



Build Your Own *Welcome Kit*

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee their home country due to war, violence, persecution, or natural disaster. If they are resettled in the U.S., they may arrive with limited access to resources and disrupted educational backgrounds.

Consider collaborating with your local resettlement agency to understand what newcomer families might need and how you can help.

Some ideas to get your Welcome Kits started:

School Kits – Fill a Backpack!

- Pens and pencils
- Pencil case
- Notebooks
- Folders and binders
- Index cards
- Post-it notes
- Calendar or planner
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Glue sticks



Hygiene Kits

- Soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Feminine care products
- Laundry detergent and dryer sheets
- Tissues

Seasonal Kits

- Winter hat
- Winter coat
- Socks
- Gloves or mittens
- Scarves
- Blankets



Welcome Home Kits

- Pots and pans
- Towels and wash cloths
- Bed sheets and pillowcases
- Shower curtain
- Cleaning products
- Dish soap and sponges



Note: In some cases, federal and state funding may not allow for the purchasing of these materials for refugee students and families. Instead, you might get started by organizing a school-wide donation drive, partner with a resettlement agency or other community or faith-based organization, and consider the extent to which federal programs may already address these needs. You may also contact Joseph Eye, RSI Coordinator (jeye@pa.gov) with specific questions.