

# 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



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:

<b>Refugee Status</b> Department of State and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services	<b>Asylum granted</b> Immigration judge or USCIS	<b>Trafficking victim</b> Must have trafficking eligibility letter from ACF Office on Trafficking in Persons	<b>Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status</b> Abused, abandoned, or neglected by parent as determined by local court
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### STATES THAT OPERATE URM PROGRAMS:

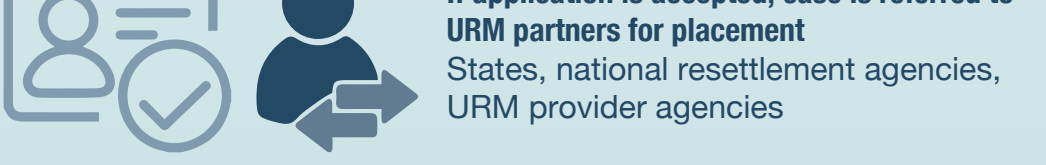
AZ	MA	PA
CA	MI	TX
CO	MS	UT
DC	ND	VA
FL	NY	WA

### APPLICATION

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

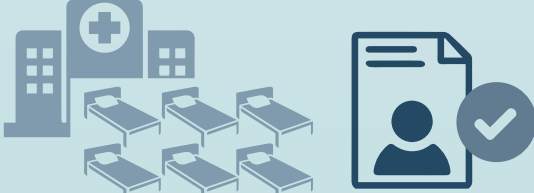


### REFERRAL



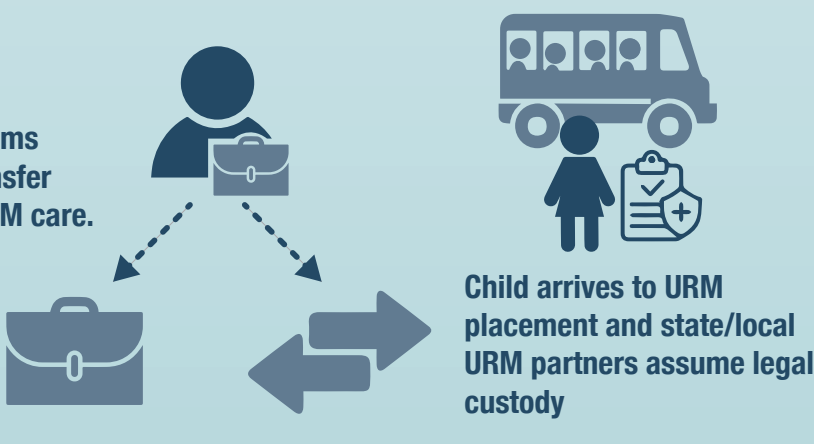
### URM APPROVAL

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



### TRANSFER

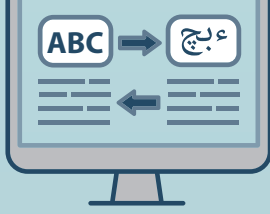
UC and URM programs coordinate and transfer child from UC to URM care.



## How States Can Help Afghan Children

### 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



## 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>

