



# Refugee 101



# Why do people migrate?



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

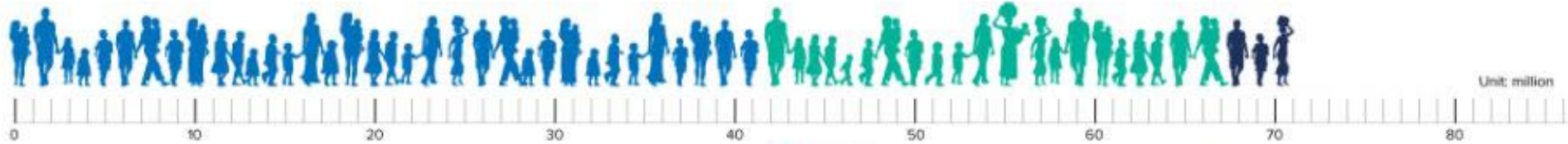


# Some Definitions:

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- Migrants
- Immigrants
- Internally Displaced People
- Asylum Seekers
- Asylees
- Refugees
- Special Immigrant Visa Holders (SIVs)

**70.8 million** forcibly displaced people worldwide



Internally Displaced People  
**41.3 million**

Refugees  
**25.9 million**

Asylum-seekers  
**3.5 million**

# THE JOURNEY OF A REFUGEE

*“A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence.”*



# Refugees and Durable Solutions

- Repatriation/ Return





- Integration

- Resettlement

- ▣ To qualify for U.S. refugee resettlement, a refugee must: (a) be of a designated nationality and fall within the priority categories for that nationality in that region; or, (b) be referred by a U.S. embassy, UNHCR or a non-governmental organization (NGO); and (c) meet the U.S. definition of refugee as determined by the DHS/USCIS; and (d) not be excludable under INA Section 212(a). A practical consideration is (e) that the refugee must have access to a U.S. refugee processing post or DHS/USCIS officer and (f) not be firmly resettled in any foreign country.




















