



Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Brad Bekkedahl, Chairman

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Office of Refugee Services | January 16, 2023

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





# Office of Refugee Services

## Mission/Purpose

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.

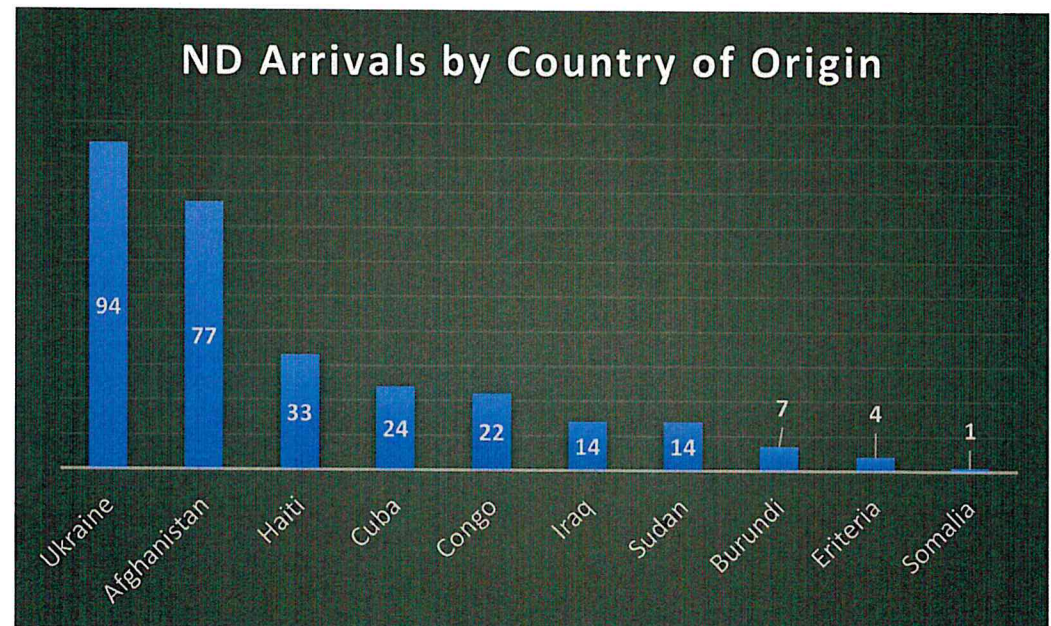
Our programs develop community collaborations to strengthen and guide newcomers as they become welcomed neighbors and valued contributors to the economy.



