



Support RAICES - Campaign to Raise Miles FAQ

What is the Support RAICES campaign to Raise Miles?

The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) has partnered with Miles4Migrants to raise donations to help reunite and relocate families separated by persecution and conflict. Miles4Migrants uses donated frequent flyer miles and points to provide free airline tickets to those in need.

What is Miles4Migrants' mission?

Miles4Migrants is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity, dedicated to using donated frequent flyer miles, points and money for the relocation of those displaced by war, persecution, politics and more, to start a new beginning in a new home. Our goal is to help families join their loved ones as quickly as possible, and without undue financial hardship.

How does Miles4Migrants find refugees and asylum seekers to support?

Miles4Migrants fosters relationships with other nonprofits and NGOs that are 'on the ground' serving refugees directly. Our partner nonprofits submit requests for flight assistance to Miles4Migrants. We do not have the time or manpower to vet refugee finances, nor do we specialize in doing government legwork to make a refugee or their family 'legal' for travel, so we depend on these "partners." We cannot help in individual cases without another organization acting as an intermediary.

What type of airline miles does Miles4Migrants accept?

Miles from most programs are accepted, however, based on the nature of some cases, miles from certain programs are used more frequently than others.

Most commonly, cases are booked with miles and points from:

- United Airlines
- American Airlines
- Alaska Airlines
- Southwest Airlines
- British Airways
- Air Canada
- American Express Membership Rewards
- Chase Ultimate Rewards

How many miles does a typical case require?

Because Miles4Migrants provides flights for both domestic (U.S.-Mexico border cases) and international cases, the number of miles required for a flight varies. Other considerations are whether we are flying just one person or several family members, award seat availability when the flight reservation is made, and which airlines fly the specific route needed. We are not able to combine donor miles, except for Air Canada Aeroplan miles and American Express Membership Rewards, so each donor's pledge is used by itself to cover the flight. Some examples of miles requirements:

12,500 miles will fly one person within the U.S.

20,000 miles will fly one person from Afghanistan to Europe

25,000 miles will fly two persons within the U.S.

30,000 miles will fly one person from Africa to Europe

40,000 miles will fly one person from Africa to the U.S. or Canada

42,500 miles will fly one person from the Middle East to the U.S.

Larger pledges allow us to help book larger families, which is common for international cases. If we are flying a parent with children, the parent and minor children need to be on the same reservation, which requires even larger pledges. For example, in the case of an international flight, if we are flying an Afghan family to safety, the miles required might be:

60,000 Adult and two minor children

80,000 Adult and three minor children

100,000 Adult and four minor children

120,000 Two adults and four minor children

What happens once I pledge my miles?

Miles4Migrants works with partner NGO organizations to identify family reunification cases to support. Once a partner brings us an approved case in need of airfare, our flight booking team works to identify the best award flight options, and then matches the flight with a donor who has pledged the corresponding number of miles to the associated airline reward program. As the volume of flight requests varies, your donated miles may be needed within a matter of weeks, but it is likely that it may take longer for your specific program/donation amount to be matched. We appreciate your patience. Within a few days of making your pledge, you will be contacted by a member of the Miles4Migrants team to better explain the process and answer any questions you have. You can also [watch this video that better explains the booking process](#).

I don't have miles to donate. How can I help?

Cash donations are a big help in addition to miles. While frequent flyer miles cover most of the expenses, there is also a cash charge for each ticket to cover taxes, departure and arrival fees, and fuel surcharges. Our average cost of taxes and fees per flight booked is \$55. All contributions to Miles4Migrants are used solely to help refugees and immigrants. No contributions are used to cover any costs of staff or personal expenses, and under no circumstances is any donated money used for political activism or lobbying.

Is my donation tax deductible?

For tax purposes, frequent flyer mile donations are considered a gift or award from the airline to an individual, and are not considered tax deductible. Miles4Migrants is registered as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity, and monetary donations may be tax deductible.