## 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT:

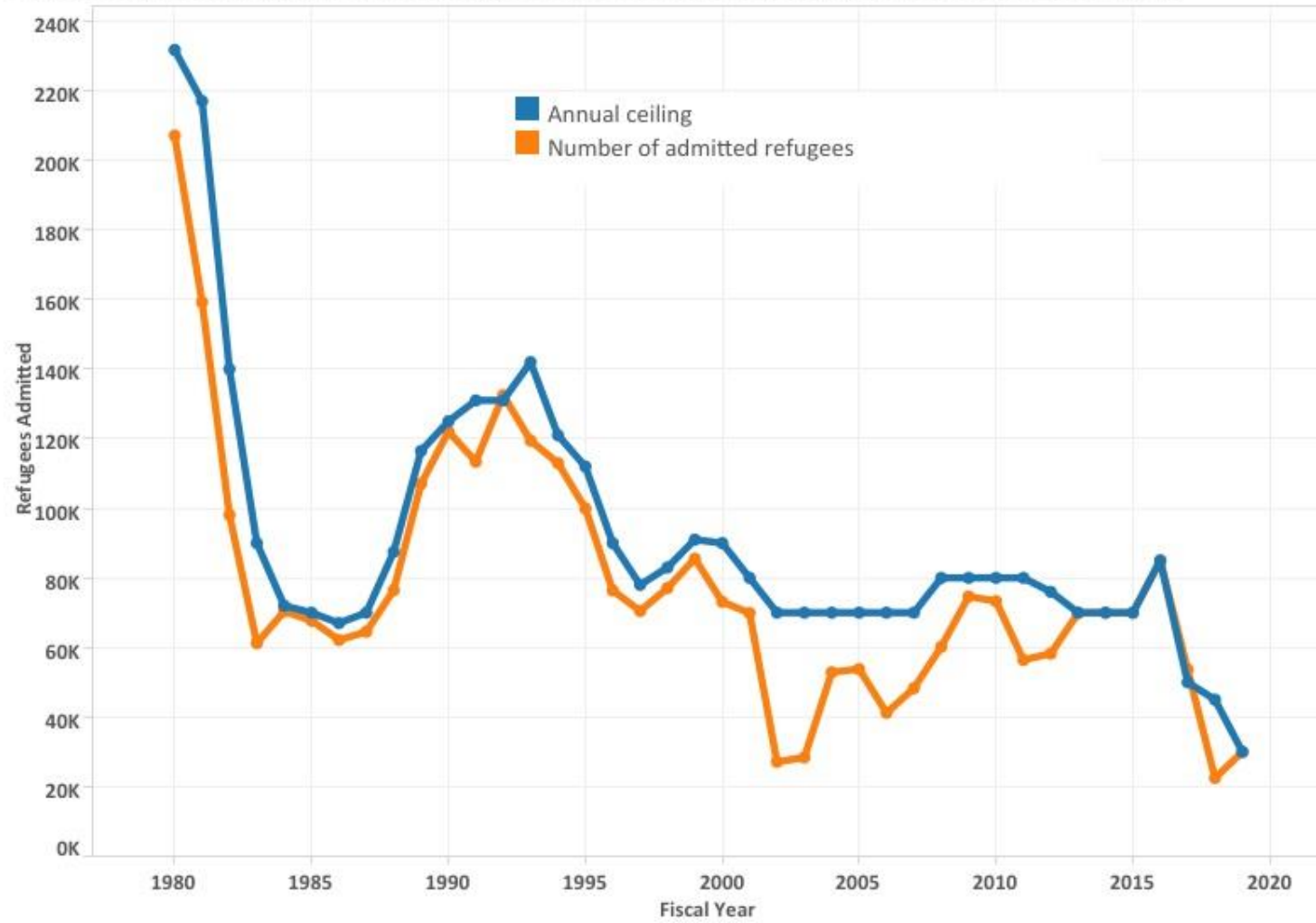
- 1 Refugees do not apply for resettlement themselves.**  
UNHCR identifies vulnerable cases to be considered for resettlement.
- 2 Only the most vulnerable refugees are considered.**  
All refugees who are referred must fit at least one vulnerability category, some of which include:
  -  Medical needs
  -  Women & girls at risk
  -  Children at risk
  -  Survivors of violence/torture
- 3 Countries decide which refugees to admit for resettlement**
- 4 Persons who have committed serious crimes or who might pose a security threat are not eligible for refugee status or resettlement.**
- 5 Refugee resettlement saves lives.**

## THE U.S. RESETTLEMENT PROCESS

In addition to UNHCR's screening, the U.S. conducts its own vetting process to decide whether to accept a refugee for resettlement. The entire process can take up to two years.

-  **UNHCR refers a refugee to be considered for resettlement and provides background information:**
  -  Iris scans
  -  Fingerprints
  -  Facial scans
  -  Bio data
-  **The U.S. Government screens the refugee and decides whether to admit them for resettlement. This process includes:**
  - 8** U.S. Government agencies
  - 5** Separate security databases
  - 6** Background checks
  - 3** In-person interviews
-  **If the refugee is approved, the State Department assigns the case to one of nine U.S. NGOs:**
  -  Church World Service
  -  World Relief
  -  HIAS
  -  International Rescue Committee
  -  United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
  -  U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
  -  Episcopal Migration Ministries
  -  Ethiopian Community Development Council
  -  Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service
-  **The NGO helps the refugee integrate and become economically self-sufficient in their new U.S. community**

U.S. Refugee Admissions and Refugee Resettlement Ceilings, Fiscal Years 1980-2019

