

What is BRIA?

BRIA is the Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance, located within the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

BRIA provides funding to contractors who have linguistically and culturally appropriate staff and services.

The Bureau was established as a result of the federal *Refugee Act of 1980*, which incorporated an existing network of private resettlement agencies and public agencies into the national Refugee Resettlement Program.

Under the Refugee Resettlement Program, a State Refugee Coordinator was designated to each participating state. The New York State Refugee Coordinator, supported by BRIA, promotes an integrated approach to policy and program development, to assure an efficient use of services and benefits for refugees and immigrants.

What services do BRIA contractors provide?

BRIA providers help participants:

- Reduce or eliminate dependence on public benefits
- Learn English
- Develop and refine job skills
- Find, upgrade and retain employment
- Understand their immigration status
- Understand the benefits of US citizenship, and assist them in becoming citizens
- Acculturate to their new land while preserving their cultural identity
- Effectively deal with discrimination
- Access public transportation
- Access mental health services
- Access routine and emergency health care services
- Repatriate from a foreign land
- Access emergency protection when needed

For more information visit:
www.otda.ny.gov/programs/bria



State of New York

New York State
Office of Temporary and
Disability Assistance

www.otda.ny.gov

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BRIA

Bureau of Refugee and
Immigrant Assistance

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

BRIA's mission is to:

- Inform immigrants about available services and benefits, and how they can access them to assist in their transition to life in the US
- Produce native language materials that explain the requirements of benefit and service programs
- Help refugees and other persons eligible for refugee services achieve economic and social self-sufficiency
- Provide assistance to victims of human trafficking
- Assure proper foster care for unaccompanied refugee and entrant minors
- Help repatriated US citizens return home safely



New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

BRIA Programs

BRIA's programs for REFUGEES fund:

- Job preparation, training, placement, and other employment services
- English as a second language, case management, resettlement assistance, and other support services
- Foster care to refugee children in the US without a parent or guardian
- Health screening within the first 90 days of eligible immigration status to assure appropriate medical care and access to the US health care delivery system
- Health and mental health care through case management, outreach and referral
- Temporary assistance for refugees who are not eligible for other cash or medical assistance programs within eight months of being granted an eligible status

For ALL IMMIGRANTS, BRIA funds:

- The New York State Immigration Hotline: 1-800-566-7636, or (212) 419-3737.
Hours: 8 am to 6 pm, Monday – Friday except holidays.
- Hotline operators assist callers in 18 languages, including Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese and Korean

For HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS, BRIA funds:

- Direct services to victims including emergency shelter, food, emergency medical care, protection and legal assistance

For US CITIZENS, BRIA funds:

- Repatriation services including temporary assistance to US citizens and their dependents who have returned from a foreign country to the US because of destitution, illness, threat of war or similar crisis and are without available resources

Whom does BRIA serve?

- Refugees are immigrants who have fled their homeland and are granted refugee status by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and admitted to the US by the federal government based on persecution or a fear of persecution, because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Most refugees enter the US with few resources and face many obstacles to self-sufficiency. Over 19,500 refugees entered New York State from October 2004 through September 2009.
- Other persons that are eligible for refugee benefits and services enter New York each year including asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, certain Amerasian immigrants, victims of human trafficking, and certain family members.
- Immigrants are an important part of New York State's population and economy. One out of every five New Yorkers (nearly four million people) is foreign-born; one in ten New Yorkers (two million people) is a non-citizen eligible for help in attaining US citizenship. Over 870,000 legal immigrants (including refugees) entered New York State from October 2004 through September 2009.

How is BRIA funded?

Funding for BRIA programs is made possible through the New York State budget and federal grants from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement.