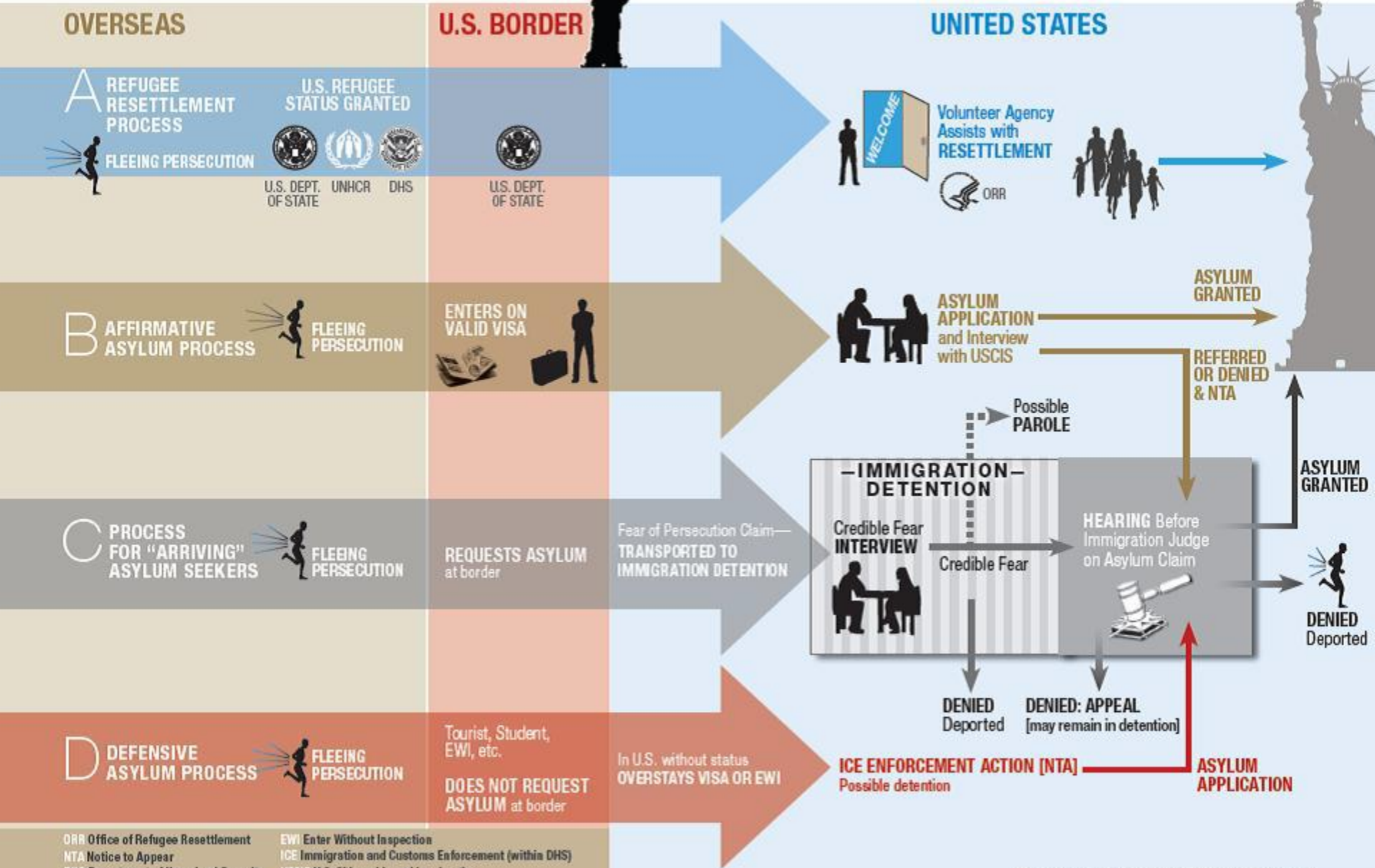


**THE U.S. REFUGEE  
RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM  
AND  
THE ROLE OF STATE AND  
LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS**

# How Refugees Get to the U.S.



ORR Office of Refugee Resettlement  
 NTA Notice to Appear  
 DHS Department of Homeland Security  
 UNHCR UN Refugee Agency

