

WELCOMING REFUGEES

 Bethany

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

Someone who has fled their country of origin and is unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.



ELIGIBLE REFUGEE STATUSES

Refugee

Asylee

Humanitarian Parolee

Special Immigrant Visas

Human Trafficking Survivors



DISPLACEMENT STATISTICS

Global Displacement in 2020

The number of forcibly displaced people worldwide is **79.5** million — over twice as many people than the population of Canada.



45.7million internally displaced

26.0 million refugees

4.2 million asylum-seekers

REFUGEE DEMOGRAPHICS

50 percent of refugees
are children



68 percent of refugees are:

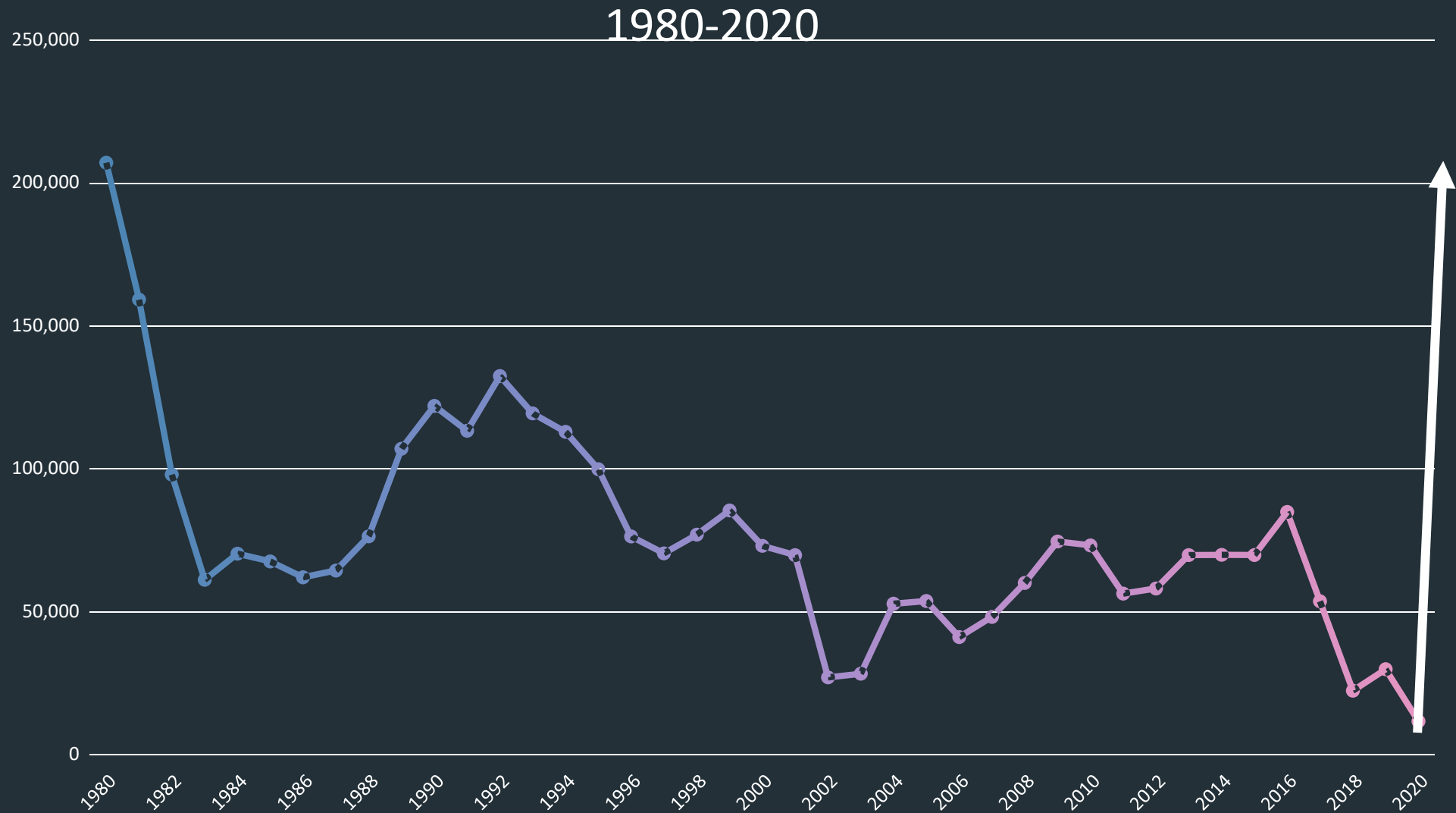
- Survivors of violence and torture
 - Women and girls at risk
 - Persons with legal and physical protection needs