# Who we serve

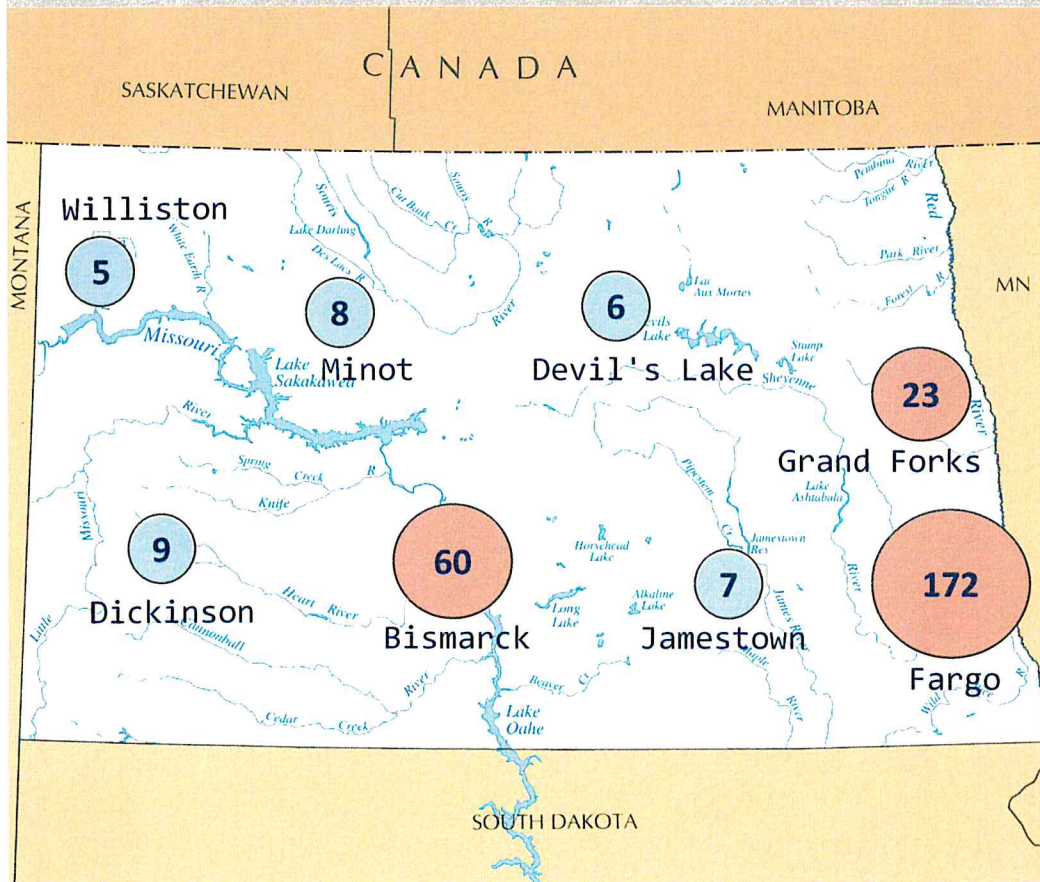
- All populations meeting Office of Refugee Resettlement eligibility criteria
- Neary 60% of arrivals are from Ukraine and Afghanistan

(July 2021 – December 2022)





# Geographic Distribution of ND's Refugees



## H.B. No. 1012

Resettle refugees in at least five geographically diverse communities in the state outside of the existing resettlement communities with a goal of resettling 25% of new refugees outside of existing resettlement communities.

*Resettlement since July 2021: 290*

*Outside of Fargo: 41%*



# Community Collaborations that support Integration and Success



## Local Case Management

*Fargo:* LIRS  
*Bismarck:* Global Neighbors  
*Grand Forks:* Global Friends



## English Learning

*Adult Learning Centers* provide language instruction and career navigation



## Skill Development

*ND Job Service* connects to training programs, apprenticeships, and WIOA



## K-12 Programs

Schools provide English instruction, family programming, and cultural liaisons



## Youth Career Readiness

Mentoring for those aged 15-24 through the New American Consortium, F/M Chamber and NDSU extension



## Health Literacy and Access

Family Health Care, Spectra, UND, YMCA, Adult Learning Centers, and local nonprofits



# ND Refugee Employment and Skill Acquisition

## Refugees are Economic Contributors

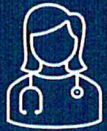
### Top ND Industries Employing Refugees:



**46%** Manufacturing



**17%** Retail/Food Service



**12%** Education/Training



**11%** Child Care

**English Language Enrollment: 55%**

**Average Wage: \$17.50**



# Overview of budget changes

Description	2021 - 2023 Budget Base	Increase/ (Decrease)	2023 - 2025 Executive Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,416,486	\$ (567,966)	\$ 848,520
Operating	442,363	135,968	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>Federal Funds</b>	<b>8,464,469</b>	<b>4,165,058</b>	<b>12,629,527</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 8,464,469</b>	<b>\$ 4,165,058</b>	<b>\$ 12,629,527</b>

