



**Senate Bill 2012**

Senate Appropriations Committee | HR Section  
Senator Dever, Chairman

Office of Refugee Services, Holly Triska-Dally

January 31, 2023

NORTH  
**Dakota** | Health & Human Services  
Be Legendary.

# Refugee Services Purpose and ND Century Code Reference

Building a life in a new community is challenging.

Imagine losing everything and then having to rebuild in a new country with limited community connections, resources, and acceptance.

Our programs develop community collaborations to strengthen and guide newcomers as they become welcomed neighbors and valued contributors to the economy.

Chapter	Chapter Name
50-06-01.4	Structure of the Department a. Administration of programs for children and families, including refugee services



# Refugee Services Section

## Official Chain of Designation

HHS gives **authority** to the State Refugee Coordinator to:

- Oversee the State Plan
- Oversee the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Budget

**Governor**  
Doug Burgum

**DHHS  
Commissioner**  
Chris Jones

**DHHS Deputy  
Commissioner**  
Sara Stolt

**State Refugee  
Coordinator**  
Holly Triska

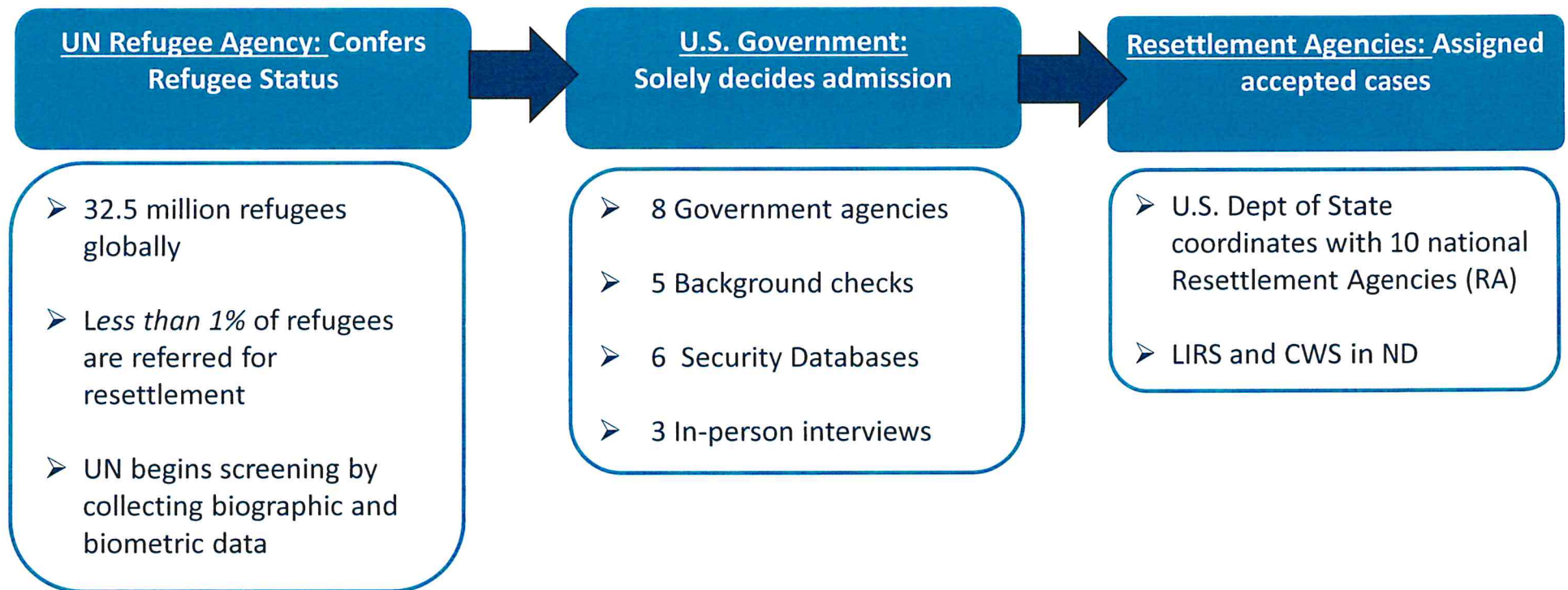
**State URM  
Administrator**  
Katie Behrend

