided upon arrival.

[The U.S. Refugee Processing Center](#) – This website contains information about the nine national resettlement agencies and where they are located as well as provides updated reports on admissions and arrivals by nationality and state where they are resettled.

[United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) – This website contains news about recent trends in global displacement as well as personal stories of refugees. They publish “The Refugee Brief” newsletter that supporters can subscribe to get weekly refugee-related media reports.

[Colorado Refugee Connect](#) – This website contains a number of concise videos covering the definition of refugees and the process of refugee resettlement. It also has recommended books and movies that showcase the refugee experience.

[Understanding the Refugee Resettlement Process](#) - This archived webinar on Switchboard contains links to an [animated video](#) that explains the process using the story of a particular family from flight to arrival and integration.

[The Refugee Project](#) – This website contains an interactive map that shows trends in refugee data from 2010-2018.

[Resettlement & Asylum](#) – Refugee Council USA’s website clearly explains the difference between refugees and asylum seekers and outlines the steps in each process.

[The Refugee Storytellers Collective](#) – This project of Refugee Congress features video and written interviews with refugees who tell their stories of integration and community contribution.

[Salam Neighbor Documentary](#) - This film provides a first-hand look inside Jordan’s Za’atari refugee camp where 85,000 Syrian refugees are located.

Community Involvement in Refugee Resettlement

[This Land is Your Land](#) – UNHCR produced a series of stories in short videos and in writing that profile Americans from different walks of life who are taking action to welcome refugees.

[Resettled: A Human Journey](#) – ECDC’s DC metro office produces this podcast which tells the stories of individuals who are involved in different aspects of supporting refugees.

[Cultural Orientation Resources for Community Partners and Sponsors](#) – The Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange (CORE), created this page to support community members to deliver effective Cultural Orientation. Cultural Orientation is a continuous and ongoing process for newcomers resettling to the United States. As such, opportunities to deliver key Cultural Orientation messages are not limited to resettlement staff. Receiving communities, including sponsors, also play an important role in delivering key Cultural Orientation messages. This page provides resources for community partners and sponsors, including materials to use with newcomers.

[Ethical Storytelling](#) – Church World Service provides webinars for community volunteers which are recorded and available to the public. This is one example but there are many more on CWS’s website.

[The Welcoming Standard](#) – Welcoming America has partnered with communities across the U.S. and developed seven framework categories that make up the Welcoming Standard. Their website provides resources for getting started and stories of impact.

[Building and Sustaining Community Collaborations for Refugee Welcome: A Community Engagement Toolkit](#) – This resource is available for download from Welcoming America. It was created to help resettlement organizations and community groups assess their strengths and gaps and then develop new strategies for fostering a sense of welcome in their communities.

[Building Welcoming Schools: A Guide for K-12 Educators and After-School Providers](#) – This resource is available for download from Welcoming America. It was created to help educators engage students in activities that broaden awareness of similarities and differences and build connections.

[Welcoming Refugees through Community Sponsorship](#) – Refugee Council USA has produced a short video that shows the benefits and importance of community sponsorship.

Building Inclusive Mindsets

[Talking about Race and Racism](#) – This series of blog posts published by ECDC are geared to preparing resettlement agency staff to talk about race with refugee clients, but the content is helpful for anyone looking to build awareness of privilege and inequity. Links to many additional resources are included.

[Test Yourself for Hidden Bias](#) – Shared on Learning for Justice’s website, this is an interactive survey by Harvard’s Project Implicit which measures unconscious biases. Examining implicit bias is an important step in dismantling all forms of discrimination.

[Social Justice Standards](#) – Created by Learning for Justice (formerly Teaching Tolerance), these standards are a guide for anti-bias education from grades K-12. The standards are divided into four domains – identity, diversity, justice, and action.

[Racial Equity Resources & Referrals](#) – The Interaction Institute for Social Change provides a list of other organizations who provide consulting and training services as well as links to other toolkits.

[Racial Equity Tools](#) – This website has tools, research, tips and curricula for people who want to increase their understanding and work toward racial justice.

[The Danger of a Single Story](#) – This TED talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a Nigerian-American woman writer, describes her personal experiences with stereotypes and bias.

Thanks for your interest! We are excited to partner with you to create welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities across the U.S. Contact us to learn more at info@ecdCUS.org.