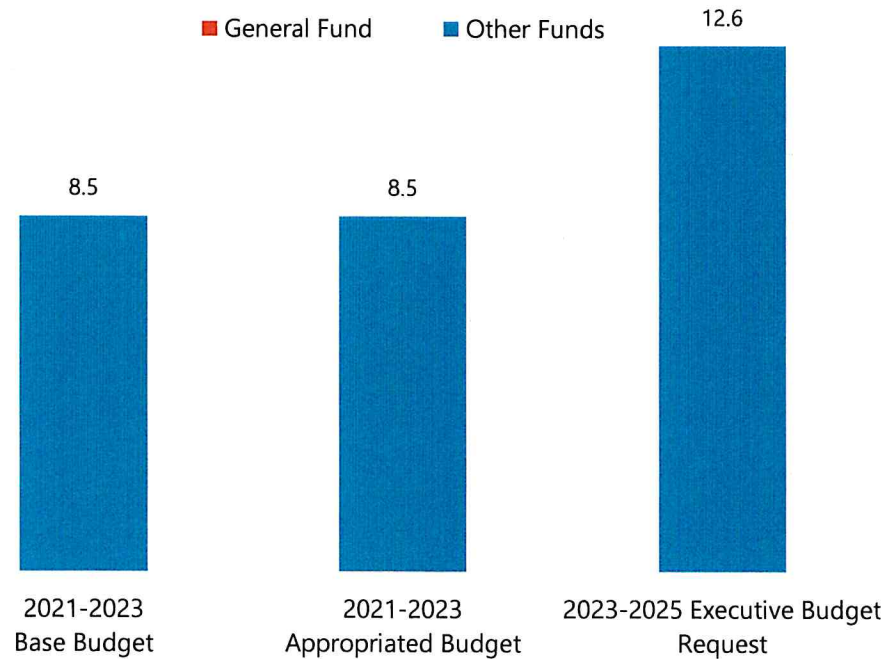
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	4.00	2.00	6.00
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# Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)

INCREASE FROM BASE TO EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION \$ 4.1 MILLION

Increases Driven by:

- Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act
- Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act
- Data Management System





# Goals for the 2023-25 Biennium



## Launch a Data Management System

Track and understand refugee outcomes and needs to maximize potential



## Improve Access to English Language Learning

Remove the top constraint for newcomers in reaching their workforce potential



## Expand Community Partnerships and Build Employer Relations

Hire two positions:  
Community Integration Specialist  
Mental Health Specialist



## Summary and key takeaways

Welcoming is a

# Humanitarian Effort

and a **Workforce Strategy**

We are competing for newcomer talent.

Refugee programs build strong networks that connect newcomers to workforce opportunities while helping them to rebuild and establish roots in North Dakota.

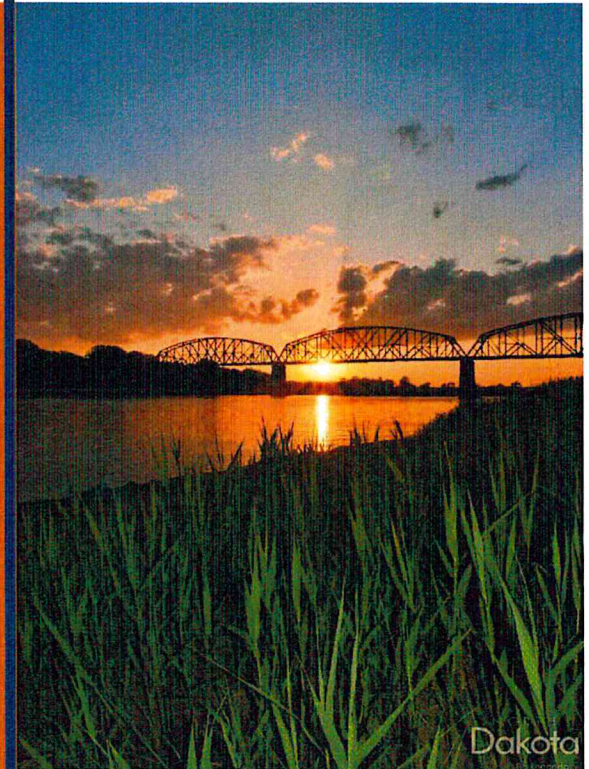






## Contact Information

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Dakota