

Wisconsin



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Refugee Programs

dcf.wisconsin.gov/refugee/about

The Bureau of Refugee Programs (BRP) receives grants from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and funds local statewide organizations to provide critical services to refugees. BRP ensures provision and coordination of services that help refugees achieve economic self-sufficiency and social adjustment upon their arrival to the U.S.



Immigrants in Wisconsin are vital to local communities and economies. Promoting more accessible and equitable pathways to commensurate employment is critical to ensuring a thriving workforce that benefits all Wisconsinites.

As of 2021, **300,760** immigrants lived in Wisconsin, making up 5.1% of the state's total population.

- This number represents a **55.2% increase** since 2000.

Education



Many of Wisconsin's immigrants have completed post-secondary education and are ready to contribute their training and experience to the state's workforce.

As of 2019, close to **79%** of immigrants living in Wisconsin were proficient in English, and many had high levels of educational attainment:

- **44%** age 25+ had a high school diploma and some college
- **17.4%** had a bachelor's degree
- **14.7%** had a graduate degree (compared to 10.3% of the state's U.S.-born residents)

Yet more than **20%** of college-educated immigrants in Wisconsin were underemployed, working in jobs that required no post-secondary education.

Economic Contributions



Despite facing underemployment, immigrants and refugees make significant contributions to Wisconsin's economy.

As of 2019, more than **82%** of Wisconsin's immigrants were of working age (16 – 64). They:

- Generated **\$9.8 billion** in household income
- Spent **\$7.3 billion**
- Paid **\$2.5 billion** in taxes

Access to commensurate employment would help to ensure a more robust workforce in the state.

Sources: American Immigration Council's "Map the Impact:"
map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/wisconsin

Migration Policy Institute's "State Immigration Data Profiles:"
migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/WI