

Resettlement Network Services (Funded by ORR)

MN Resettlement Programs Office (RPO)

Introduction: MN Resettlement Network Service

MN DHS Resettlement Programs Office

- Who we are
- Our role in Minnesota
- Our Resettlement Network Services
- Changing Resettlement Landscape

Some acronyms you will hear!

ORR

- **Office of Refugee Resettlement**
- This is the federal office that funds and has federal authority over our work
- You may hear the terms ORR-funded and ORR-eligible in your work

RPO

- **Resettlement Programs Office**
- This is our team in the MN Dept of Human Services
- Amongst other things, our office funds/administers/oversees resettlement services in MN

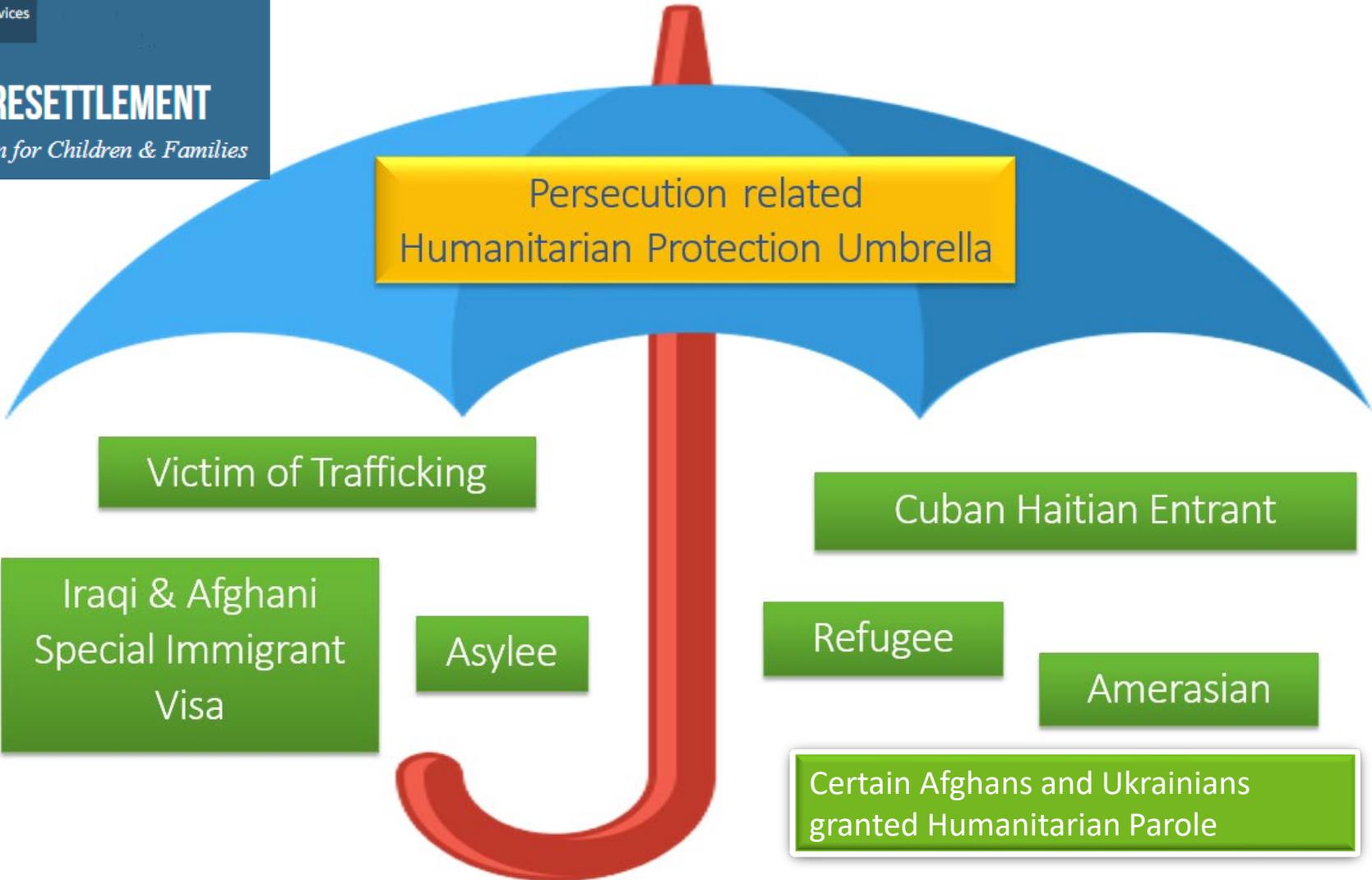
RNS

- **Resettlement Network Services**
- This is what we call our network of service providers around the state
- RNS is funded/administered through RPO in MN, and is funded by ORR federally.