**Refugee Health  
Coordinator**  
Dipshikha Sharma

**State Operations  
Coordinator**  
Ermina Jelovac

# Who is a Refugee?

**Refugee:** A person forced to flee their home country to escape persecution, war, or violence.



# Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Additional Eligible Populations



Special  
Immigrant  
Visa Holders



Afghan  
Humanitarian  
Parolees



Ukrainian  
Humanitarian  
Parolees

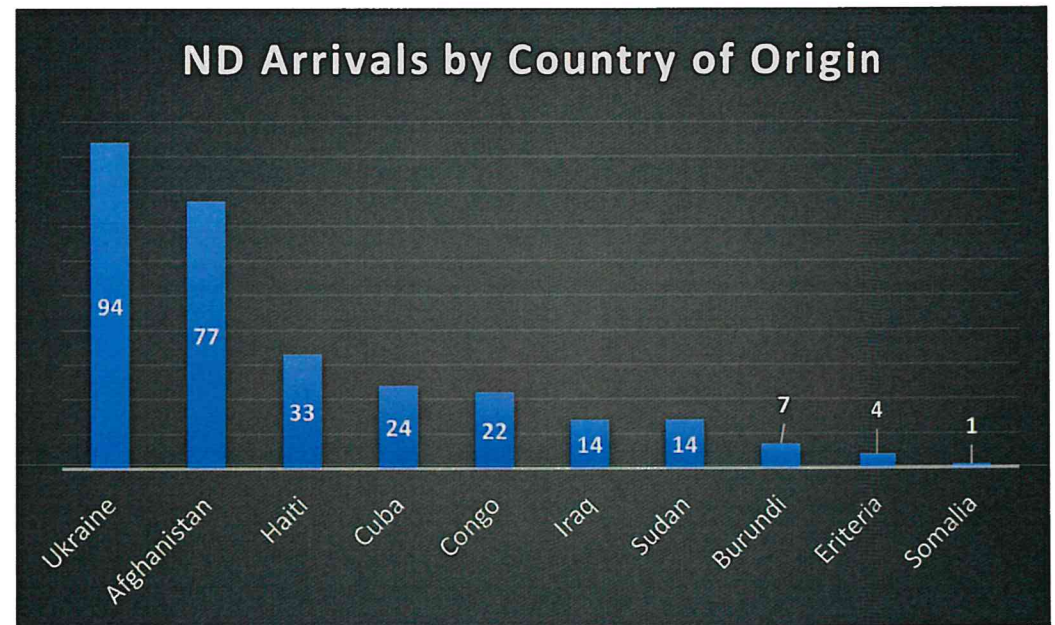


Cuban or  
Haitian  
Parolees

# Who we serve

- All populations meeting Office of Refugee Resettlement eligibility criteria
- Nearly 60% of arrivals are from Ukraine and Afghanistan

(July 2021 – December 2022)



# Office of Refugee Services

Refugee Services		
2021-2023 Authorized FTE Base	2023-2025 Executive Budget FTE	# of vacancies 12-31-22 <i>(from base)</i>
4.0	4.0	0.0

# Overview of budget changes

Description	2021 - 2023 Budget Base	Increase/ (Decrease)	2023 - 2025 Executive Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,416,485	\$(567,965)	\$848,520
Operating	442,363	129,668	572,031
Grants	6,605,621	4,603,355	11,208,976
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,464,469</b>	<b>\$4,165,058</b>	<b>\$12,629,527</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>8,464,469</b>	<b>4,165,058</b>	<b>12,629,527</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$8,464,469</b>	<b>\$4,165,058</b>	<b>\$12,629,527</b>
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	4.00	0.00	4.00