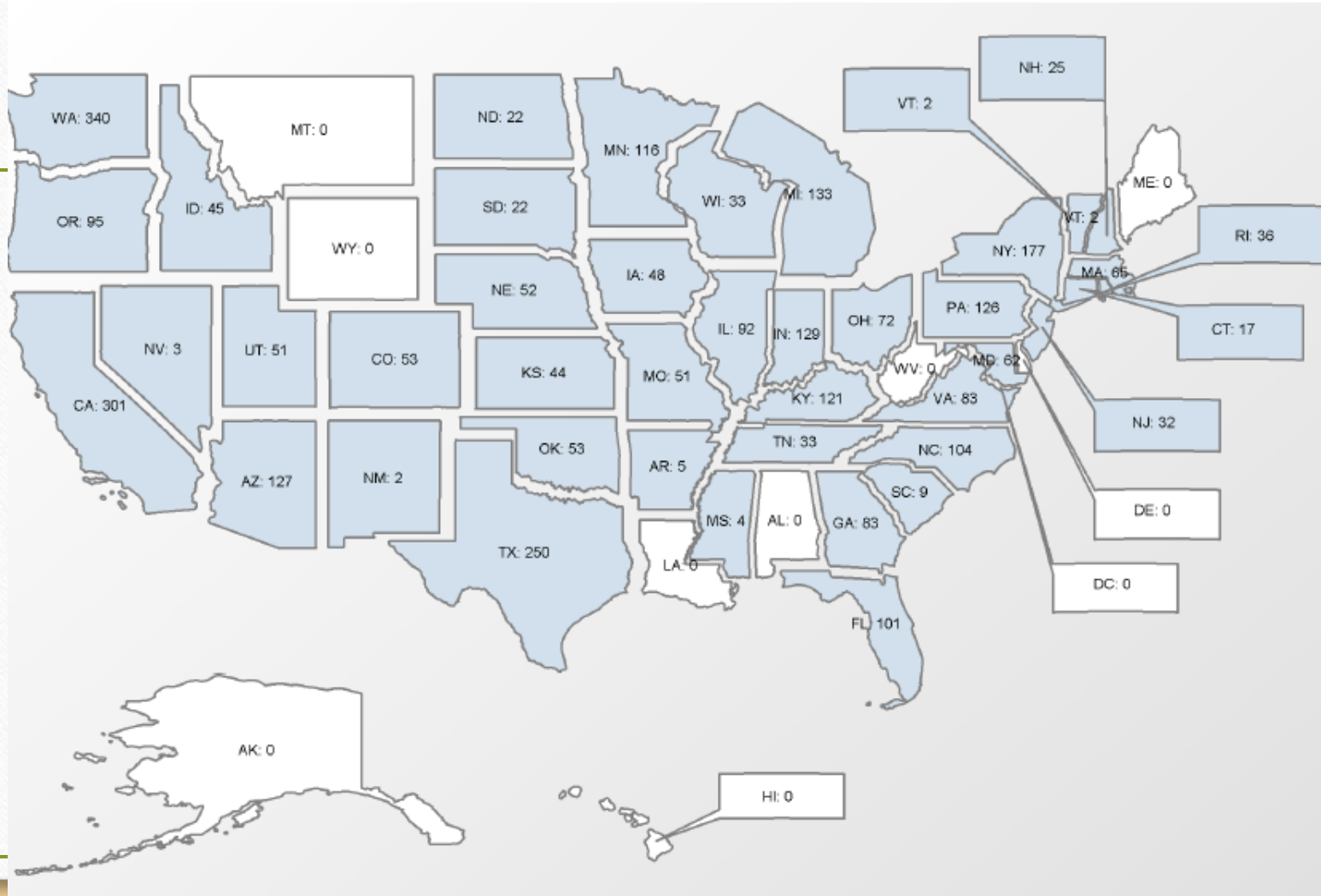


Migration Policy Institute (MPI) Data Hub  
<http://migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub>