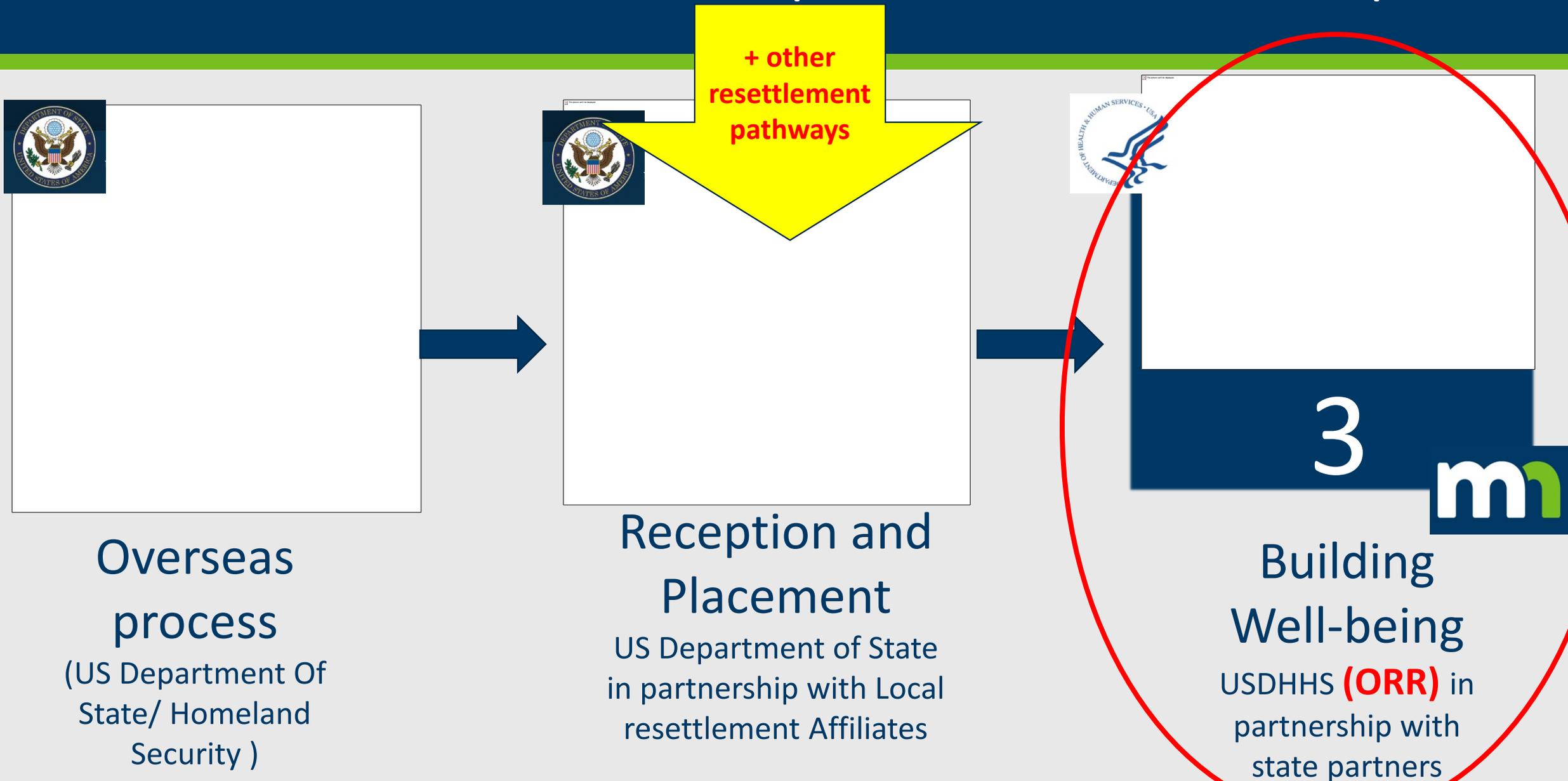
WHO DOES RPO SERVE?

