



JF&CS News & Notes

A weekly e-newsletter keeping our community up-to-date on JF&CS happenings



The executive order on refugees: What is JF&CS thinking and doing about it?

JF&CS has a long history of supporting all members of our community through a variety of services - from people who are fifth-generation Pittsburghers to recent immigrants from around the world. As an agency that has resettled refugees for decades - including Holocaust survivors and Soviet Jews - we thought it was important to speak about the recent executive order regarding refugees and immigrants.

As a nation founded on immigration, we find this order disturbing and are concerned about the impact it may have on our community and our country. We are hearing much anxiety and confusion from our clients regarding the immediate impact on them and their families. These are the main provisions of the order as we know them to date:

- The federal refugee resettlement program is being suspended for 120 days.
- Once the resettlement program resumes, the number of refugees admitted into the US will be cut from 85,000 this past year to 50,000.
- Residents of seven (primarily Muslim) countries are banned from entering the US for 90 days.
- Syrian refugees are banned indefinitely.



Refugees are defined as people forced to flee their homelands due to demonstrated fears of persecution or death. They are the most strictly vetted individuals who enter our country. Most were not looking to move halfway across the world. But their circumstances left them no choice.

Through helping them secure housing, get a job, learn English and navigate their new community, we have come to admire their courage and fortitude. They have added greatly to the rich immigrant culture of this city and are an important part of our local economy.



JF&CS strongly supports a humane national refugee policy. We believe our country should continue to honor its heritage and stand up internationally as a protector of innocent families caught in the crossfire of war, violence and persecution. And we know that it is possible to do so while still maintaining our national security.

Please see below for opportunities for taking action. The easiest is to fully engage yourself in the host of activities offered by Pittsburgh's international community and

meet some of the real people working very hard to make a contribution to their new country.

One note: we do NOT need donated goods - food, clothing, supplies or household items. We can use diapers, volunteer legal assistance, and financial support.

We are grateful for the continued support from our community and the welcome you have shown to our newest residents. We hope to return to "business as usual" as soon as we can.

Links :

- [Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto's statement on refugees](#)
- [Dr. Jordan Golin, Letter to the Editor, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 1/27/2017](#)
- [HIAS, How to Stand Up and Fight for Refugees, 1/29/2017](#)
- [Find your legislator](#)
- [Make a donation to JF&CS](#)
- [Complete text of the Executive Order relating to refugees](#)
- [Culturally diverse things to see and do in Pittsburgh](#)

Photos: (top) refugees taking the oath of American citizenship at World Refugee Day in Pittsburgh, June 2016. (bottom) Hilltop youth refugee group



Volunteer

JF&CS always welcomes volunteers. Your expertise is valuable, as is your time, and sometimes just an extra pair of hands!

[Learn More](#)



Service Spotlight

Jewish Family & Children's Service is an acknowledged leader in helping immigrants and refugees resettle and successfully build new lives in our community.

[Learn More](#)



**JEWISH FAMILY &
CHILDREN'S SERVICE
OF PITTSBURGH**

Donate

Please help us give hope. Make your donation safely and securely online today. You can choose a specific program or make a general gift - thank you!

[Learn more.](#)



**Jewish Family & Children's Service
Mission, Vision and Values**

VISION

A caring community where all people have the opportunity to reach their potential.

MISSION

Supporting people through life's changes and challenges.

VALUES

Responsiveness: We respond to the needs of people in the Jewish and Greater Pittsburgh communities.

Respect: We support people of all abilities by building on their strengths.

Quality: We deliver high-quality services.

Collaboration: We embrace collaborations in order to better serve our clients and community.

Stewardship: We manage our resources to achieve the greatest possible community benefit.

Support JF&CS today!

Stay Connected with JF&CS



5743 Bartlett Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15217
info@jfcspgh.org · 412.422.7200