

# United States Congress

WASHINGTON, DC

April 5, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken  
Secretary of Department of State  
2201 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Director Ur Jaddou  
Director of U.S. Citizenship and  
Immigration Services  
20 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20001

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary of Department of Health and  
Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Blinken, Secretary Mayorkas, Secretary Becerra, and Director Jaddou:

We write in support of the Administration's recent announcement to welcome to the United States as many as 100,000 Ukrainian refugees fleeing Russian aggression and provide additional funding towards humanitarian assistance to people affected by Russia's illegal war in Ukraine. We stand ready to work with you and Governor DeWine to welcome Ukrainian refugees to Ohio, which is already home to a large community of Ukrainian-Americans.

As evidenced by the state's recent efforts to welcome more than 1,000 refugees who fled from Afghanistan in 2021, Ohio has a long history of welcoming people fleeing war, famine, and genocide. In addition, Ohio's Ukrainian community has deep roots dating back to the 1880s, when many Ukrainians began settling in the greater Cleveland area seeking better economic opportunities. Subsequent waves of migration caused by World War I, World War II, and Soviet rule saw more Ukrainians come to Northeast Ohio, this time seeking freedom and opportunity. In fact, Northeast Ohio is home to one of the largest Ukrainian populations in the country, home to approximately 50,000 Ohioans with Ukrainian ancestry.

These roots have remained strong as local Ukrainian-Americans have taken leadership positions in religious, political, and community organizations. From organizing labor unions within their community, to helping to raise funds to open the first Ukrainian Embassy, Ukrainian-Americans in Northeast Ohio take an active role in ensuring the entire region can flourish. Several Cleveland-area Ukrainian community representatives were recognized by Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton for their efforts in support of the first Ukrainian Embassy. This history makes Ohio well suited to welcome some of the 100,000 refugees fleeing combat zones, and will help increase opportunities for successful family reunification.

Ohio is already preparing to welcome people affected by the war with housing, jobs, and a convivial community. Since the start of the conflict, Ohio has been a leader uniting Ohio's refugee and resettlement organizations to better assist Ukrainians and prepare the region to welcome refugees. Ohio has worked together with nonprofits like Global Cleveland and US Together to collect medical supplies to send to Ukraine while connecting Ukrainians with medical help and safe passage out of Ukraine, and connecting families separated by Vladimir Putin's illegal war. Other local partners have also contributed to the cause, with the Cleveland Clinic organizing and shipping medical supplies to Ukraine so doctors can treat their wounded.

We thank you for your efforts to help the people of Ukraine, including the more than \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance for those affected by Russia's unprovoked war. This aid will have a direct impact on the people of Ukraine and our European allies that have accepted those seeking refuge. Unfortunately, there is not yet an end in sight to this horrific war and we urge you to be ready to offer more humanitarian assistance – including a willingness to accept additional refugees – as this conflict continues.

Ohioans are generous people and are willing to aid the people of Ukraine. We encourage you to think of Ohio as you work on resettling Ukrainians and others displaced by this tragic war of Russia's choosing, we stand ready to assist in your efforts to reunite families and welcome Ukrainian refugees to Ohio.

Thank you for your continued dedication to this critical priority.

Sincerely,



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress




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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress

  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

May 13, 2022

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your April 5, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding your support of the Administration's recent announcement to welcome 100,000 Ukrainians fleeing Russian aggression to the United States and for your offer of assistance to help respond to this humanitarian crisis. Secretary Mayorkas asked that I write to share with you some of the ways the Administration is achieving this goal.

On April 21, 2022, DHS announced a new streamlined process, Uniting for Ukraine (U4U), to provide Ukrainian citizens who fled Russia's unprovoked war of aggression with opportunities to come to the United States.<sup>1</sup> To be eligible, Ukrainians must have been residents in Ukraine as of February 11, 2022, have a U.S.-based supporter, complete vaccinations and other public health requirements, and pass biometric and biographic screening and security background checks.

As of April 25, 2022, U.S.-based individuals interested in supporting Ukrainian beneficiaries can file a Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as the first step in the U4U process. Individuals are vetted to ensure they can assist those they agree to support. USCIS will reach out to the Ukrainians named in approved Forms I-134 with instructions on how to initiate vetting and apply for a travel document that will authorize them to travel to the United States and be considered for parole, on a case-by-case basis, for a period of two years. Once paroled through this process, Ukrainians are eligible to apply for employment authorization. More details on who is eligible to provide support and who can be considered for parole under U4U can be found on the U4U landing page.<sup>2</sup>

Secretary Mayorkas also announced the designation of Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months to offer protection for individuals who have been residing in the United States since April 11, 2022 and who are nationals or who last habitually resided in

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine>

Ukraine.<sup>3</sup> TPS allows eligible Ukrainian nationals in the United States to remain and authorizes them to work lawfully. The Department recently published a Federal Register notice with instructions for applying for TPS and an Employment Authorization Document. In addition, USCIS recently released an alert providing individuals with critical information about immigration avenues that may be available entitled, *“Immigration Help Available to Those Affected by Special Situations, Including the Invasion of Ukraine.”*<sup>4</sup>

To further support the President’s recent commitments mentioned in your letter, DHS is also working to expand current legal pathways and develop new programs. We are coordinating our efforts closely with our European allies and partners who are on the front lines of this refugee crisis. Individuals, depending on location and circumstances, may be eligible for a nonimmigrant visa, an immigrant visa, TPS, asylum, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, or the new U4U process for applying for parole.<sup>5</sup>

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. We are grateful to have states like Ohio that are willing to extend supporting hands and partnerships. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ur M. Jaddou', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou  
Director

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/03/03/secretary-mayorkas-designates-ukraine-temporary-protected-status-18-months>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/immigration-help-available-to-those-affected-by-special-situations-including-the-invasion-of-ukraine>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/Fact%20Sheet%20on%20DHS%20Efforts%20to%20Assist%20Ukrainian%20Nationals\\_1.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/Fact%20Sheet%20on%20DHS%20Efforts%20to%20Assist%20Ukrainian%20Nationals_1.pdf)