



## Resources for Immigrant and Refugee Communities of Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank offers helpful community resources for food assistance and more! Go to <https://rifoodbank.org> to learn more.

Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island and the Diocese of Providence are the two official resettlement agencies in Rhode Island. They help find a place to live, get healthcare, enroll in school, find a job, and apply for [DHS benefits](#).



Both organizations provide client-centered services, advocacy and opportunities based on expertise in family literacy and adult education, employment services, refugee resettlement, translation, interpretation, U.S. citizenship, and immigration services.

Dorcas: Phone: 401-784-8600 Website: [info@diiri.org](mailto:info@diiri.org)

Diocese: Phone: 401-278-2530 Email: [ngonzalezdioceseofprovidence.org](mailto:ngonzalezdioceseofprovidence.org)



Americans Helping Other Americans Prosper (AHOPE) is a volunteer-based organization created to assist new Syrian and other refugees. They are dedicated to helping families integrate into American society. AHOPE is an entirely volunteer based organization. <https://www.ahoperi.com/>



The Refugee Dream Center is a post resettlement refugee agency. They offer referrals, social assistance, and skills development such as English language education for adults, health promotion, cultural orientation, youth mentoring, and case management. <http://www.refugeedreamcenter.org/>



Women's Refugee Care provides services and support to refugee families from the Great Lakes Region of Africa (Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda) who reside in Rhode Island. WRC has a special focus on women, girls and promoting gender equality. <https://www.womensrefugeecare.org/mission>



Beautiful Day onramps to employment and economic self-sufficiency for refugees through business innovation. <https://beautifuldayri.org>

**Citizenship:**

All refugees are required to apply for a green card to become a permanent resident after one year in the United States. After 5 years of residency, they become eligible to apply for [U.S. citizenship](#).

**Housing**

There are two options when considering renting including renting from a private landlord or renting from subsidized housing. Visit [RI Housing](#) to learn more.

**Education:**

By law, children aged 5-18 must be in school. Contact your town or city school district to register your child for school. You will need proof of the child's age, proof of where you live, and the child's immunization records.

**English Instruction:**

Learning the English language is an essential skill. Many institutions around Rhode Island offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for all ages and at every level. Some programs include:

- [RIDE Rhode Island Department of Education](#)
- [Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island](#)
- [CCRI Adult Education](#)
- [Catholic Social Services of RI](#)

**Employment and Training:**

[EmployRI](#) offers employment services, educational services, and economic opportunities.

**Public Safety:**

If you are having a medical emergency or in danger, call 911. An emergency operator will immediately send the fire department, the police, or an ambulance.

**Emotional Wellness:**

Everyone can experience stress regardless of age, gender, or background. The state offers programs that help support refugees with emotional, psychological, and physical trauma. Go to: [Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare](#) or [Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals \(BHDDH\)](#).

**Family Harmony:**

Domestic violence should not happen to anybody no matter gender, race, or origin. For help:

- [RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#), Phone: 1-800-494-8100
- [Dept. of Health - Health and Wellness](#)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline, Phone: 1-800-799-7233

**Transportation:**

For information on obtaining a driver's license or for RIPTA public transportation visit:

- [Licenses and Drivers Education](#)
- [Rhode Island Public Transit Authority \(RIPTA\)](#)

**Legal Help:**

- Low-cost help can be found at [immigrationlawhelp.org](#).
- The immigration courts have a list of lawyers and organizations that provide free legal services at [justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers-map](#).
- The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild has an online find-a-lawyer tool at <https://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/find.html>.