

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County's Position on Refugee Resettlement

The new administration's stance on refugee resettlement and the suspension of incoming refugees presents significant challenges to our mission and those we serve. Catholic Charities remains committed to our core values: welcoming refugees, honoring the infinite value of every person, and upholding the belief that humanity cannot be labeled. Refugees who come to our doors are fleeing for their lives. For them, resettlement is not just an opportunity for a better life—it is a matter of survival.

Here is where we stand:

Prepared, but vigilant: Changes in national policies have already begun and will continue to unfold, and we have been preparing for these policy changes, including the indeterminate suspension of incoming refugees. We continue to work with partners and funders on the provision of this critical service.

Resettlement is more than airport arrivals: Refugee resettlement is an extensive process. Services such as case management are provided for up to five years after arrival. Last year alone, Catholic Charities supported 2,000 refugees, half of whom arrived in previous years. Their needs — navigating new lives, mastering a new language, and securing employment — are ongoing.

Humanity is not up for debate: Refugee resettlement is a humanitarian crisis. Our commitment is to provide safety, dignity, and hope to refugees who had no choice but to flee their home countries.

We need your help now: The scope of our work now relies more than ever on individual support. With reductions in government funding, we call on our community to help us continue serving refugees in Syracuse.

Refugees are a part of our community, and we are all better for it. As you read this, there are refugees in Syracuse who will indefinitely remain separated from loved family members. We ask you to stand with us and with your neighbors.

You can help. Please join us and make a gift to Catholic Charities in our commitment to serve refugees.

Catholic Charities leadership is hosting a Zoom meeting to discuss this situation, our agency's needs in providing resettlement services, and answer questions. **This virtual session will be held on Tuesday, March 4 at noon.** Register at ccoc.us/giving/refugees.

Creating Hope, Transforming Lives

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