



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

HOW TO HELP: Unaccompanied Children in the U.S.

Who We Are: The **Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)** in the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** provides care for children who are apprehended by immigration officials and who are unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. Children remain in HHS care until they can be released safely to a sponsor, typically a family member in the United States who can appropriately care for them while their immigration case is processed. ORR operates about 100 short-term shelters throughout the United States for children who enter the country without their parent.

The Issue: Recently, because of a large increase in the number of unaccompanied children crossing the Southwest border, we opened three temporary shelters to meet the needs of this vulnerable population. We are grateful for the support that we have received from community leaders and stakeholders in response to this humanitarian effort. At this time, Federal agencies are unable to accept donations or volunteers to assist with this response.

How To Help: However, there are several trusted voluntary, community, faith-based, or international organizations assisting unaccompanied children. Additional information and updates are available online at the resources listed below.

- **English** – <http://www.dhs.gov/information-donations>
- **Spanish** – <http://www.dhs.gov/informacion-sobre-donaciones>
- **Volunteering and Donating Responsibly** – <http://www.fema.gov/donate>

Apply As A Grantee: ORR has a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) open to seek residential care providers for unaccompanied children. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, August 5, 2014. More information on how to apply can be found here: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/files/HHS-2015-ACF-ORR-ZU-0833_0.pdf.

The points of contact for more information regarding the FOA are as follows:

- **Program Office Contact:** [DCS ProjectOfficers@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:DCS_ProjectOfficers@acf.hhs.gov)
- **Office of Grants Management Contact:** acfogme-grants@acf.hhs.gov

Future funding opportunities are possible, so check back at this site for announcements, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa>.

Foster Care: ORR has grantees in various parts of the United States who care for unaccompanied children in foster home settings, and many providers are looking to expand their number of foster parents, particularly those who are bilingual. If you are not already licensed, you could begin by contacting your local child welfare agency and ask about the process for becoming a licensed foster parent. You could also contact one of the foster care providers who care for unaccompanied refugee children, such as USCCB and LIRS, to obtain further information about the process:

- **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)**
Send questions to: fostercare@lirs.org
Website: <http://lirs.org/our-work/partnership/service-partners/foster-care-programs/>
- **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**
Send questions to: fc referrals@usccb.org
Website: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/children/foster-care.cfm>

External Organizations: Several refugee resettlement non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the U.S. are accepting donations and, in some cases, experienced volunteers to assist incoming refugee families, (not specifically unaccompanied children), in support of the effort of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program at the State Department. Information, by state, for refugee resettlement NGOs can be found at the [HHS' Office of Refugee Resettlement \(ORR\)](#) webpage or the [State Department's Refugee Processing Center \(RPC\)](#) webpage.

Legal Services: Provide pro bono legal services to assist the children. Two examples of organizations that provide services on a nationwide basis are:

- **U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)**
Probono@uscridc.org • www.refugees.org
- **Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)**
Info@supportkind.org • www.supportkind.org

You can contact these organizations directly for further information.