



UPDATE ON UKRAINE RESPONSE May 26, 2022

Like many of you, we at JFS are watching the evolving situation in Ukraine closely, and are heartbroken by the images and stories coming from Ukraine and countries that have absorbed nearly six million refugees so far. We too expect to welcome more Ukrainians to Michigan in the coming months, even as we anticipate our regular refugee resettlement program will welcome large numbers of people from other countries this coming summer. As an organization that specializes in welcoming newcomers to this country, we know that we will be called upon to assist Ukrainians, even those that did not arrive through our refugee resettlement program.

WHAT WE KNOW: Since men of military age are not permitted to leave Ukraine, we know that Ukrainian arrivals will include many mothers with children, elderly people, and women. They will arrive with a variety of visas that have different types of employment and public benefit eligibilities. Some will be sponsored by relatives or community organizations through the government's [Uniting for Ukraine](#) online portal, some will arrive with refugee status, others could arrive through [family reunification](#) processes. While families and organizations will do everything they can to support the people they have sponsored, we already know how difficult it can be to identify affordable and available housing, and pay for food, gas, and utilities. We anticipate increased requests for donated food, cash, and housing support. We anticipate that many people will need medical care and mental health counseling to deal with trauma. We know that there will be many people who will need financial support to pay for rent and basic needs while they wait for their paperwork to be processed.

JFS has had several meetings in recent weeks with Ukrainian support groups in the Detroit area, as well as health care and immigration services providers. To manage the demands to help Ukrainians and their families and sponsors, JFS is looking to hire a Ukrainian speaking case manager. At this time there is no funding to pay for this position, but as we are already responding to requests for help and know that need will only increase.

The greatest challenge is to identify affordable and available housing in Washtenaw County, and especially in the Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor area, and this challenge will only become greater in the fall. Although we appreciate offers, we do not house individuals in private homes. If you have rental property and are willing to rent to our clients, please let us know at: miras@jfsannarbor.org.



UPDATED ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022

Dear Community,

The events unfolding in Ukraine are heart wrenching. We are following the situation closely and are in contact with our national agency HIAS, who is providing us with updates as they receive them. We know many of you have family in Ukraine and are seeking information on how you can assist your family; please see below for details. We will continue to update the information on this site as we receive it. We offer our emotional support to the local families, who are worried and frightened for their family and friends affected by this crisis.

We want to reiterate that JFS stands ready to once again welcome refugees from Ukraine *if and* when the time comes. JFS is partnering with local groups to create a petition advocating for immediate initiation of a Ukrainian Resettlement Program through the US government. **This petition will be available on the JFS website shortly.**

To learn more about how you can support the humanitarian efforts on the ground in Ukraine and also obtain more information, we recommend the following organizations:

- **American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC):** [JDC's Ukraine Response | JDC](#)
- **Jewish Federations of North America:** [Crisis in Ukraine | The Jewish Federations of North America](#)
- **RCUSA's** full remarks on their [website](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).
- **HIAS** maintains on their website a page dedicated to Ukraine and it has an FAQ document [here](#).
- **HIAS Ukraine** humanitarian assistance action alert [TAKE ACTION | HIAS](#).
- **The State Department** website now includes: [United with Ukraine - United States Department of State](#).

FOR THOSE SEEKING TO REUNITE WITH FAMILY

PLEASE NOTE: HIAS cannot consult on general immigration questions or immigration options, nor consult or file for visas or work permits.

Refugee Case Processing:

1. JFS is not able to advise individuals on whether they should/how to evacuate Ukraine.
2. Ukrainians who were living in the United States prior to March 1st have been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) allowing them to remain in the US for 18 months. Please see HIAS' statement [here](#).
3. [Lautenberg](#) cases which were being processed in Ukraine and have changed location should write to Resettlement Support Center (RSC) Eurasia at icc@iom.int and inform the RSC if they

have updates, including new documents, new address, phone number or email, or questions about their case. If the cases are ready for departure and in a location where IOM can organize their departure at the time, they will be informed by the RSC of the next steps. As the volume of inquiries is high, please expect delays in responses and we kindly ask for your patience in addressing non-urgent matters.

JFS will continue to update this page as we receive more information.