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

From the United Nations to the United States

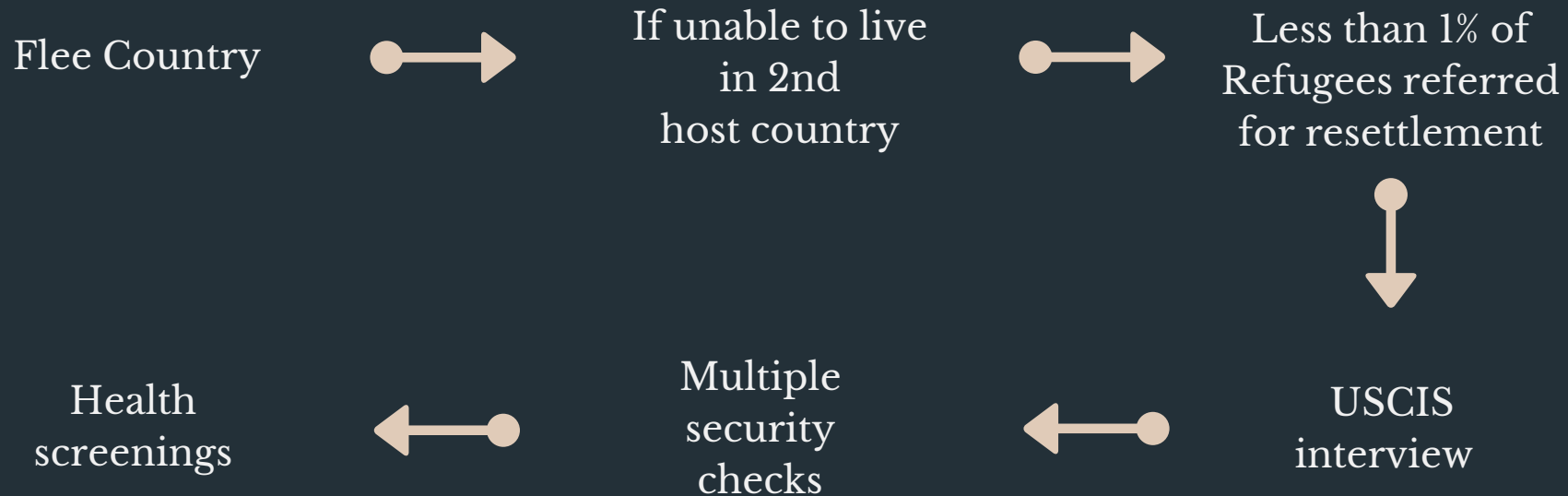


US REFUGEE ADMISSIONS



Resettlement Application Process

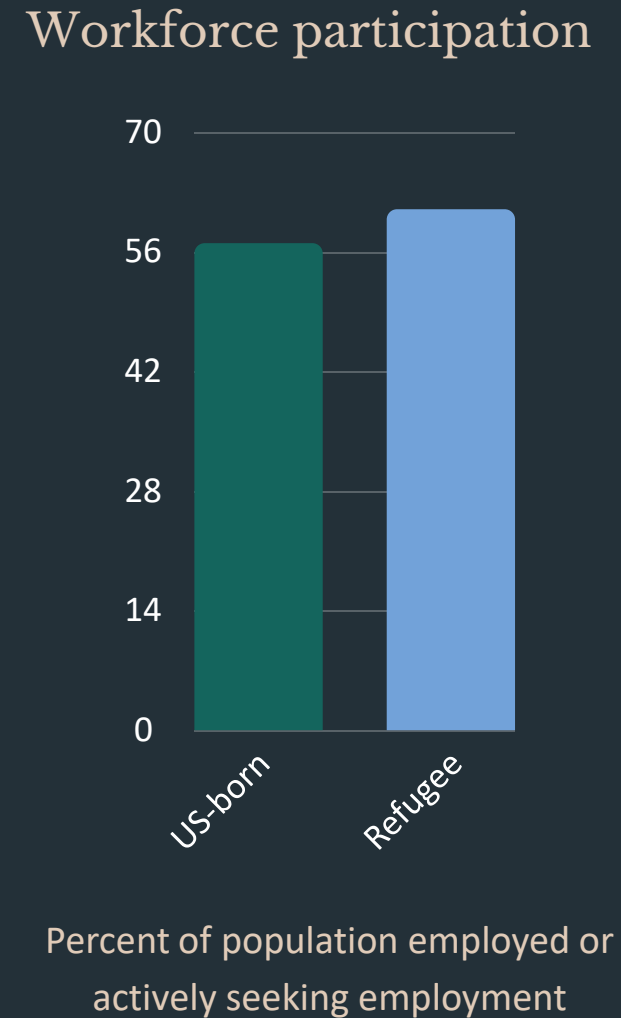
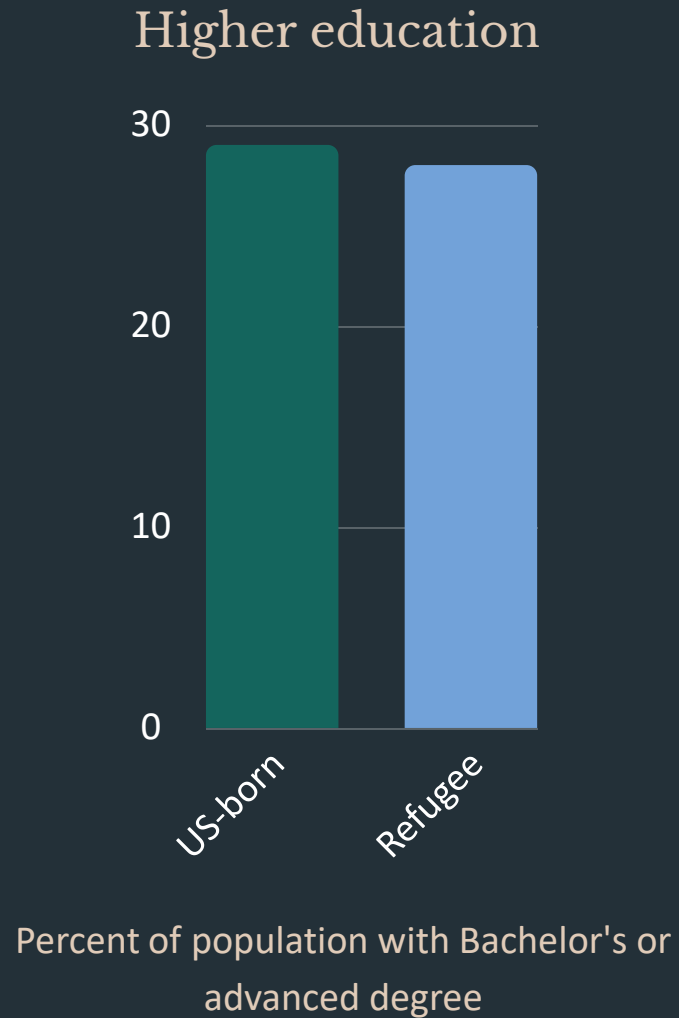
Refugees are the most vetted travelers to the United States



Accepted and Assigned to a resettlement agency

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Education attainment and workforce participation rates



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Self-sufficiency, benefits expenditures and tax contributions

On average, refugees pay more in taxes than they have received in welfare benefits after eight years.

Between the ages of 18-45, refugees pay an estimated \$21,000 more in taxes than they receive in benefits over 20 years.

Refugees contributed an estimated \$269.1 billion between 2005 and 2014 through the payment of federal, state and local taxes, a **positive net fiscal impact of \$63 billion**.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Self-sufficiency, benefits expenditures and tax contributions

“Perceptions of slow refugee integration, high benefit use rates, and low employment rates have not, in general, been supported by the evidence.”

Migration Policy Institute study “How are Refugees Faring? Integration at the US and State Levels” June, 2017.

