

# FACT SHEET FOR UKRAINIANS AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN IMMIGRANTS

## Background

As a result of the escalation of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine that began in February 2022, [over 8 million estimated individuals](#) have fled Ukraine to neighboring European countries, with the numbers of displaced increasing as the conflict continues, as demonstrated by the map below.

Countries Covered Under UNICEF Response\*



While European countries (especially Poland, Romania, Moldova, and Hungary) have accepted the largest numbers of families from Ukraine, many have also sought temporary safe haven in the United States through the federal [Uniting for Ukraine \(U4U\) program](#). The U4U program, through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), was launched in April 2022 to provide temporary humanitarian parole for up to two years for families from Ukraine with financial sponsors in the U.S. Since the launch of this program, over 116,000 individuals from Ukraine have been paroled into the U.S.

On May 21, 2022, President Biden signed the [Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act \(AUSAA\)](#), conferring eligibility for all Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs), for mainstream federal benefits as well as resettlement services funded by the Office Refugee Resettlement (ORR), as further described in [Policy Letter 22-13](#). This includes families from Ukraine paroled between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2023 through the U4U program or previously on the Southern Border. UHPs paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and May 21, 2022 have an adjusted date of eligibility of May 21, 2022, all others paroled after May 21, 2022 are eligible as of the date of their parole and entry into the U.S. UHPs are eligible until the end of their parole period, or until they gain another ORR-eligible category or status (such as asylum).

Ukrainian refugees may also continue to be resettled through the federal [Lautenberg Program](#), created in 1989 to resettle members of religious minorities from former Soviet republics, based on the program's capacity and family ties of applicants, who must meet all eligibility requirements. This includes screening procedures which often require an average of 18-24 months to complete. As refugee resettlement is a permanent durable solution for those who cannot either return home or be protected where they currently reside, this may not be the most appropriate pathway for those seeking temporary safe harbor until they can return to Ukraine. Through this program, the U.S. has welcomed more than [50,000 refugees](#) from Ukraine since 2001, the largest source of European refugee admissions to the U.S. over the past two decades. This includes 1,610 refugees since October 2021, 12 to Maryland as of September 2022.



## Next Steps for Ukrainian Nationals and Others Seeking Refuge

Nationals from Ukraine who are abroad and seeking temporary safe haven and/or resettlement in the U.S. may inquire through several pathways:

- The [U.S. Department of State](#) (DOS) has information on various options including visa processing, emergency assistance, and refugee applications, including the Lautenberg Program. Please note that per the DOS, “a visa is not a viable way to achieve refugee resettlement in the U.S.”, and does not confer eligibility for federal benefits.
- The [USCIS Uniting for Ukraine website](#) describes the process for U.S.-based sponsors to apply for the Uniting for Ukraine program on behalf of beneficiaries from Ukraine. This involves filing Form I-134 Declaration of Financial Support, available on the USCIS website.
  - The [Welcome Connect website](#), helps potential U.S.-based sponsors and beneficiaries from Ukraine to connect.

For those already in the United States:

- Ukrainian nationals continuously residing in the U.S. since April 11, 2022 may be eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months - for more information see the [USCIS website](#). This includes those with expired humanitarian parole and those seeking permanent asylum. In addition, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced a temporary halt on deportations to Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia and Slovakia.
  - Note that TPS does not confer eligibility for benefits - nationals and asylum-seekers from Ukraine and other countries who have arrived in the U.S. on visas are not eligible for resettlement services and benefits. Additionally, those paroled from other countries outside the U4U program are not eligible for benefits or services.
- Individuals from Ukraine approved for humanitarian parole by USCIS are eligible for all resettlement services and benefits available to refugees, as well as mainstream public benefits, except for federal Reception & Placement services. See the ORR website for a list of available resettlement services, and contact MORA for more information.
  - For those who received one year parole between February 24 - April 25, 2022

outside of the U4U program, they may be eligible to apply for a one-year extension of parole - see the USCIS U4U website under, [“Information for Ukrainians Paroled before Uniting for Ukraine”](#).

- Individuals from Ukraine and other countries may seek asylum as permanent pathway to resettlement and residency in the United States, as explained on the [USCIS Asylum website](#). This includes those whose temporary parole and eligibility for benefits has expired.

## Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees

Services administered by the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees (MORA) under the Department of Human Services (DHS) are available to populations deemed eligible by the federal [Office of Refugee Resettlement](#), including Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees. Please note, MORA has no role in the federal refugee resettlement process until individuals have received an eligible federal status and have established residence in Maryland.

Eligible clients may contact MORA or one of its service providers to enroll in services, including:

- Transitional Cash Assistance
- Health Screenings and Assistance
- Employment Services
- English Language and/or Vocational Training
- Services for youth, children, and elders, including afterschool programming and academic support
- Case Management
- Ukrainian Supplemental Assistance
- Other services

Families in need of assistance or those would like to help refugees who have already been resettled in Maryland are encouraged to contact the 3 Resettlement Agency (RA) affiliates in the state for support:

- [ECDC African Community Center DC Metro](#)
- [International Rescue Committee Baltimore](#) and [Silver Spring](#)
- [Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area \(LSSNCA\)](#)

See the [MORA website](#) for additional information and organizations to contact to receive support.