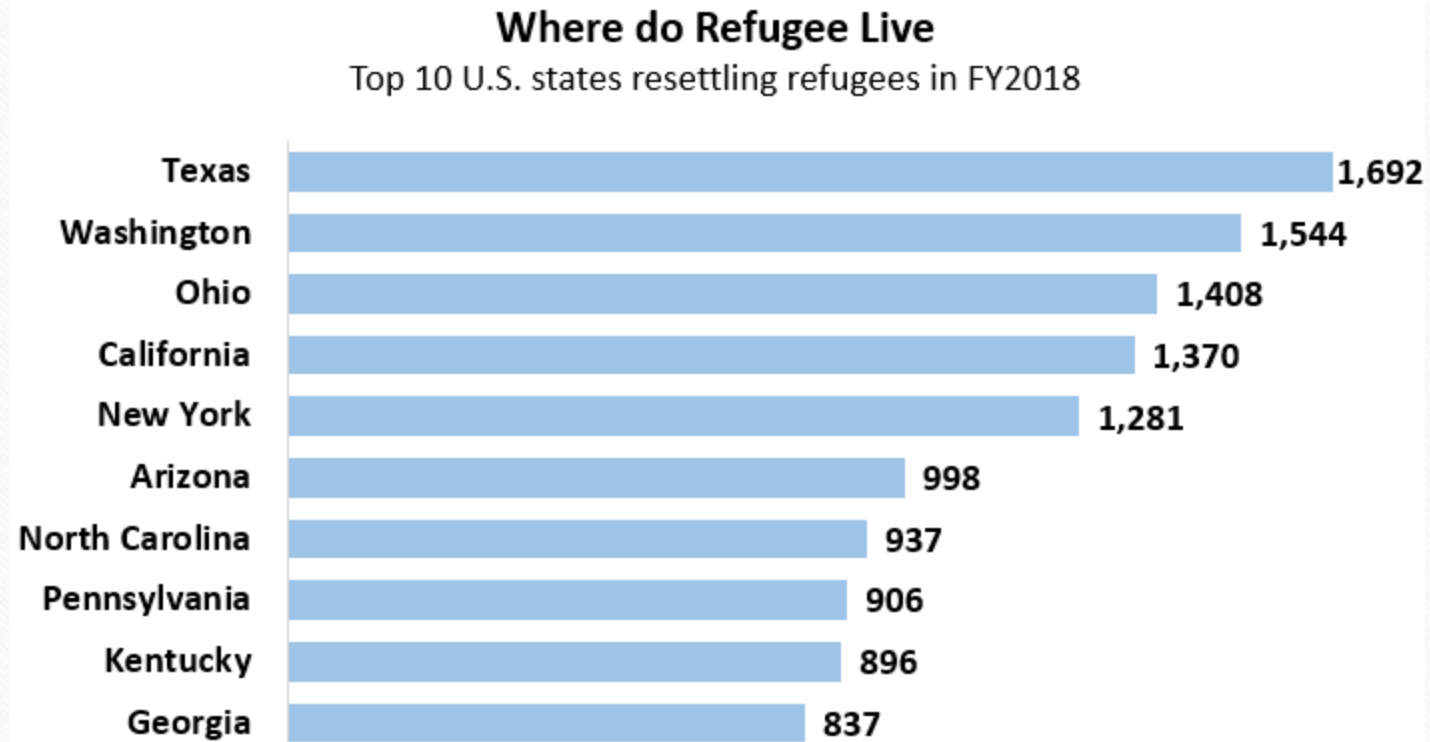


# Refugee Resettlement: By State

Arrivals by State



# Refugee Resettlement: By State



# Refugee Resettlement in Philadelphia

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- Nationalities Service Center
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS PA)
- Bethany Christian Services

Philadelphia Total ~ 500+ arrivals annually

Congolese, Iraqi, Syrian, Afghanis, Eritrean, Pakistani, Bhutanese, Burmese, Ukrainian

## Unique Programs:

- Philadelphia Refugee Health Collaborative
- Philadelphia Partnership for Resilience
- Refugee Education Collaborative

Map 1. Percent of the Total Population that is Foreign Born, City of Philadelphia, 2000

