

I-RISE Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS I-RISE

Interfaith-RISE is a non-profit organization whose main initiative is to help eligible refugees, parolees and asylees become self sufficient. We provide case management and connect people to a variety of social, mental health, financial, and community services so they can become self sufficient and give back to their new local communities in NJ.

OUR VISION

We envision a New Jersey where refugee families not only rebuild their lives, but thrive.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHERE IS I-RISE LOCATED?

Our headquarters are located in Highland Park, NJ and we have additional offices throughout Central and South Jersey.

WHY DO REFUGEES COME TO AMERICA?

Most refugees come to America seeking refuge from war, violence, famine, natural disasters, persecution or other dangerous situations that have made their home country unsafe or uninhabitable.

WHAT COUNTRIES DO YOUR REFUGEES COME FROM?

Our refugees come from countries all over the world and mainly arrive from places like Haiti, Venezuela, Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan.

WHO APPROVES REFUGEES COMING INTO THE US?

Many people have waited for over 10 years to enter the US. Depending on which supports they will receive in America, refugees will have undergone evaluations through the State Department, the International Office of Migration (IOM) and/or the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) even before receiving services with I-RISE. Once they go through their initial processes, they are considered ORR-Eligible (Office of Refugee Resettlement) and therefore eligible to access services through I-RISE or other resettlement agencies in NJ and throughout the U.S.



ARE YOUR CLIENTS DOCUMENTED (LEGAL) IN THE US?

Yes, clients must be in an approved status and have documentation that allows them to reside in the US legally. These standards are set in place by the US government and other organizations including IOM and USCRI.

ARE YOUR CLIENTS COMING ACROSS THE BORDER?

A portion of our clients who come across the border are vetted through customs. Those who are approved to receive parole have the ability to receive services from I-RISE.

HOW DO REFUGEES ACCESS HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND JOBS?

I-RISE is a program under the Reformed Church of Highland Park Affordable Housing Corporation which locates affordable housing for eligible clients who are enrolled in our Resettlement and Placement Program (R&P). Case managers assist refugees with accessing healthcare through Medicare and Medicaid. Employment Coordinators work with their network of contacts to help refugees find and apply for jobs that fit their prior work experience and language proficiency skills.

IS INTERFAITH-RISE A FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION?

I-RISE is not a purely faith-based organization; however, I-RISE draws strength and vision from its multi-cultural and multi-faith coalition that welcomes and promotes respect for refugees from diverse traditions and backgrounds. In addition, we have a variety of faith-based organizations and non faith-based organizations who help support the work we do.

ARE YOU FEDERALLY FUNDED?

We are a 501c3 non-profit; however, we receive federal funding to support the work we do.

DO YOU RECEIVE GRANTS?

Yes, we receive an assortment of federal grants and privately issued grants. For example, one of the grants we receive is Matching Grant (MG). For every \$2 we receive in grants, we are required to raise \$1 in donated goods or volunteer hours. We also seek out grants from other organizations that can be used in a variety of ways such as purchasing groceries for families, providing car rides to medical appointments, and hosting community events.

WHY DO YOU ASK FOR SUPPORT FROM DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS?

For some of our programs, we are mandated to provide essential items such as toiletries, household goods, and community support to help refugees become self-sufficient. Because federal funds are not allocated to meet these specific needs, we rely on the support of generous community donors and volunteers. The support we receive from the community is paramount to our success and leaves a lasting positive impact on people's lives.