

REFUGEES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS

65,000

refugees in Utah

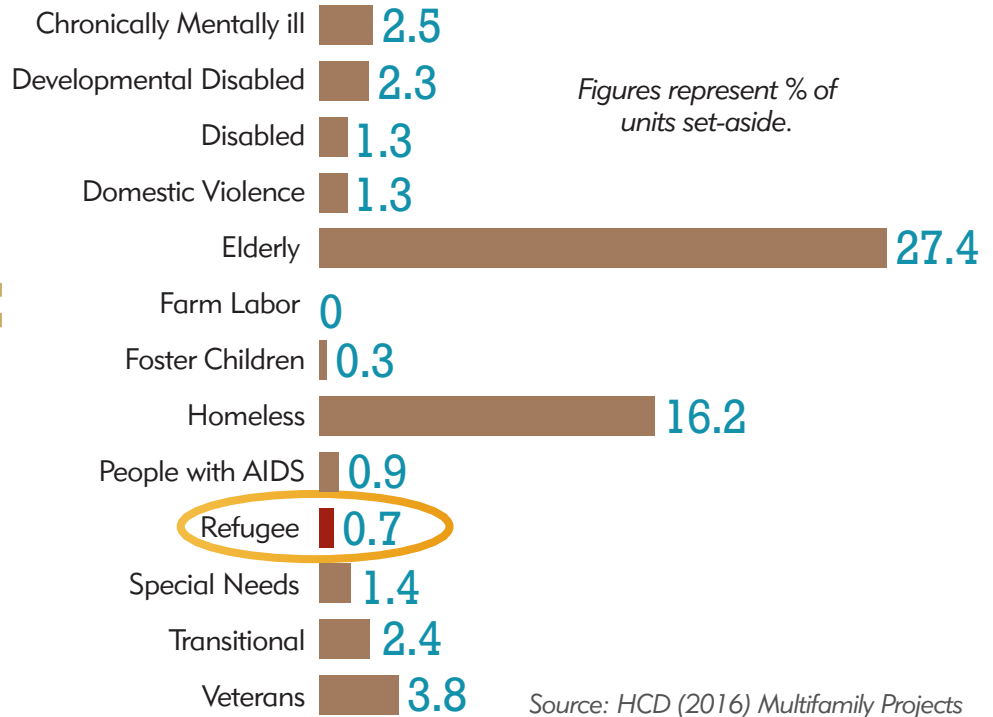
Approximately

800

refugees resettle in **UTAH** each year



DESIGNATED AFFORDABLE UNITS BY POPULATION



The United States has a shortage of



Utah has a shortage of



americanjobcenter



refugee.utah.gov

BENEFITS OF RENTING TO REFUGEES



42%

of all Utah renter households reside in Salt Lake County.

Source: State of Utah Affordable Housing Assessment 2017 (<https://jobs.utah.gov/housing/publications/documents/affordablehousingreport.pdf>)

- Landlords gain access to high-quality potential tenants, which can contribute to fewer vacancies and shorter vacancy periods.
- Tenants receive initial financial support from local resettlement offices and state programs.
- Tenants receive regular home visits, home maintenance education and cleaning supplies.
- Tenants have access to case management support and interpretation services.
- Refugee tenants are typically seeking stability and are often long-term tenants.
- Tenants understand a lease and understand their obligations related to maintenance, payments, security deposit, etc.
- Tenants receive support from their resettlement agency in the event of any issue of concern, including mediation if necessary.

Landlords have the opportunity to make a difference — by giving refugees a safe environment, allowing them to build a rental history and establish themselves in the United States.

FAQs

LANDLORD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it required to give background checks to newly arrived refugees?

Some standard rental application requirements are prohibitive to refugees, including verifiable rental history, employment history and credit scores. Fair housing law does not specifically prohibit housing providers from making exceptions to their policies or practices to work with refugee resettlement programs to ensure equal housing opportunity for persons seeking to resettle in the United States. (Source: Fair Housing Center of West Michigan)

What exceptions can I make for refugees?

Some exceptions might include a consistent policy of waiving credit requirements to allow a lease for refugees working with a resettlement program, not requiring landlord references for time spent overseas, and to allow for shorter lease terms due to resettlement program requirements or restrictions.

How do I verify refugees' history?

Each refugee is thoroughly screened by the United Nations and a number of United States-based government organizations, including the FBI, CIA and NSA, prior to receiving their refugee status designation and being allowed to enter the country. They arrive with an assigned Alien Number, which they then use to apply for their Social Security card.

How are refugees supported?

Newly arriving refugees receive 24 months of case management services from resettlement agencies. The tenants have access to employment counseling services to find, keep and reach employment goals. Tenants have regular home visits, home maintenance education and supplies to manage their homes. Tenants have support from refugee communities and agencies to help them learn life skills, solve problems and comply with lease agreements.