Groups of Humanitarian Concern, defined by federal government

 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



Three distinct phases of resettlement process



RPO Role in Minnesota Resettlement:

mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/program-overviews/refugee-resettlement



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Federal funding provided to State Coordinating entity to provide supplemental services during first 5 years to advance self-sufficiency & integration for newcomers.



State Refugee Coordinator: Federally mandated position in each state responsible for development and supervision of a state plan for resettlement. Minnesota Department of Human Services Resettlement Programs office is delegated this role in Minnesota.

- Create a state plan for resettlement outlining resources and supports available to eligible persons and ensure cash and medical assistance for at least 12 months
- Liaise between state and federal government on resettlement
- Consult on plans for primary resettlement in state
- Administer federal resources to state to build wellbeing during first 5 years. ****RESETTLEMENT NETWORK SERVICES****
- Coordinate resources locally
- Provide reliable information to the public about resettlement in MN

Together, We are Minnesota: <https://MN.gov/dhs/outstanding-refugees/>

m DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Newly arrived or here for generations
Together we are Minnesota



Photo courtesy of Bob Koder

Interpreter. Engineer. Citizen. Former refugee.

“I studied aircraft engineering as an international student in the U.S. and then returned home to Iraq to work for an American company. Because of my ties to America, my life was threatened, and my family and I had to escape. Minnesota gave us a new home.”

Help us recognize Minnesotans who give back to the community. To read more of Jamal's story or submit nominations for the annual Outstanding Refugee Awards, visit: mn.gov/dhs/outstanding-refugees/.

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Photo courtesy of Bob Koder

Community organizer. First-generation college graduate. Former refugee.

“My family fled from Burma as refugees. When I first came to Minnesota, I was the only Karen student in my elementary school. I was bullied a lot growing up. I have learned that you can't give up and get discouraged. You must continue to work hard to accomplish your dreams.”

Help us recognize Minnesotans who give back to the community. To read more of Kaziah's story or submit nominations for the annual Outstanding Refugee Awards, visit: mn.gov/dhs/outstanding-refugees/.

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Photo courtesy of Bob Koder

CEO. Philanthropist. Citizen. Former refugee.

“I came to Minnesota as a refugee from Ethiopia when I was 20. I had to start life over. I was a school teacher before I had to leave my home, but my first job here was washing dishes. I always worked two jobs to make ends meet, but the challenges I faced in the past made me stronger. The tough experiences I went through were teaching moments for me.”

Help us recognize Minnesotans who give back to the community. To read more of Tashitaa's story or submit nominations for the annual Outstanding Refugee Awards, visit: mn.gov/dhs/outstanding-refugees/.

“Neither revolution nor reformation can ultimately change a society, rather you must tell a more powerful tale, one so pervasive that it sweeps away the old myths and becomes the preferred story.” - Ivan Illich