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES

**Refugee and Immigrant
Services**

Afghan Arrivals



- Screening and vetting prior to arrival in the US
- Immigration Pathways
 - Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)
 - Humanitarian Parole
 - Refugee
- Afghan Placement and Assistance Program
- Eligible for same services as refugees, with the exception of a pathway to citizenship
- Over 120 Afghans have resettled in the Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia area through Bethany Christian Services.

Welcoming All Refugees



- In Allentown and Philadelphia areas, Bethany has welcomed Sudanese, Iraqi, Burmese, Honduran, Ukrainian, Syrian and Afghan refugees.
- From now until the end of September 2022, we will welcome 179 new refugees to the Allentown area.
- In the same timeframe, we will welcome 197 new refugees to the Philadelphia area.
- We partner with faith and community organizations to support these newly arriving refugee families.

COMMON AREAS OF NEED

ENGLISH

LITERACY
SKILLS

WORK
EXPERIENCE

TRANS-
PORTATION

CHILDCARE

MEDICAL
ISSUES

TRAUMA AND
CULTURAL
STRESS

UNDERSTANDING OF U.S.
WORK CULTURE

BETHANY'S REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT SERVICES

RESETTLEMENT

Help with resettling of refugees in Allentown/Philadelphia for their first 90 days in the country toward the goal of community integration.

POST RESETTLEMENT

Offering Limited case management services to refugees in need of additional support after initial resettlement period.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

For all 5 statuses, up to 5 years in the US. English language learning, job preparation, development, and placement.

COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL CARE

Help refugees with their complex mental and physical health needs.

REFUGEE FOSTER CARE

Recruiting foster parents, case management, and independent living programs.

GROUP CO-SPONSORSHIP

PUBLIC- PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Groups are paired with a recently arrived refugee family to assist in resettlement process.

ORIENTATION

Bethany offers orientation to co-sponsoring organization specific to each refugee family.
Emphasis on cultural awareness and understanding.

ASSISTANCE

Friendship, community connections, transportation, tutoring and education liaison

SELF- SUFFICIENCY

Assistance portion of co-sponsorship should only last for six months outside of extenuating circumstances.

Co-Sponsor Teams:

Co-sponsorship is successful when there are at least 6-12 people involved. Some groups/communities choose to have teams/committees that identify the different areas to help.

Arrival/Orientation

Housing

Employment

Financial

Education/ESL

Community/Social/Shopping

* Identify a team leader that will be the liaison with the Bethany Community Engagement Specialist and when needed, the case manager. Each Bethany case manager has multiple cases at one time.



Level of Commitment for Co-Sponsor

Length of Time: 6 months

Goal: assist refugee family in their self-sufficiency and integration into the community

Financial investment: \$8K-\$10K to help family with the basic needs. This is recommended but not required.

- This is beyond what is provided by the government. Each family member receives a one-time amount of \$1,025 to help cover food, rent, clothing,



Alternatives to Co-sponsoring

For those Community groups and Faith Organizations who cannot commit to a Co-Sponsorship, there are many, many ways that **your group can organize and form a team** to help refugees.

1. **"New Neighbor"** - a mentor(s) who meets with a new family and assists with cultural orientation, some transportation if necessary, and acts as a friendly point of contact for the whole family. 1 hour per week for the first 3-6 months.
2. **Transporter** – Have a few members of your team available to help drive to medical appointments for the entire family. This is a very important volunteer responsibility!
3. **Transportation Trainer** – an easy job – one team member could volunteer just a few hours to teach a family how to use the transportation system.
4. **ESL Tutors** – a volunteer available to teach English and some cultural training to a new family. We can provide contacts for training. 1 hour per week per student.
5. **Grocery/Food/Cooking Support** – When a family arrives, it may take 2-3 weeks for food stamps to begin. Have a team of 4-5 volunteers buy culturally appropriate foods and prepare an approved hot meal for the family's arrival. We will provide grocery lists for two weeks of food and recipes.

*“Together, we can help refugees live a full life,
contribute to our communities, and become*

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refugees live a full life,
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“I was a stranger
and you welcomed
me in.”

– Matthew 25:35b