Ukrainian & Other  
Eastern European  
Community

Iraqi, Syrian, Afghani &  
Paskistani Community

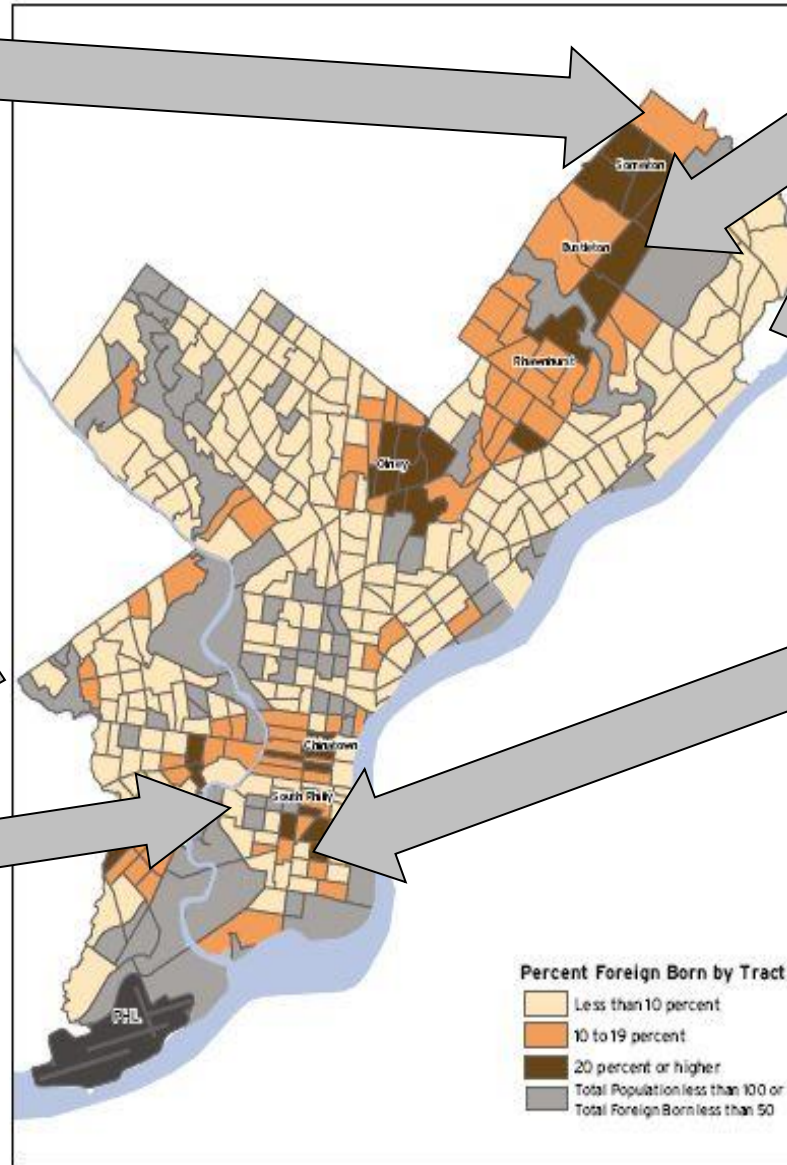
Sudanese Community

Eritrean & Ethiopian  
Community

Congolese, Pakistani

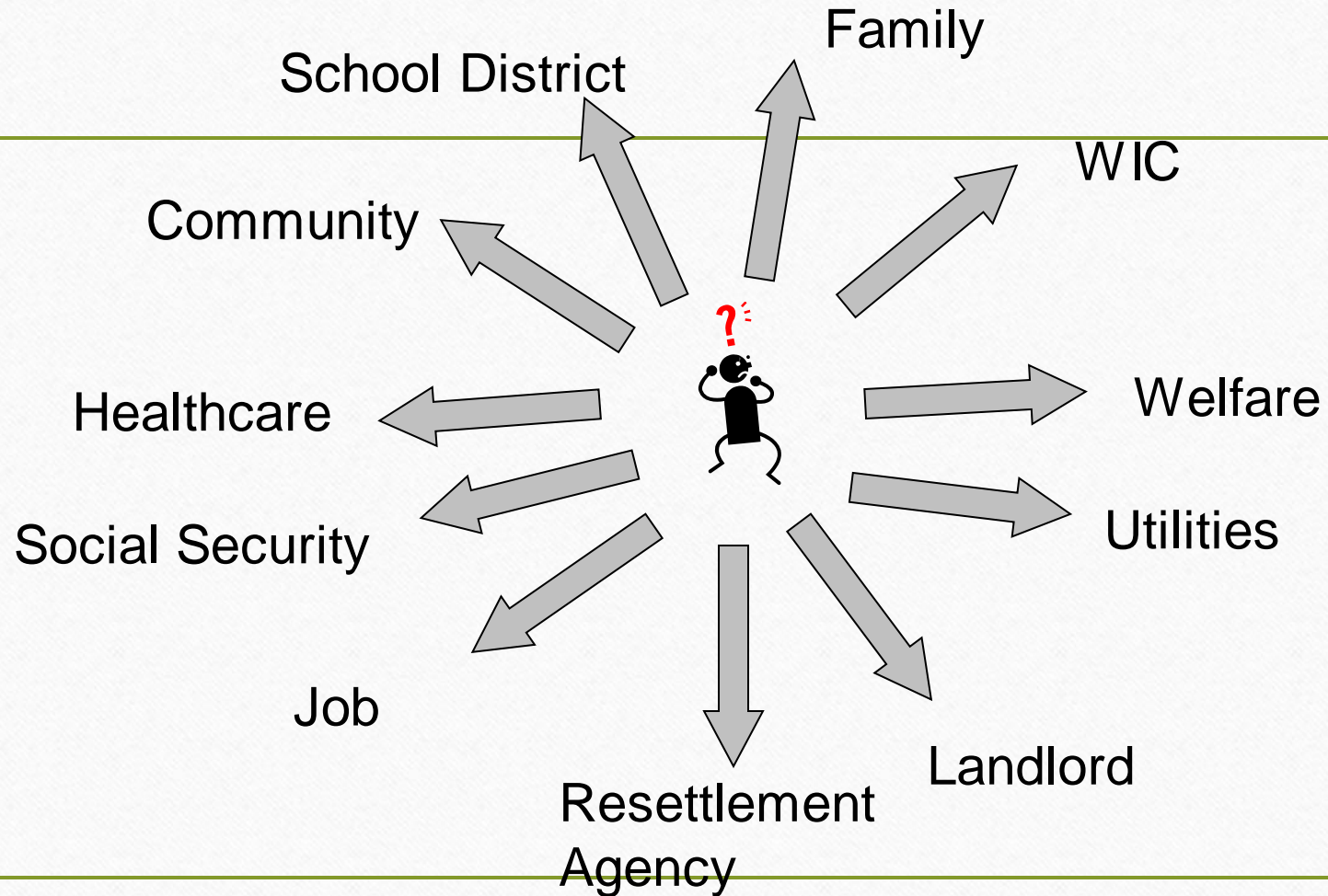
Bhutanese Community

Burmese Community



Source: Brookings analysis of U.S. Census decennial data

# Role of Resettlement Agencies



# Phases of Adjustment

## Arrival

Excitement, Relief, bewilderment,  
confusion, enthusiasm, fascination

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## Reality

Awareness of challenges, disappointment, anger,  
fear, confusion, frustration



## Negotiation

Takes initiative, action to move  
ahead, begins to accept losses,  
beginning to heal, determination to  
succeed, defining new roles and  
identity

## Alienation

Withdrawal, isolation, despair,  
sadness, apathy, poor physical  
health, mental health problems,  
lamenting loss of old roles

## Integration

Good psychological and social  
adjustment, self sufficiency, well defined  
roles, sense of power and control,  
language competence, good support  
system, well functioning family

## Marginalization

Dependence, unemployment, legal  
involvement, lack of roles, minimal social  
support system, family dysfunction/ breakup

# Refugees in the United States

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- Upon arrival refugees have the right to be enrolled in public assistance programs (food stamps, Medicaid programs (without five year bar) and cash assistance).
- Refugees are eligible to work immediately upon arrival to the United States. An important resettlement program priority is to promote economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible, so as to limit the need for public assistance.
- After one year of refugee status, refugees can apply for a permanent residency card, commonly called a green card. After 5 years of residency, refugees are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.
- A minimum of \$975 and up to \$1,175 is allocated to each refugee for resettlement agencies to spend on initial housing, transportation, food and material needs.



# Nationalities Service Center

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- Founded in 1921 to assist immigrant women in acquiring language proficiency and gaining citizenship.
- Evolved into an organization providing comprehensive services to refugees, immigrants, foreign victims of human trafficking, asylees, survivors of torture and domestic violence
- Currently serves over 5,000 immigrants and refugees annually from over 100 countries





# Nationalities Service Center

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- Legal Services
- Language Access: Interpretation, Translation, English & Citizenship classes
- Health and Wellness
- Refugee Resettlement, Matching Grant & Employment Readiness programs
- Anti-human trafficking program
- Region's only Survivor of Torture treatment program (PPR)
- Survivor of Violence program (VOCA)
- Family Strengthening Program

### NSC Refugee Arrivals, June 2016 to Present