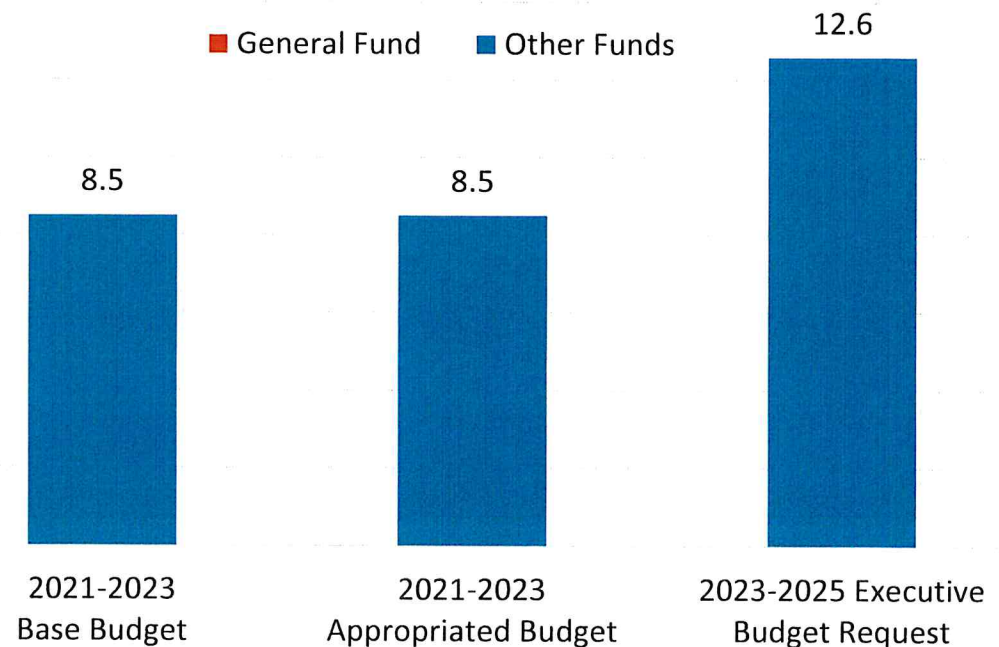


# Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)

INCREASE FROM BASE TO EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION \$ 4.1 MILLION

Increases Driven by:

- Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act
- Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act
- Data Management System
- Increased Focus on Refugee Behavioral Health



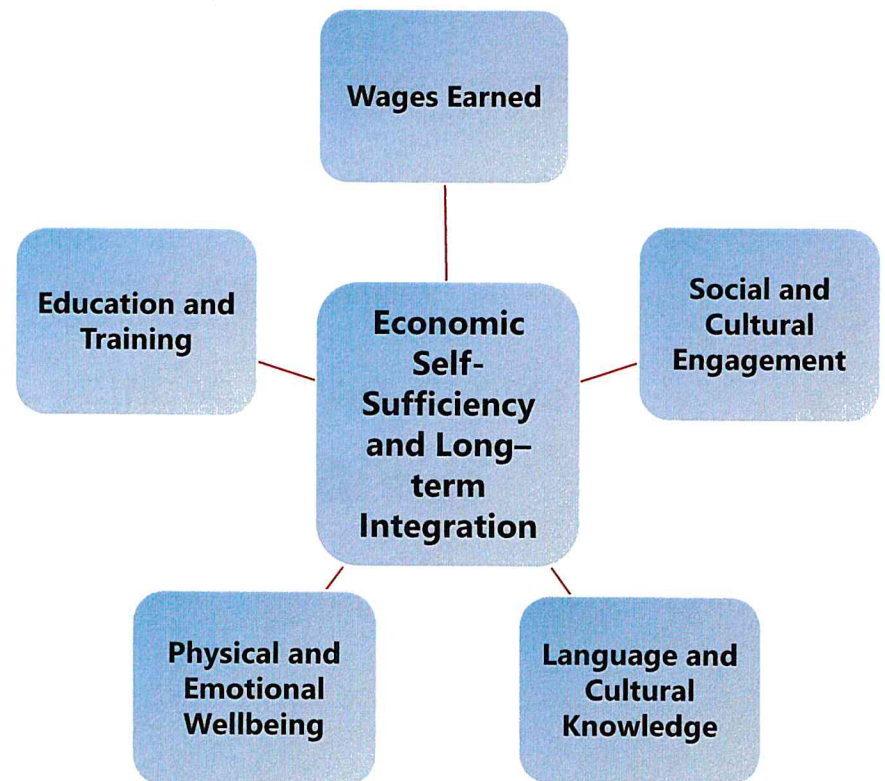
# Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)