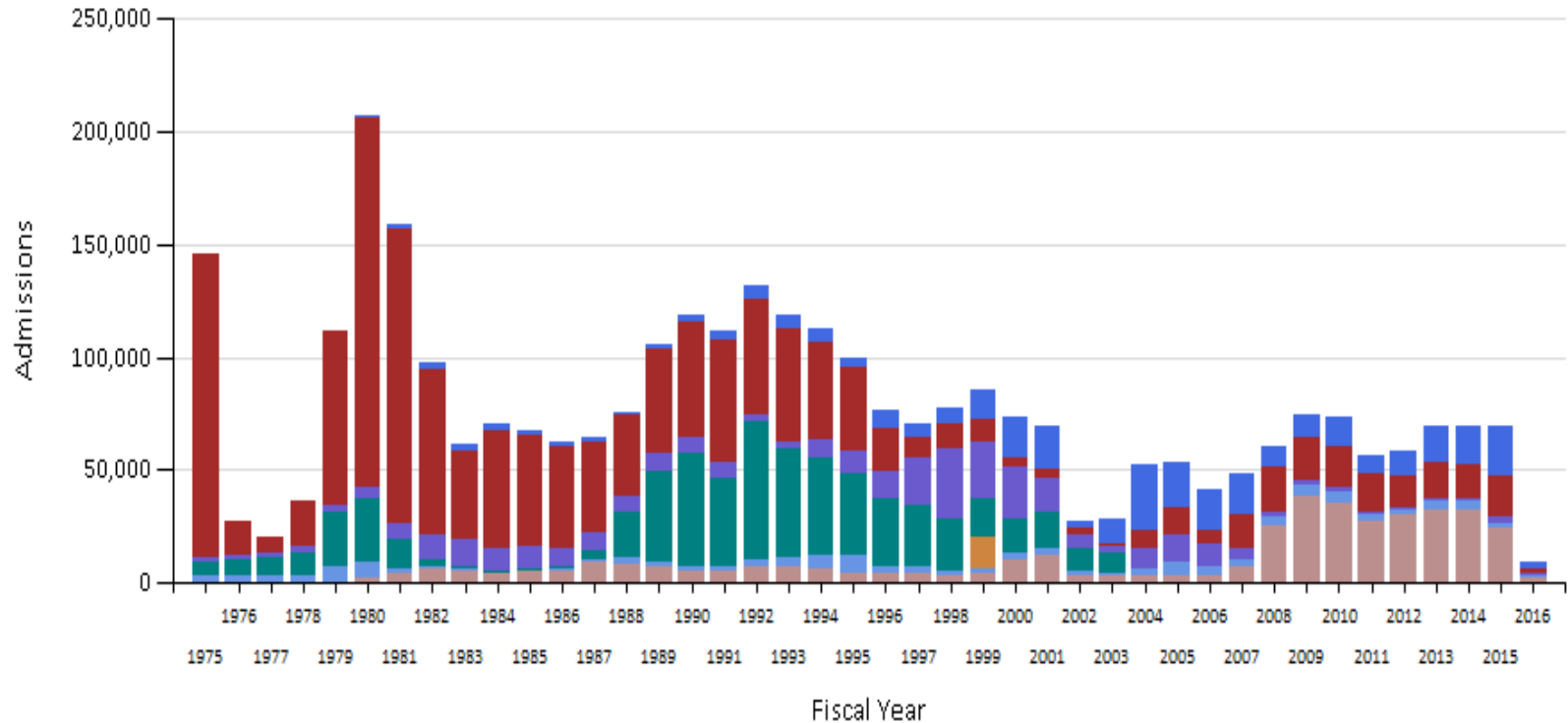
EWI Enter Without Inspection  
 ICE Immigration and Customs Enforcement (within DHS)  
 USCIS U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (within DHS)

Designed by Ryan Dunsmuir and Human Rights First, based on an original design by MW Coley and Janit Robinson. Source: USA (February 2010)

# BASIC FACTS ON REFUGEES

- ❑ From 1975 to the start of this year, the U.S. resettled a total of 3,261,561 refugees.
  - 45% from Asia
  - 18% from the former Soviet Union
  - 12% from Near East/South Asia
  - 10% from Africa
  - 10% from Europe
  - 4% from Latin America
  
- ❖ While refugees in the 1980's and 1990's came from just a few countries, today's refugees come from more than 60 countries.

