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)

Overseas:
DOS & UNHCR identify youth as potentially eligible; DOS coordinates with USCIS

Does USCIS/DOS determine youth eligible for URM program?

Youth remains overseas

DOS refers case to national RA (USCCB or LIRS)

National RA determines placement and refers to URM providers in a state

URM program provider receives youth

ORR notified of placement via the ORR 3 Initial Placement Report

CDSS/RPB receives notice of placement

URM Program provider takes guardianship through the probate court

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

Community agency identifies youth as unaccompanied asylum seeker

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

Does youth obtain asylum from USCIS?

Is youth in ORR’s UC program?

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

ORR/national RA determines placement in a state

ORR sends the state the URM approval letter

URM Program provider takes guardianship of youth through the probate court

Youth is placed with a URM program provider

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

DHS – Department of Homeland Security
ORR – Office of Refugee Resettlement
UC – Unaccompanied Children’s program
RA – Resettlement Agency
CDSS/RPB – California Department of Social Services/Refugee Programs Bureau

Youth is trafficked into U.S.

Community agency or faith based organization identifies youth and refers to ORR

Youth is apprehended by DHS

Youth is placed in ORR’s UC program

Does ORR determine that youth is a trafficking victim?

Yes

ORR issues trafficking certification letter to youth

Yes

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

Yes

ORR sends CDSS/RPB URM approval letter

No

URM Program provider takes guardianship of youth through probate court

Youth is placed with URM program provider

End of Process

No

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

No

Does ORR determine that youth is a trafficking victim?

Yes

ORR issues trafficking certification letter to youth

Yes

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

Yes

ORR sends CDSS/RPB URM approval letter

No

URM Program provider takes guardianship of youth through probate court

Youth is placed with URM program provider

End of Process

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

Can youth be reunified with a family member?

End of Process → Yes

Does youth obtain SIJS from USCIS?

End of Process → No

Application for URM program submitted to ORR

Does ORR determine youth eligible for URM program?

End of Process

Youth is placed with URM Program provider → ORR sends CDSS/RPB URM approval letter

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