

# CWS | United States Programs



CWS has been welcoming people seeking asylum and refuge in the United States since the 1940s. From the moment refugee families arrive in the United States, we help meet their needs. We also make sure they have the information, skills and warm community welcome that they need to thrive.

In the halls of the U.S. Capitol, and in cities and towns across the U.S., we're standing for welcome. We're lifting refugee and immigrant voices to call for inclusive, supportive policies.

When a disaster happens, we also focus on supporting our vulnerable neighbors. Our emergency response efforts include immediate aid like CWS Kits and Blankets as well as a focus on long-term recovery.

In communities across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks provide grants to about 1,000 hunger-fighting agencies each year.

Join the movement to ensure that everyone can have food, voice and a safe place to call home.

## Refugee and Welcome Services

CWS is one of nine refugee resettlement agencies within the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. We have

a network of more than 30 offices across the United States to welcome our new neighbors home and provide ongoing services to support their integration. Through partnership with local communities and congregations, we ensure that each arriving family can access the services they need to thrive and become valued members of their new communities. We also support other agencies to expand the availability of housing and community sponsorship for refugees in the United States.

## Children Services

Tens of thousands of unaccompanied children seek refuge in the United States each year. Most are fleeing threats of violence in El Salvador, Guatemala or Honduras. When these children arrive, they are received and managed by Office of Refugee Resettlement. Once children are released from ORR custody into the care of a relative or a sponsor, it can be a tough transition. CWS Children Services caseworkers are registered and trained child social workers in a nationwide network of providers. They visit the homes prior to ensure that each placement is a safe and thriving environment for the child. Once the child is residing with their sponsor or relative, our team retains contact with the child and family to ensure that they are safe. Our teams then schedule another

follow-up visit (post-release) to ensure the child is fully in the best duty of care and making progress towards their goals.

## Asylum & Border Services

Humanitarian crises in countries worldwide force thousands of people to leave home in search of safety for themselves and their children. Many seek asylum in the United States. After people seeking asylum are released from U.S. custody, CWS respite shelter partners welcome them with open arms. Once asylum seekers have reunited with families nationwide, CWS case managers ensure that they have what they need to succeed. We also operate a nationwide hotline that people of any immigration status can call to get information on services available to them.

## Advocacy & Organizing

CWS' long-term goal is to see that refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants are treated equitably, with dignity and respect. Through our network of relationships and resettlement work, we know this goal is achievable. But it can't be done without advancing

national, state and local policies that expand our capacity to welcome, and it can't be done without building power among refugees and impacted leaders. Our advocacy and organizing work have powerful, transformation outcomes that impact millions of people. This work is led largely by staff who have lived experience. We equip our growing network of 2,000+ immigrant and refugee leaders to build collective power of their communities through engagement with policy makers, trainings on leadership development, community organizing, storytelling, and team building.

## U.S. Disaster Response

When disaster strikes, CWS responds to urgent needs in two key ways. In the hours and days after an emergency, we send vital material assistance to those that need them. By pre-positioning of life-saving supplies, CWS makes available and distributes Hygiene Kits, Emergency Cleanup Buckets, School Kits and Blankets from our distribution centers. We engage in the National VOAD coordination structure and offer support to responding agencies and partners on the ground. We ship tens of thousands of these supplies to disaster-struck areas per year and often second CWS staff at the community-level to help shorten the time between response and recovery. CWS works through the community and appointed representatives to ensure recovery champions can represent and respond to unmet needs with vulnerable groups throughout the disaster cycle. CWS always strives to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, including refugees and immigrants, and ensure they have access to resources and are connected to the help on the ground.

## CROP Hunger Walks

Every year, people in hundreds of communities across the United States take to the streets to raise awareness about global hunger and funds to fight it. Each Walk supports CWS global programs as well as offering grants to local hunger-fighting organizations. Each year, these CROP Hunger Walk grants support about 1,000 food banks, shelters and other programs nationwide.



Church World Service  
475 Riverside Dr., Suite 700  
New York, NY 10115  
[media@cwsglobal.org](mailto:media@cwsglobal.org)  
[www.cwsglobal.org](http://www.cwsglobal.org)