

Office of Refugee Resettlement

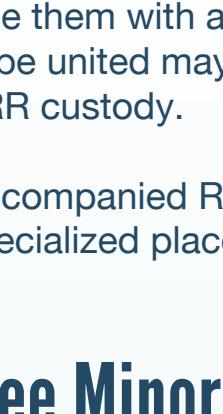
Unaccompanied Children (UC) and Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM)

ORR provides a safe environment to children who enter the United States without immigration status and without a parent or legal guardian to provide for them.

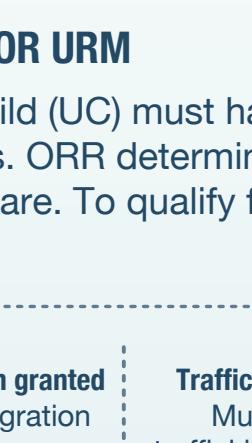
TEMPORARY PLACEMENT



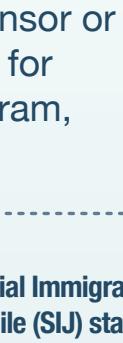
UC enters U.S. and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody



CBP transfers custody of UC to Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)



ORR unites UC with family or sponsor



Unaccompanied Afghan minors are entering the U.S. as humanitarian parolees. Once referred to ORR, they are placed with care providers that have the appropriate cultural and linguistic experience. ORR is working to unite them with a relative or other sponsor. Those who cannot be united may be placed in foster care but would remain in ORR custody.

Some UC may qualify for the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program which provides specialized placement with state-licensed foster families.

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program

HOW UC QUALIFY FOR URM

Unaccompanied Child (UC) must have no viable sponsor or reunification options. ORR determines if UC is ready for community-based care. To qualify for the URM program, children must have:



APPLICATION

Attorneys/case workers apply for URM program on behalf of UC
ORR verifies eligibility, child's needs, identity, and age



REFERRAL



If application is accepted, case is referred to URM partners for placement
States, national resettlement agencies, URM provider agencies

URM APPROVAL

After appropriate placement is found, child is approved by ORR to enter the URM program.



TRANSFER

UC and URM programs coordinate and transfer child from UC to URM care.



Child arrives to URM placement and state/local URM partners assume legal custody



Interested in Fostering?

Learn which states have foster care programs for unaccompanied children at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/foster>

Two national resettlement agencies also assist with the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program through a network of foster care providers.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) <http://lirs.org/fostercare/>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) <http://www.usccb.org/fostercare>

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE MINORS PROGRAMS



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- Ensure access to English Language Learner (ELL) classes
- Provide cultural sensitivity training for teachers and administrators
- Designate time and space for children to worship
- Provide interpreters



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Notify health care providers, clinics
- Ensure children have access to medical care, including vaccines and medications
- Provide interpreters



FOSTER CARE LICENSING

- Seek additional foster care families among Afghan-American communities
- Expedite licensing process
- Provide interpreters



SUPPORT AFGHAN COMMUNITIES

- Provide resources for community-led programs and opportunities
- Hire interpreters who are from Afghan communities
- Connect with places of worship and community organizations