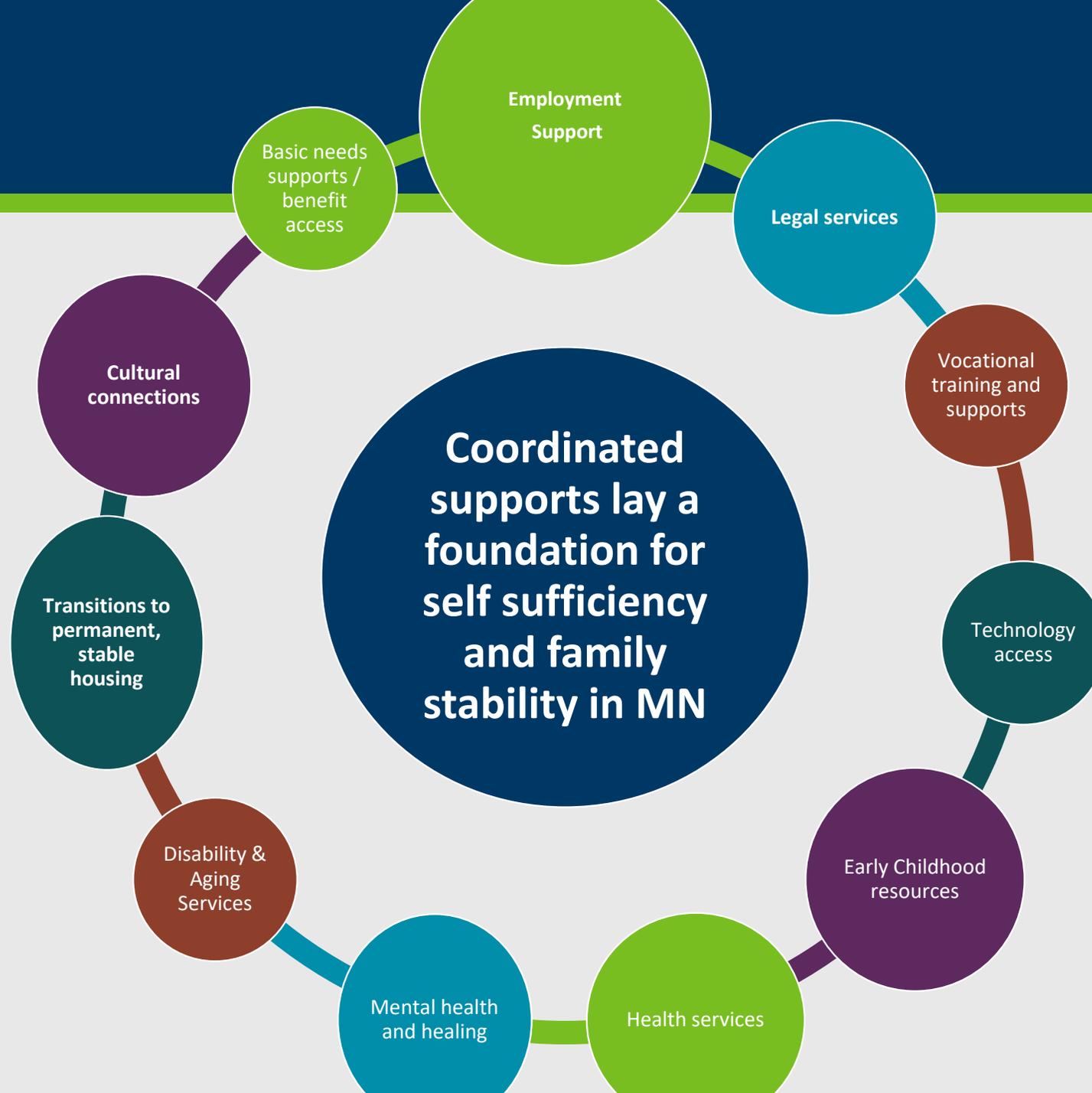
RNS Supports New to American Families Build Wellbeing

When new families arrive in Minnesota, they are constructing wellbeing from the ground up. Constructing wellbeing **requires resources, expertise and collaboration.**

