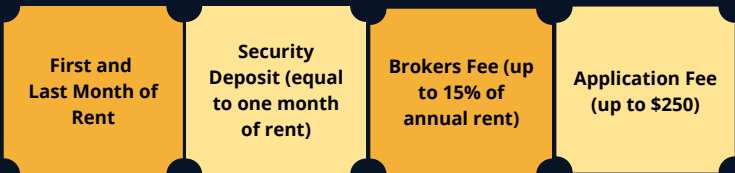


# REALITY OF FINDING HOUSING AS A REFUGEE

For IRC in NYNJ clients, the unique housing markets of New York City and Union County, coupled with the added stressors of resettling in a new country can make the housing process extremely long and challenging.

## HOUSING MARKET REALITIES

### Initial Costs



The initial costs in securing rented housing can be at least **4X** the cost of one month of rent. For those just arriving in the area who might not have secured employment or enrolled in public benefits, these costs can be a major hindrance.

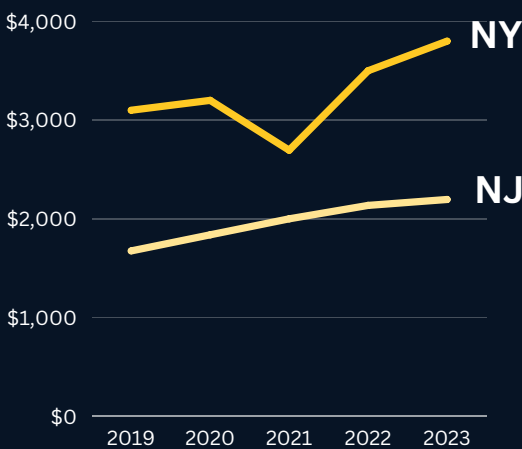
### Affordable Housing Accessibility

Undocumented individuals are typically **ineligible to apply for affordable housing**. This, coupled with the shortage of affordable housing units in both NY and NJ severely limits options for clients.

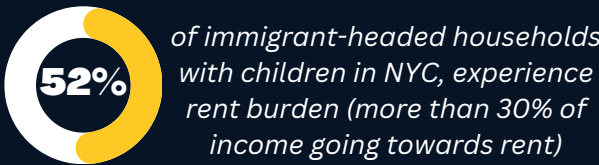


### Rent Increases

Average Rent for a 2BR Apartment



Rent has increased substantially with a **27% increase** in NYC and a **24% increase** in Union County, NJ.

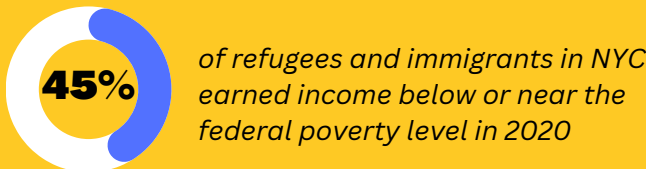
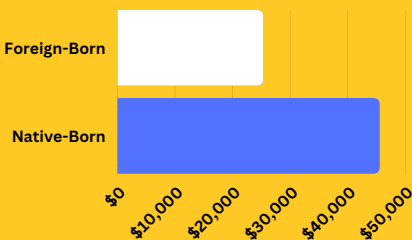


## RESETTLEMENT REALITIES

### Employment and Wage Disparity

Although NY's labor force is **44% foreign-born** and NJ's is **29% foreign-born**, refugees and immigrants tend to be employed in some of the lowest paid sectors.

Median Annual Wages in NYC



### Additional Barriers

#### Limited English Proficiency

In NYC, **63%** of undocumented immigrants have LEP.

#### Required Documentation

- Individuals arriving in NY & NJ often do not have the documentation required to secure housing or find employment

#### Transportation

Access to, knowledge of, and costs of transportation can impact clients' access to resources.

### Delays

SSN: 2-4 weeks

SNAP: 6 weeks

Work Authorization (EAD): 3.2 months

Green Card: 19.5 months

There are many requirements to securing housing and living in NY and NJ. Unfortunately, due to the high volume of entrants and limited capacity, individuals have to wait longer than usual to access these essential forms and benefits (Data from March 2023).

## MOVING IN

### Temporary Housing

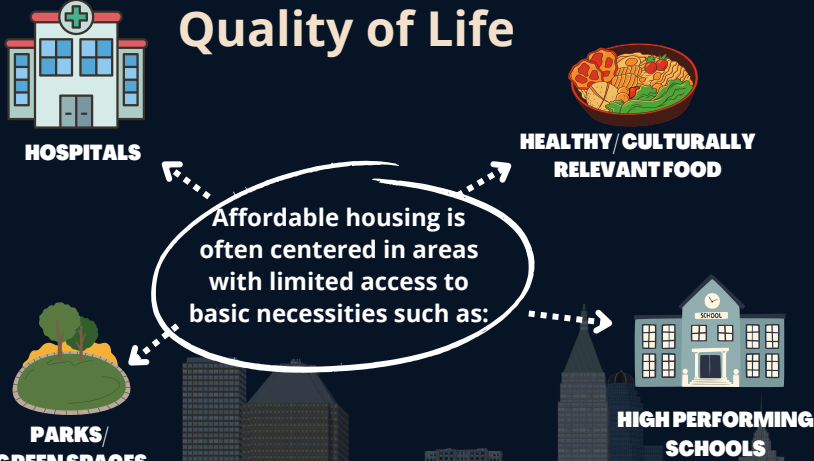
**1-3 MONTHS**

Average time spent in temporary housing for IRC NYNJ clients

### Home Needs

**\$2,500** is how much it costs, on average, to furnish a home for a family of four served by the IRC in NYNJ

### Quality of Life



The IRC is required to provide the following items to clients upon move-in.

- FURNITURE:** mattresses, bed frames, kitchen table and chairs, couch, set of chairs or shelves
- KITCHEN ITEMS:** pots and pans, utensils, dinnerware
- OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:** Linens, Cleaning Supplies, Toiletries, baby items, etc.