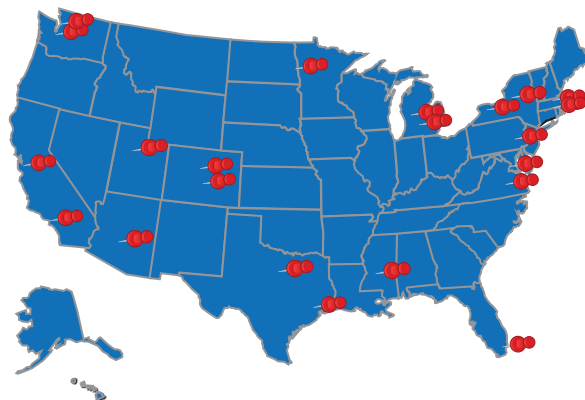


# PRACTICES

## What Our Services Include:

- **Bilingual, bicultural staff** who build rapport with children and serve as a bridge between their past and their future;
- **Foster families** with cross-cultural experience, interest, and sensitivity;
- **Immigration legal services** to help eligible children apply for their permanent residency;
- **Intensive case management** by staff familiar with the challenges, traumas, and strengths that come from the migration experience;
- **Collaboration and advocacy** with schools and human service providers about the specific needs of foreign-born youth;
- **Culturally sensitive mental health services;**
- **Mentors** to provide mature guidance and develop lasting relationships;
- **Peer support** through relationships with other foreign-born foster youth; and
- **Access to national and international organizations**, such as the United Nations Refugee Agency and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to assist with resources regarding culture, migration, health, education, family tracing, and more.

## Foster Care Program Sites



## Contact

For more information, to refer a child, or to request technical assistance:

**Migration & Refugee Services**  
**U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops**  
3211 4th Street NE | Washington, DC 20017-1194  
(202) 541-3081 | (202) 541-5409 | [migratingchildren@usccb.org](mailto:migratingchildren@usccb.org)  
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/cshome.shtml>

**Children's Services**  
**Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service**  
700 Light Street | Baltimore, MD 21230  
(410) 230-2757 | [childrenservices@lirs.org](mailto:childrenservices@lirs.org)  
<http://www.lirs.org>



The Office of Refugee Resettlement supports States for the care of children in designated programs who are eligible for services through the URM program.

# Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Programs



# A national network of culturally sensitive foster care programs providing child welfare services to unaccompanied foreign-born children living in the United States.



## PROGRAM

### We Provide Licensed Foster Care Services to:

- Refugee children;
- Foreign-born child victims of trafficking for sex, labor, or domestic servitude;
- Cuban and Haitian entrant children;
- Children with asylum status;
- Certain children with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS).

## PRINCIPLES

### Our Service Model

- To value each child's culture
- To help children understand and acclimate to American culture while maintaining their own unique identity
- To nurture children as they integrate multiple cultures into a single identity
- To enable foreign-born children to develop a sense of community in a new country while learning the skills they will need for independence
- To empower children to navigate complex service systems despite cultural or linguistic barriers
- To pursue educational opportunities for all children

## Success Stories

- Since 1980, more than 13,000 children have been cared for by this national network of foster care programs.
- Between 2000 and 2003, about 500 children and youth from Southern Sudan were served by this network. Among the countless success stories is that of Lopez Lomong, who was a member of the U.S.A. Track and Field team at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and was selected by his teammates to be the U.S. delegation flag bearer at the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. He completed high school and went on to college.
- Ava, originally from South Asia, was resettled to the U.S. in 2007 from a refugee camp in Turkey. Upon arriving in the United States she was placed with a licensed foster family. She excelled in school and learned English quickly. She was in her high school's National Honor Society and was a member of Future Business Leaders of America. Ava graduated from high school with honors and went to college.

