Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program Entrance

The following charts display an overview of the various ways youth enter the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program and the detailed steps in the entrance process for each youth’s status. Charts include youth who are:

- Refugees;
- Asylees;
- Victims of human trafficking, who have an eligibility letter from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR);
- Non-citizen victims of domestic violence and other serious crimes who have been granted a U-Visa from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and meet all other eligibility requirements, or
- Minors who have received Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) while in ORR’s custody.
Refugee Entry Into the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program
(Youth Under Age 18)

DOS – Department of State
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USCIS – United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
RA – Resettlement Agency
USCCB – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
LIRS – Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
ORR – Office of Refugee Resettlement
CDSS/RPB – California Department of Social Services/Refugee Programs Bureau

June 2016
Asylee Entry Into the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program
(Youth Under Age 18)

Youth enters country illegally or undocumented

Youth is apprehended by DHS, law enforcement, etc.  Community agency identifies youth as unaccompanied asylum seeker

Does youth obtain asylum from USCIS? Yes   Is youth in ORR’s UC program? No  If youth is with a community agency

UC provider submits URM application to ORR

Agency submits URM application to ORR on behalf of youth

Does ORR determine youth meets eligibility requirements and approve youth for URM program?

End of Process

DHS – Department of Homeland Security
USCIS – United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
ORR – Office of Refugee Resettlement
UC – Unaccompanied Children’s program
RA – Resettlement Agency
DHS – Department of Homeland Security
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Youth is trafficked into U.S.

Youth is apprehended by DHS

Youth is placed in ORR’s UC program

Does ORR determine that youth is a trafficking victim?

No

Youth is subject to DHS action (i.e. deportation)

Yes

ORR issues trafficking certification letter to youth

Yes

Does ORR determine youth meet eligibility requirements and approve youth to enter URM program?

No

End of Process

Yes

ORR/national RA determines placement

URM Program provider takes guardianship of youth through probate court

Youth is placed with URM program provider

ORR sends CDSS/RPB URM approval letter

June 2016
Youth with a U-Visa Entry into the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program (Youth Under Age 18)

Youth is the victim of a serious crime that occurs in the U.S. or violates U.S. laws

Does USCIS grant the youth a U-Visa?

Yes

Youth’s representative (UC caseworker, attorney, social worker, etc.) submits an application for the URM program to ORR.

Does ORR determine youth eligible for URM program?

Yes

ORR coordinates placement with national RA

No

End of Process

Youth is subject to DHS action (i.e. deportation)

No

ORR sends CDSS/RPB URM eligibility letter

URM Program provider takes guardianship of youth

Youth is placed with URM Program provider

USCIS – United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
UC – Unaccompanied Children’s program
ORR – Office of Refugee Resettlement
RA – Resettlement Agency
CDSS/RPB – California Department of Social Services/Refugee Programs Bureau

June 2016
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Entry
Into the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program
(Youth Under Age 18)

Youth enters U.S. undocumented
Youth is apprehended by DHS, law enforcement, etc.
DHS transfers youth to ORR custody to be placed in ORR’s UC program
ORR places youth with a foster care or other service provider

Can youth be reunified with a family member?

Yes → End of Process
No → Does youth obtain SIJS from USCIS?

Yes → Application for URM program submitted to ORR
No → End of Process

Does ORR determine youth eligible for URM program?

Yes → Youth is placed with URM Program provider
No → ORR sends CDSS/RPB URM approval letter
End of Process

DHS – Department of Homeland Security
ORR – Office of Refugee Resettlement
UC – Unaccompanied Children’s program
USCIS – United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
CDSS/RPB – California Department of Social Services/Refugee Programs Bureau

June 2016