# FLOW OF REFUGEES FROM DIFFERENT WORLD REGIONS

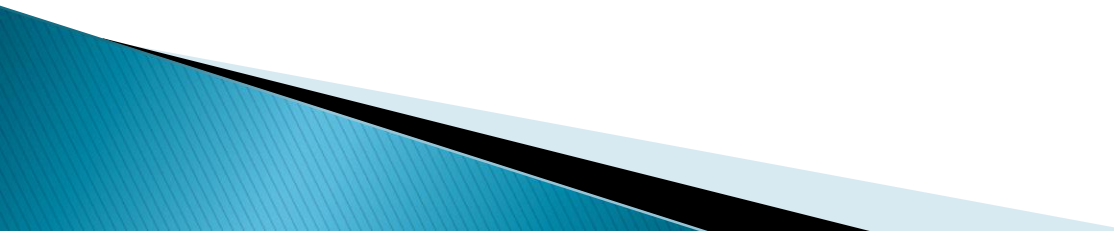


Regions (Based on the Nationality of the Principal Applicant)

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Former Soviet Union
- Kosovo
- Latin America / Caribbean
- Near East / South Asia

# STATES WITH LARGEST REFUGEE POPULATION

From 2008 – 2013, 55% of 393,000 refugees were resettled in ten states

- 12% in California
  - 10% in Texas
  - 6% in New York
  - 5% in Florida
  - 5% in Michigan
  - 5% in Arizona
  - 4% in Georgia
  - 4% in Pennsylvania
  - 4% in Washington
  - 4% in Illinois
- 

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IS A FEDERAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED ACROSS 50 STATES

## **REFUGEE SCREENING AND ADMISSION PROCESS** is handled by:

- U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (**PRM**)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (**USCIS**) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**REFUGEE EARLY EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL SERVICES AND BASIC ASSISTANCE** is handled by the U.S. Health and Human Services/ Office of Refugee Resettlement (**ORR**)

# REFUGEE SCREENING AND ADMISSION PROCESS

- **Key entities/agencies:** Countries of Origin, Countries of First Asylum, Refugee Camps, UNHCR, PRM, USCIS/Homeland Security.
- Five international or nongovernmental organizations operating Resettlement Support Centers around the world under the supervision and funding of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) of the U.S. Department of State.
- Does not include ORR, State Government or local Resettlement Agencies.

# REFUGEE RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT (R & P) PROGRAM

States are consulted by local Resettlement Agencies and PRM in this process

## NINE NATIONAL RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES WITH 350 LOCAL AFFILIATES

1. Church World Service (CWS)
2. Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM)
3. Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)
4. Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
5. International Rescue Committee (IRC)
6. Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service (LIRS)
7. U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
8. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
9. World Relief (WR)

## R & P SERVICES PROVIDED

- ▶ Matching refugees from overseas with local affiliates
- ▶ Setting up housing and providing refugees with basic necessities
- ▶ Providing community orientation and linking refugees with local services, including public benefits, health, education and employment services.



# ORR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SERVICES


## LOCAL PARTNERS

- State and County Refugee Programs
- Local Resettlement Agencies
- Community Colleges
- Community Social Service Agencies

