

# A Landlord's Guide Renting to Refugees



## Who are refugees?

Refugees are ordinary people who have fled violence and persecution in their home countries. They undergo a thorough and lengthy (2-3 years on average) vetting and screening process to find safety, security, and the chance to move their lives forward once again in the United States.



## The need for safe housing

Upon arrival, refugees do not have the documentation the average American has, such as a social security card, credit/rental history and employment history in the United States. They can however, provide evidence of legal status, reliable income, and agency support to help resolve any tenant-landlord issues that might arise.

## Why Rent to Refugees?

### A strong support system

While refugees don't (yet!) have rental or credit history when they arrive, they DO have:

Volunteers, supporters, and orgs ready to **welcome them and help them adapt** to their new communities.

A strong, dedicated **team of resettlement agency staff** behind them.

Local **employment partners** looking eager to employ refugees, ensuring job security.

IDAHO  
OFFICE FOR  
REFUGEES  
BY JANUUS



## 6 Benefits to Renting to Refugees

1

**Secure rent payments** for up to 8 months while refugee tenants receive cash assistance.

2

Dedicated **employment search support and skills training** by staff to ensure financial independence.

3

Thorough, well documented U.S. gov **background and security checks**, barring anyone with any criminal history.

4

**Detailed tenant training** about household maintenance, appliance safety, and general “good-neighbor” traits.

5

Scaled up **mediation, interpretation, training** and other support by agency staff if/when needed.

6

**Financial support** to landlord should damages be incurred.

## Housing That Heals



Families and individuals who arrive to the US as refugees have lost their country, their homes, their safety, often through violence.

Safe and stable housing helps to rebuild their sense of safety and belonging in their new communities.