

Job Advocacy

What: Refugees arrive in the US with various work experience, job skills, and English language abilities. All adults who can work will need to work—but jobs are hard to find. This is where resettlement partners can help.

When: All the time—especially after the first month of arriving. It is important to remember that all social service benefits are limited and refugees will need to work to be able to support themselves and their families.

How:

- Volunteers may talk to friends, neighbors, church members, or anyone that they know who might be able to hire a newcomer (or contact someone who can).
- Volunteers may drive around or take the bus with the refugee and look for job opportunities (pick up applications, talk to managers).
- Volunteers may communicate clearly to employers or prospective employers that refugees are legally allowed to work and have all the necessary documentation for employment in the U.S.
- Volunteers may talk to the refugee about work; encourage them to look for work opportunities by themselves, ask them to keep in contact with their employment service providers, and/or contact the staff person assisting them.
- The WR Triad employment team will be the strongest advocate for the refugee client as an official staff person.
- The WR Triad employment team will be able to use job contacts for any refugees: if the refugee does not have the right qualifications, another refugee may; if the refugee is hired, the employment specialist can try to get more refugees hired there.
- All refugees go through a job readiness training class with the employment team, where they are reminded of their responsibilities within this process.