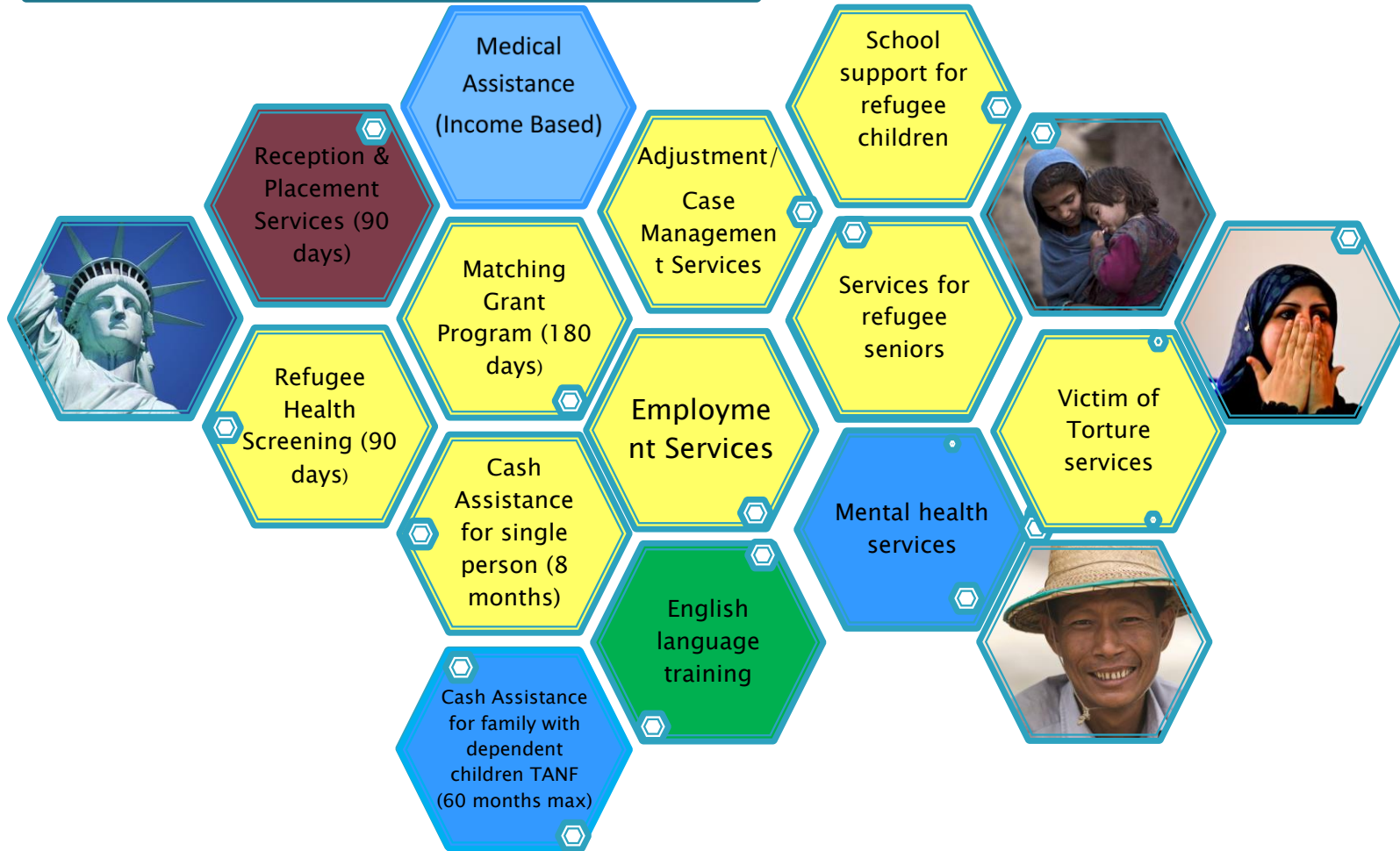
## KEY SERVICES

- Short-term (8 month) cash and medical assistance for those refugees not eligible for Federal benefits (i.e. TANF, Medicaid)
- Employment, English language class, case management services
- Education orientation and assistance for refugee youth

# ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENT

- ❑ Administers ORR funding to: a) provide short-term cash/medical benefits, and b) contracts with local agencies to deliver employment, case management, English language training and health screening services.
  - ❑ Coordinates refugee-funded services with other state-administered programs, such as TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, education, workforce development, etc.
  - ❑ Serves as refugee information clearinghouse, and addresses inquiries and problems associated with refugee resettlement in the state.
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# Illinois Refugee Resettlement Program



Orange = Funding from State Dept.; Yellow = Funding from ORR; Blue = Funding from both Federal and State Government; Green = Funding from State and Private Resources

# CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Consultation/agreement between Federal and State governments on refugee admission policies.
  - In addition to refugees, states are also expected to serve asylees and Cuban/Haitian entrants whose number has increased significantly over the last five years. (New policy on Cuban refugees announced in January, 2017 has resulted in the declined in Cuban refugee arrivals.)
  - ORR funding to States to provide refugee services has not kept up with the eligible population.
  - Cultural and linguistic capacity to serve refugees from more than 60 nationalities speaking 162 primary languages.
  - Capacity to serve refugees with complex medical and mental health conditions.
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