

FACT SHEET FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Background

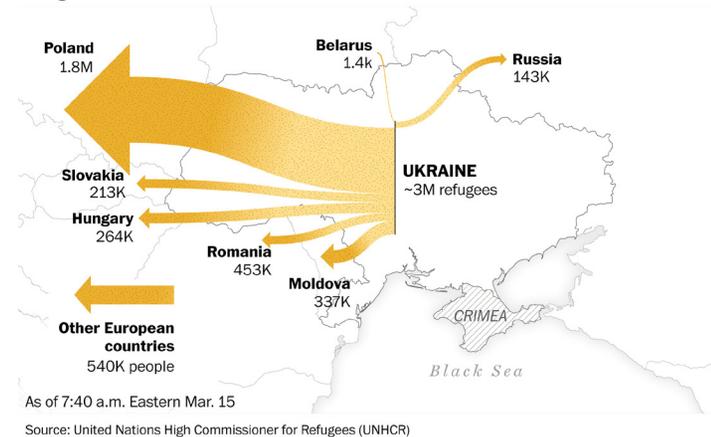
As a result of the escalation of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine that began in February 2022, [over 6 million estimated individuals](#) have fled Ukraine to neighboring European countries, with the numbers of displaced increasing as the conflict continues. While European countries (especially Poland, Romania, Moldova, and Hungary) have accepted the largest numbers of families from Ukraine, it is unclear how many of those will seek long-term resettlement opportunities in place of returning home in the future. The Department of State (DOS), the federal agency that leads refugee resettlement to the United States, expects that many Ukrainians will choose to remain in Europe close to family and their homes in Ukraine, while others will make their way to the U.S. through a variety of pathways.

On March 24, 2022, in response to the ongoing crisis, President Biden [announced](#) that the U.S. will welcome up to 100,000 Ukrainians and others fleeing the conflict through multiple pathways to receive temporary safe harbor, including parole and visas, as well as permanent resettlement through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). As a result, the federal [United for Ukraine](#) program was launched in April 2022 to provide temporary parole for two years for Ukrainians with financial sponsors in the U.S. Please note, parole does not confer refugee status or eligibility for federal resettlement benefits or services.

While United for Ukraine does not confer permanent residency in the U.S., refugees continue to be resettled through the USRAP 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 through the USRAP 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 home.

At the time of this writing, the administration has not announced any plans to expedite standard refugee processing for Ukrainian or other nationals. As such, a significant influx of Ukrainian refugees is not expected into Maryland at this time. Please note that as the situation in Europe remains uncertain, the future of resettlement of new refugee populations remains fluid as well.

Refugees arrivals from Ukraine since Feb. 24



The U.S. has also continued to process Ukrainian applicants under the [Lautenberg Program](#), created in 1989 to resettle members of religious minorities from former Soviet republics with family ties in the U.S. Through this program, the U.S. has welcomed more than [50,000 refugees from Ukraine](#) since Fiscal Year (FY) 2001, the largest source of European refugee admissions to the U.S. over the past two decades. This includes [809 refugees since October 2021](#), 12 to Maryland as of May 2022. It is expected that Ukrainian refugees who do come to the U.S. will travel to states with larger Ukrainian ethnic communities.



Next Steps for Ukrainian Nationals and Others Seeking Refuge

Ukrainian nationals (non-refugees) already residing in the U.S. on or before March 1, 2022 may be eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, or may seek assistance to apply for asylum - for more information see the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\) website](#). TPS is not available to those who travel to the U.S. after March 1. In addition, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced a temporary halt on deportations to Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia and Slovakia.

Ukrainian nationals abroad seeking travel to and/or resettlement in the United States may inquire through the [U.S. Department of State website](#) for a variety of options including visa processing, emergency assistance, and refugee applications. The State Department has announced that while Ukrainians can apply for a temporary visa at any American consulate, such visas are subject to currently limited processing capacity and wait-times of upwards of 90 days. Please note that per the DOS, “a visa is not a viable way to achieve refugee resettlement in the U.S.”

For Ukrainian nationals in Europe who may be eligible for the Uniting for Ukraine program, the first step is for a U.S.-based sponsor to file Form I-134 Declaration of Financial Support, available on the [USCIS website](#), in order to receive temporary safe harbor in the U.S. At this time, this parole does not grant eligibility for refugee services.

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 eligible individuals who have completed the federal resettlement process, including refugees resettled through USRAP, individuals who receive a federal asylum grant, and other populations deemed eligible by the federal [Office of Refugee Resettlement](#). Asylum-seekers and other visa-holders are not eligible for

services or state benefits, but may review a [list of organizations](#) in Maryland developed by the MD Asylee Outreach Project who support immigrants regardless of status.

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. See the [MORA website](#) for additional information.

How to Help Refugees from Ukraine and Other Countries

As the conflict in Ukraine continues, many individuals in the United States and Maryland have sought ways to help the Ukrainian people, both those in and outside the country. Many international organizations have organized efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, such as the Red Cross, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Doctors Without Borders, CARE, International Medical Corps, Save the Children, UNICEF, World Vision, and others. Individuals may contact these organizations directly to provide financial and other forms of support.

Those seeking immigration assistance for Ukrainian nationals, including family members, must contact the federal agencies referred to above, such as the Departments of State and Homeland Security/USCIS.

Those wishing to offer assistance to refugees who have already been resettled in Maryland, can contact the 3 Resettlement Agency affiliates in the state along with other refugee or immigrant organizations:

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

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