



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Applicant:

Our records indicate that you have applied for a Special Immigrant Visa. If you are issued such a visa, you have the option, but are not required, to receive certain benefits under the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program that are afforded to refugees who are resettling in the United States. More information about the program appears below. If you choose to participate and receive these benefits, you should indicate your interest by returning the attached Refugee Benefits Election Form with your signature to the National Visa Center (NVC) along with the documents requested in the Immigrant Visa information packet.

The following is information that will help you decide if you want to participate in the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program:

- Resettlement is a multi-step process. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to provide additional information about yourself and your family. This information will be shared with the U.S. Department of State's Refugee Processing Center (RPC), which will share the information you provide with a resettlement agency in the United States. If your visa application is approved, that resettlement agency will help you adjust to life in the United States upon your arrival.
- The information sent to the resettlement agency will include information about you: your education, occupation, ethnicity, religion, family members who will be going with you, medical problems that need attention and location of your friends or relatives who already live in the United States. The resettlement agency will use this information to choose the resettlement site that is best for you and to help prepare for your arrival. Before your departure, the RPC will provide you with a sponsorship assurance document indicating where in the United States you will be resettled. While you can express a view about where in the United States you might be resettled, if you elect to participate we cannot guarantee that you will be given your preference.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) will contact you to arrange your travel and tell you your departure date. You and your family members are eligible to receive transportation to the United States funded through a travel loan. Before you travel, you will sign a promissory note committing to repay the loan over a three-year period. IOM will provide information about your travel itinerary. In the United States, IOM representatives will assist you at the port of entry and help you with arrival procedures.
- When you reach your final destination, a representative from the resettlement agency will meet you at the airport and take you to your initial housing and will assist you in settling in to your new community.

The U. S. Government has established guidelines and provides funding for the resettlement services that you will receive once in the United States. Your resettlement agency will have a local office in or near the town where you will be resettled and will provide basic living assistance and support for the first 30 days after you arrive. With the help of their staff, during the first 90 days after you arrive you will do the following things:

- Apply for a social security card (you must have one to get a job)
- Learn about and be referred to employment services
- Enroll your children in school
- Learn to use public transportation
- Be referred to English language classes, if necessary
- Begin to learn about U.S customs and law
- Learn about and be referred to community services that can help you, including social services, cash and medical assistance, and food stamps, if necessary
- Find out about other government services and programs and how to apply.

It is important and in your interest to return the attached Refugee Benefits Election Form with your application to the NVC. We will be expecting it as a part of your application package. If you want to receive benefits from the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program, we will need to make important arrangements in advance of your departure. In order to administer the program efficiently, we therefore ask that you submit a scanned copy of the attached form to the NVC along with all of the other documentation that you have been requested to send to NVC.

If you choose not to participate in the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program, upon arrival in the United States you may be eligible for benefits and services funded by the Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) These federally-funded programs provide a variety of services and have strict time limits and guidelines for participation. You can find additional information about these benefits by visiting the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr>.

Refugee Benefits Election Form

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR ELECTION BELOW:

If approved to receive a Special Immigrant Visa,

_____ I wish to participate in the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program. If there are any changes in my intention to participate, or if my family composition changes (the birth of a baby, for example), I will notify the National Visa Center or the Embassy's consular staff immediately.

_____ I have read this information letter and DO NOT wish to participate in the U.S. Department of State's resettlement program.

Petitioner's Case Number: _____

Name (block letters)

Date of Birth: _____

Signature

Date: _____

Please return a scanned copy of **this page only** to the National Visa Center via email at NVCSIV@state.gov along with all other documentation that you have been requested to send to NVC.