



SITUATION:

For over 30 years, New Hanover County has welcomed families from around the world who have fled life-threatening persecution: Bosnians, Vietnamese, Afghans, and Ukrainians. Church World Service (CWS) Wilmington is proud to stand in that tradition and provides services to **more than 250 refugees and immigrants** per year in the Cape Fear Area through our resettlement, housing, employment, and legal services.

Today, this work is at risk of being shut down due to a halt in federal funding.

The Executive Orders that President Trump issued on January 20, followed by Notice of Suspension and Stop Work Orders issued on January 24, resulted in the immediate and indefinite suspension of several large CWS programs and almost entirely shut off our access to federal reimbursements. Our partners in the federal government have not provided clear information on when this issue will be resolved. Despite the memo from the Office of Management & Budget being rescinded on January 29, [the funding freeze remains in effect](#), impacting organizations that serve refugees and immigrants nationwide and creating critical cash flow challenges for CWS.

CONTEXT:

For decades, the United States has extended refuge to families fleeing persecution in places like Castro's Cuba, the Killing Fields of Cambodia, and most recently, those individuals who helped U.S. forces in Afghanistan. The United States fulfilled its promises of support through non-profit humanitarian organizations like CWS. In the past four years, the United States Refugee Admissions Program admitted the highest number of refugees in three decades—welcoming 100,034 new refugee arrivals in FY2024 alone ([Migration Policy Institute](#)). This four-year surge in arrivals invited communities like Wilmington to welcome newcomers. Last year, in 2024, CWS Wilmington welcomed 190 refugees to New Hanover County.

Since the end of October, CWS Wilmington has welcomed **55 individuals** fleeing persecution and violence. We are currently serving over 500 refugees who are depending on us to help them secure and maintain employment.

But executive actions halting refugee admissions and freezing federal funds threaten CWS' ability to provide critical services to these families. Without CWS Wilmington programming, these individuals are at risk of losing their housing, health care, benefits, employment, and educational services. Even if the government is no longer willing to fulfill its promises to families and allies seeking a safe place to call home, CWS is committed to keeping faith with these vulnerable neighbors.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

CWS Wilmington needs **\$350,000 in emergency funding to stabilize our most vulnerable clients over the next 6 months**. Those funds would go immediately to

1. Assist 42 newly-arrived refugee households to meet basic needs, avoid homelessness, and secure work.
2. Expand refugees' support network by connecting them to community resources, social services, and volunteers.

As of March 17, a generous donor has committed \$118,000 to launch the fundraising campaign. CWS Wilmington asks the local community to stand with refugees by filling this emergency need.

Give today at www.cswilmington.org/give or send a check from your donor-advised fund or IRA to "Church World Service" at 1403 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28401

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Read more about policy decisions, pending litigation, and CWS actions from our CWS HQ office's [State of Play](https://cwsglobal.org/blog/daily-state-of-play-trumps-indefinite-refugee-ban-and-funding-halt/) at <https://cwsglobal.org/blog/daily-state-of-play-trumps-indefinite-refugee-ban-and-funding-halt/>