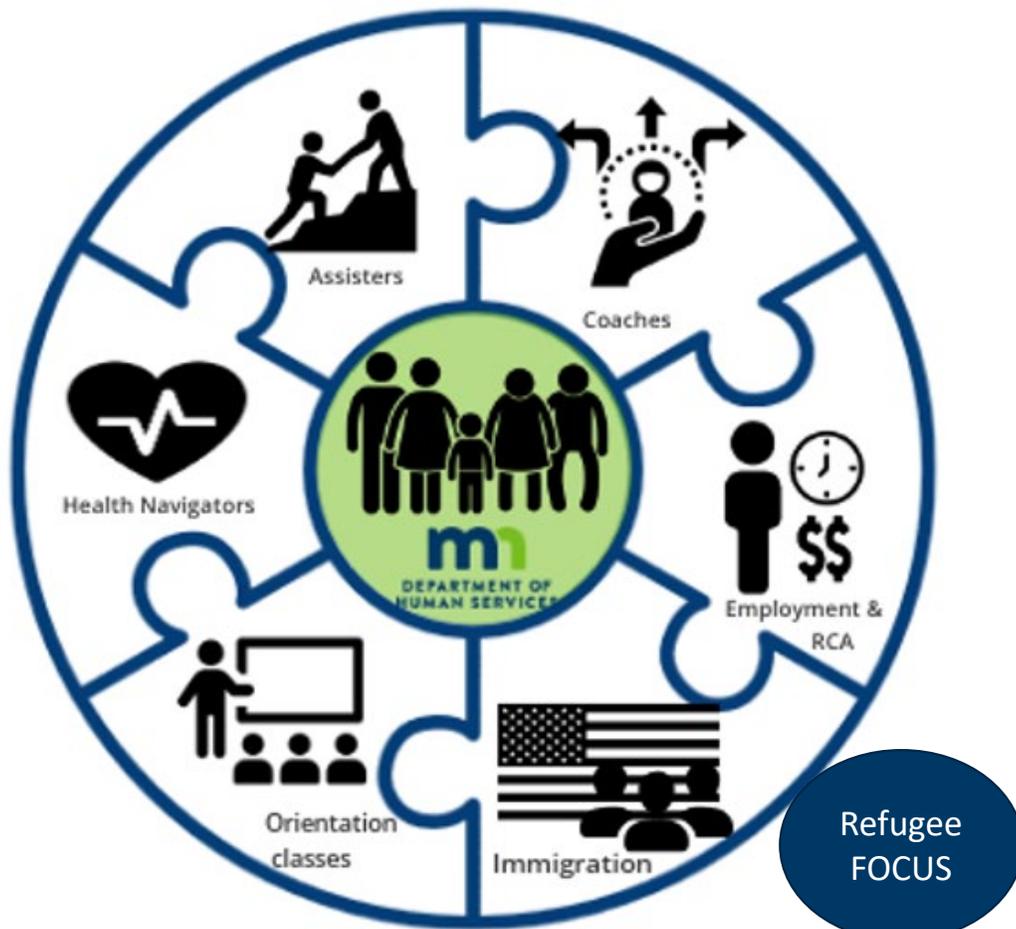
Together **We** are:

- Restoring family health and wellbeing
- Laying a strong foundation for Minnesota's future
- Building our state's resources





MN Resettlement Network Services



Family Assisters: Work with families to resolve immediate needs and connect them to community resources to strengthen well-being

Family Coaches: Provide long term support towards multi-step academic and career/vocational goals for students, youth and adults

Employment: Assist people to secure and maintain employment

Community Orientation Classes: Provide education for integration around employment readiness, using public transit, financial literacy, ways to get involved in your new community and other relevant topics

Immigration: Support people with legal services on the path to become U.S. citizens

Afghan Housing Stability: Help eligible Afghan families achieve housing stability-rent subsidies and case management to achieve self sufficiency

Refugee FOCUS: Help families coordinate and leverage resources from RNS & MFIP programs to achieve self-sufficiency/wellbeing goals.

RESETTLEMENT NETWORK SERVICE DELIVERY

Key Components:

- **ACCESS:** Family may initiate services with any funded provider
- **WELLBEING INVENTORY:** Standard across providers and completed at first point of contact
- **SERVICE HUBS:** Used in addition to any services locations proposed.
- **MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS:** between network providers to coordinate service delivery.

“We” are Resettlement Network Service Partners

ates for Human Rights

Cultural Society

Community Services

Immigrants Community Services

County Human Services

Ministries

(St Cloud)

solutions

eration of Somali Community of Minnesota

upe Alternative Programs

oin County Human Services

ltural Mutual Assistance Association

ant Law Center of Minnesota (Metro,

rn, and Northern MN)

tional Institute of Minnesota

- Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota (Metro and St. Cloud)
- Lakes and Prairies Community Action Program
- Mid-MN Legal Aid (Metro and St. Cloud)
- Minneapolis School District
- Minnesota Council of Churches (Metro and Mankato)
- Oromo Community of Minnesota
- Serve Minnesota (Resettlement Corp)
- