

# 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 as of August 31, 2016. ACF will update this data each month. ACF will update this data each month. [View unaccompanied children released to sponsors by county.](#)

**Please note:** ORR makes considerable effort to provide precise and timely data to the public, but adjustments occasionally occur following review and reconciliation. The FY2014 release data posted in the chart below were updated on March 13, 2015. The FY2015 release data were updated May 9, 2016. Questions may be addressed to ORR directly, at (202) 401-9246.

## Unaccompanied Children Release Data

<b>State</b>	<b>Total Number of UC Released to Sponsors FY 2014 (October 2013 – September 2014)</b>	<b>Total Number of UC Released to Sponsors in FY 2015 (October 2014 – September 2015)*</b>	<b>Total Number of UC Released to Sponsors in FY16 YTD (October 2015 – August 2016)</b>
Alabama	786	808	782
Alaska	4	2	4
Arizona	295	167	301
Arkansas	307	186	276
California	5,831	3,629	6,691
Colorado	426	248	387
Connecticut	552	206	401
Delaware	212	152	247
District of Columbia	375	201	388
Florida	5,445	2,908	4,749
Georgia	2,047	1,041	1,577
Hawaii	8	2	3
Idaho	19	11	35
Illinois	552	312	464
Indiana	448	240	319
Iowa	235	201	325
Kansas	312	245	304
Kentucky	413	274	450
Louisiana	1,755	480	859
Maine	17	4	7
Maryland	3,884	1,794	3,446
Massachusetts	1,372	738	1,369
Michigan	193	132	200
Minnesota	304	243	285
Mississippi	290	207	276
Missouri	222	170	231

<b>State</b>	<b>Total Number of UC Released to Sponsors FY 2014 (October 2013 – September 2014)</b>	<b>Total Number of UC Released to Sponsors in FY 2015 (October 2014 – September 2015)*</b>	<b>Total Number of UC Released to Sponsors in FY16 YTD (October 2015 – August 2016)</b>
Montana	1	2	0
Nebraska	351	293	443
Nevada	228	137	252
New Hampshire	35	14	21
New Jersey	2,680	1,462	2,373
New Mexico	41	19	60
New York	5,955	2,630	4,438
North Carolina	2,064	844	1,349
North Dakota	4	2	8
Ohio	635	483	616
Oklahoma	377	225	269
Oregon	115	122	168
Pennsylvania	660	333	537
Rhode Island	203	185	229
South Carolina	588	294	516
South Dakota	48	61	74
Tennessee	1,294	765	1,249
Texas	7,409	3,272	5,937
Utah	119	62	116
Vermont	3	1	1
Virginia	3,887	1,694	3,370
Washington	391	283	420
West Virginia	30	12	23
Wisconsin	85	38	78
Wyoming	8	6	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53,515</b>	<b>27,840</b>	<b>46,944</b>

\*The FY2015 numbers have been reconciled.

For more information, please read [ORR's reunification policy](#).

Last Reviewed: September 23, 2016

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**Administration for Children & Families**

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