

# Employment for Refugees

## Employment Counseling at Arrive

At Arrive Ministries, our in-house employment services program is funded by the State of Minnesota through a program called “E.A.R.N.” (Employment Achievement Resettlement Network). Our EARN team works closely with employers and potential employees to bridge gaps, match companies with appropriate candidates, and build critical skills for the U.S. workplace. We teach our clients about resume writing, interviewing and the American work culture.

Our top priority is self-sufficiency for every client we work with. Clients therefore have a responsibility in the process to complete assignments from their employment counselor, communicate with them actively and regularly, and search for jobs on their own at a level appropriate to their abilities. We strive to incorporate the clients’ goals and aspirations into the job search process, but sometimes clients must settle for employment outside of their goals/interests so that they can pay bills and begin working towards future goals. Building a career in the U.S. can be a long process for refugees!

## Employment Counseling through the County

As a requirement of their public assistance program, many refugees will end up working with a county-assigned employment counselor instead of with Arrive. In these cases, Arrive Ministries has no connection with the refugee’s employment search and will likely be unable to answer employment-related questions. County-provided employment counselors may have a variety of different processes and methods while serving refugees, but they share a common purpose of connecting their clients with jobs.

Some of the biggest obstacles for job-seeking refugees include language barriers and limited transportation options. Refugees may therefore be limited to entry-level positions in manufacturing or the hospitality industry, and they may have long and inconvenient commutes to these jobs. Job prospects for refugees will improve as their English improves, so this is an important long-term goal for them.

