



Catholic Community Services of Utah's Migration and Refugee Services department is dedicated to assisting refugees and migrants in Utah. Refugees who arrive in Utah enter with full lawful status. The CCS Refugee Resettlement Program helps the refugees resettled by CCS access the state and federal benefits to which they are entitled by law.

There is often confusion between refugees and asylum seekers. Asylees and refugees must both prove that they fled their home countries due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Refugees prove that they meet this definition prior to arrival and asylum seekers request an opportunity to prove they meet the definition of a refugee upon their entry into the United States.

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: "Since his inaugural trip to Lampedusa, Pope Francis has worked to highlight the dignity of migrants. He has consistently spoken out on the plight of immigrants and called people to stand in solidarity with them. In his message before the United States Congress in 2015, he stated: "We must not be taken aback by their [migrants] numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation. To respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal."The CCS Immigration Program stands in solidarity with our sister Catholic Charity programs who serve migrants at the border regardless of status. Our Immigration Program is working with all types of migrants. These individuals are often the family members of U.S. citizens, refugees and lawful permanent residents and they request our trusted legal staff to guide them through the immigration process.

Services offered by the CCS Immigration Program include weekly information sessions for asylum seekers, the filing of applications for benefits like family unity, legal permanent residence, U.S. citizenship and status for victims of a domestic violence, human trafficking and other serious crimes. Our attorneys also represent migrants, including the migrant children placed with our Refugee Foster Care program, in Immigration Court. Our Migration and Refugee Services department works to implement the 'Welcome the Stranger' Catholic Social Teaching principles as taught by Pope Francis and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

To learn more about Catholic Community Services of Utah's Migration and Refugee Services department, please contact Aden Batar, Migration and Refugee Services Director, at abatar@ccsutah.org.