Description	2021 - 2023 Budget Base	Increase/ (Decrease)	2023 - 2025 Executive Budget
511x Salaries - Regular	\$ 1,416,485	\$ (837,568)	\$ 578,917
516x Salaries Benefits	-	269,603	269,603
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 1,416,485</b>	<b>\$ (567,965)</b>	<b>\$ 848,520</b>
52x Travel	2,650	55,775	58,425
53x Supply	-	5,000	5,000
54x Postage & Printing	-	200	200
58x Rent/Leases - Bldg/Equip	-	7,801	7,801
61x Professional Development	411	14,554	14,965
62x Fees - Operating & Professional	439,302	40,038	479,340
53x Supplies	-	6,300	6,300
71x Grants, Benefits, & Claims	6,605,621	4,603,355	11,208,976
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>\$ 7,047,984</b>	<b>\$ 4,733,023</b>	<b>\$ 11,781,007</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,464,469</b>	<b>\$ 4,165,058</b>	<b>\$ 12,629,527</b>

# One-Time Expenditures

## Data Management System: \$1.1M

- Tracks progress of individuals and programs overtime
- Facilitates referrals to Refugee Support Service providers
- Produces ORR and State reports



# About State Refugee Grants and Contracts

## Refugee Support Services

- Local Case Management
- English Language Learning
- Employment Support
- Immigration Services

## Refugee Cash Assistance

## Set-Aside Programs

- Refugee School Impact
- Youth Mentoring
- Refugee Health Promotion
- Services to Older Refugees

## Unaccompanied Refugee Minor

# Policy Bills with Impact to Refugee Services Work

- SB 2151 – Office of Immigration
- SB 2142 – Office of Immigration
- HB 1503 – Property Ownership
- HB 1421 – New American Workforce Development Training



# Refugee Services: What's on the horizon?

- Improved assessments and outcome measurement
- Improved access to English Language Learning
- Expanded community-based and employment sector relationships
- Enhanced focus on behavioral health services



# From Struggle to Resilience: Examining 3.4M U.S. refugee arrivals since 1975

## Median Annual Income

< 5 years = \$22,000

> 25 years = \$67,000

## Economic Benefits Outweigh Costs

**Year 1:** Estimated Cost of resettlement = \$15k

**Year 8:** Taxes paid exceed investment

**Year 20:** \$21k more in taxes than initial investment

**40%** of Fortune 500 companies founded by immigrants or their children

**13%** of refugees are entrepreneurs (\$4.6B in business income annually)

\* Data derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey

# Welcoming as a Workforce Strategy



## Immigration is Our History:

100 years ago, 80% of North Dakotans were immigrants or the children of immigrants.



## Immigration Policy is Federal:

Immigration channels and the caps on participation are set at the federal level.



## Newcomer Integration is Local:

Our local approach to helping newcomers thrive situates us for economic success.





## Contact information

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State Refugee Coordinator

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[www.hhs.nd.gov](http://www.hhs.nd.gov)