



## **Interim Human Services Committee | 10.21.21**

*Senator Judy Lee, Chairman*

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**Office of Refugee Services**

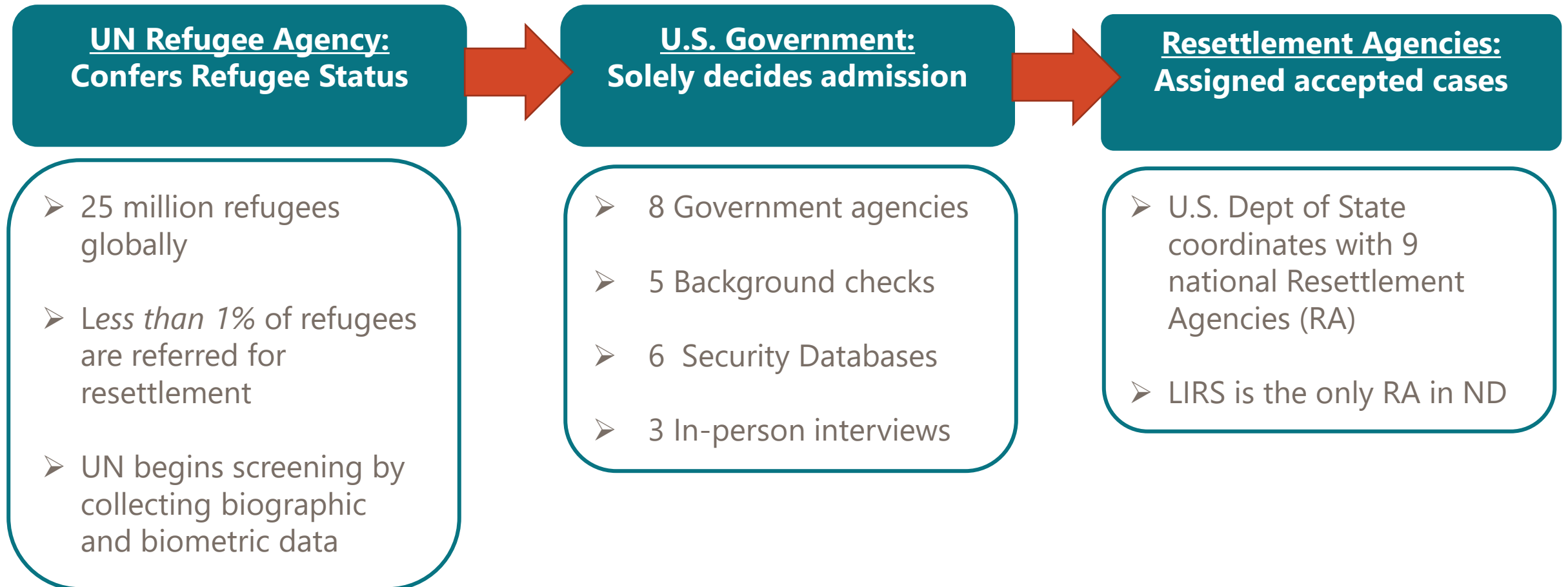
NORTH  
**Dakota**  
Be Legendary.™

| Human Services

# THE REFUGEE ARRIVAL PROCESS

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

**Resettlement:** The careful selection by governments – for purposes of lawful and secure admission – of the most vulnerable refugees who can neither return to their home country nor live safely in their current host country.



# BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR WELLBEING



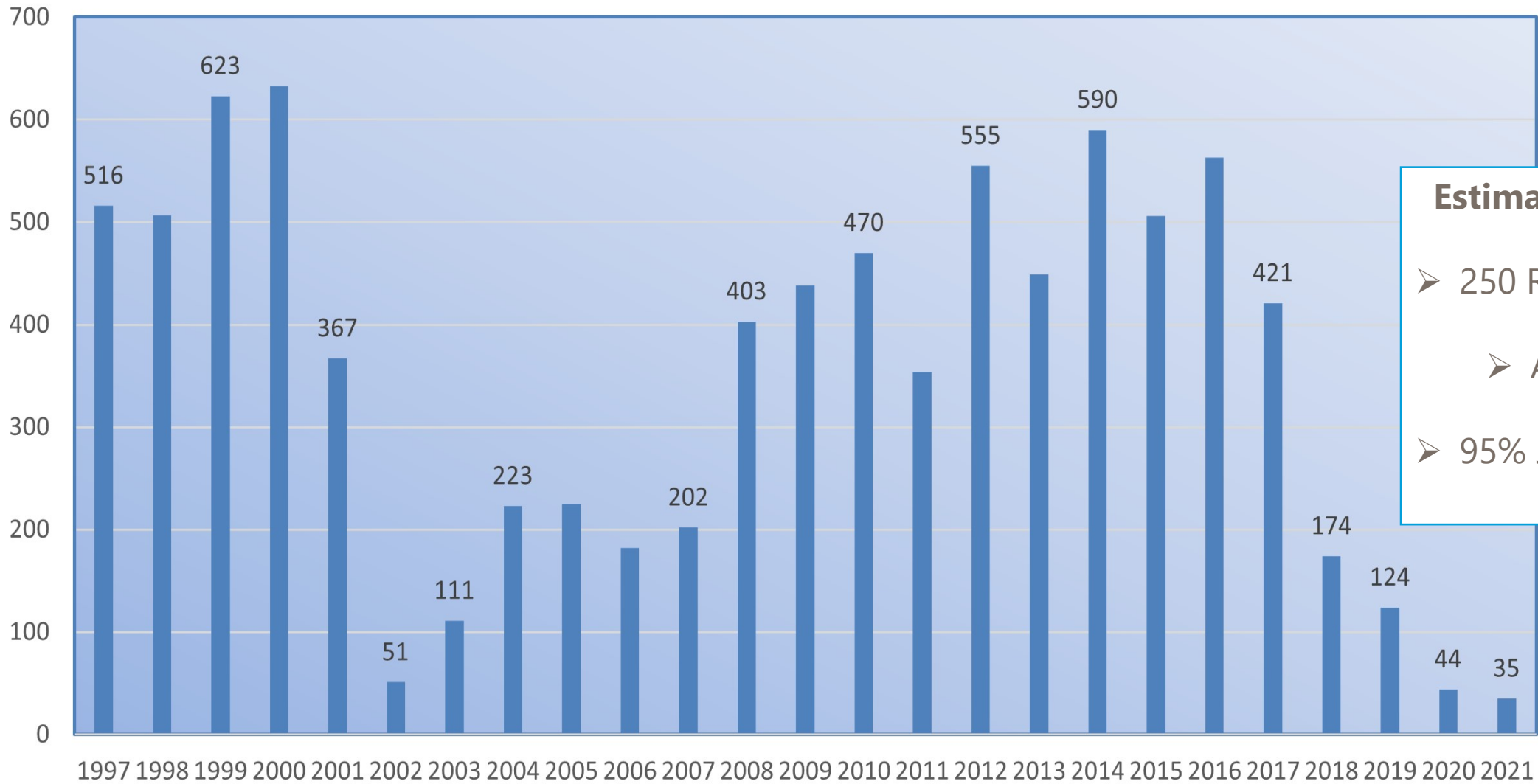
## LIRS - Reception & Placement

- Airport pickup
- Housing
- School Enrollment
- Cultural Orientation
- Collaborates locally and nationally to determine the ND refugee resettlement number

## NDDHS - Refugee Support Services (RSS) Offered in partnership with 20 community organizations

- *Goal -- Economic Self-Sufficiency and Integration*
- Temp Cash and Medical Assistance – 8 months max
- Services Include:
  - Employment Services
  - Skills/Vocational Training
  - English Language Learning (ELL)
  - Immigration Services
  - Youth Mentorship
  - Refugee Health Promotion
  - Services to Older Refugees

# ND Refugee Resettlement by Federal Fiscal Year



## Estimate for FFY 22

- 250 Refugees
- Avg = 364
- 95% Joining Family

# BUILDING THE LABOR FORCE

## Employer Success: Cardinal IG



### Strong History of:

- Career advancement
- Long-term employment
- Loyalty, respect, and hard work
- Building collective prosperity

## Addressing Barriers

- Underemployment
  - Certifying overseas credentials
- Ongoing English Language Learning

## ND Economic Impact (2019)

- Foreign-Born Taxes Paid: \$197M \*
- Foreign-Born Spending Power: \$639M \*
- 13% of refugees are entrepreneurs \*
- Refugees fill labor shortages

\* American Community Survey – U.S. Census Bureau

# OPERATION ALLIES WELCOME – AFGHAN EVACUEES

## Overseas Security Screening

- Conducted on military bases in Europe and the Middle East
- Completed prior to U.S. bound flights
- Same screening required for refugees
- 7,000 remain in processing

## Processing on U.S. Soil

- 54,000 housed on 8 U.S. military bases
- Medical screenings
- Vaccinations (COVID, MMR)
- Authorization to Work
- Assigned to a RA

## Anticipated ND Arrivals

- 49 Total
- Family-ties cases
- 8 scheduled arrivals



## Contact Information

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