

OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors By State

When a child who is not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian is apprehended by immigration authorities, the child is transferred to the care and custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Federal law requires that ORR feed, shelter, and provide medical care for unaccompanied children until it is able to release them to safe settings with sponsors (usually family members), while they await immigration proceedings. These sponsors live in many states.

Sponsors are adults who are suitable to provide for the child's physical and mental well-being and have not engaged in any activity that would indicate a potential risk to the child. All sponsors must pass a background check. The sponsor must agree to ensure the child's presence at all future immigration proceedings. They also must agree to ensure the minor reports to ICE for removal from the United States if an immigration judge issues a removal order or voluntary departure order.

HHS is engaging with state officials to address concerns they may have about the care or impact of unaccompanied children in their states, while making sure the children are treated humanely and consistent with the law as they go through immigration court proceedings that will determine whether they will be removed and repatriated, or qualify for some form of relief.

HHS has strong policies in place to ensure the privacy and safety of unaccompanied children by maintaining the confidentiality of their personal information. These children may have histories of abuse or may be seeking safety from threats of violence. They may have been trafficked or smuggled. HHS cannot release information about individual children that could compromise the child's location or identity.

The data in the table below shows **state-by-state data** of unaccompanied children released to sponsors. ACF will update this data each month. **View unaccompanied children released to sponsors by county.** (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/unaccompanied-children-released-to-sponsors-by-county>)

Unaccompanied Children release data from January 1st to August 31st

State	# of Unaccompanied Children
Alabama	634
Alaska	4
Arizona	218
Arkansas	250
California	4,680
Colorado	336
Connecticut	455
Delaware	168
District of Columbia	301
Florida	4,392
Georgia	1,623
Hawaii	8
Idaho	15
Illinois	437
Indiana	357
Iowa	196
Kansas	246
Kentucky	333
Louisiana	1,414
Maine	9
Maryland	3,248
Massachusetts	1,115
Michigan	154
Minnesota	240
Mississippi	238
Missouri	173
Montana	1
Nebraska	278

Nevada	188
New Hampshire	28
New Jersey	2,171
New Mexico	32
New York	4,799
North Carolina	1,648
North Dakota	4
Ohio	489
Oklahoma	284
Oregon	96
Pennsylvania	513
Puerto Rico	1
Rhode Island	173
South Carolina	491
South Dakota	31
Tennessee	1,020
Texas	6,217
Utah	103
Vermont	3
Virgin Islands	1
Virginia	3,193
Washington	310
West Virginia	20
Wisconsin	73
Wyoming	8
Total	43,419

For more information, please read **ORR's reunification policy ([http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/unaccompanied-childrens-services#Family Reunification Packet for Sponsors](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/unaccompanied-childrens-services#Family_Reunification_Packet_for_Sponsors))**.

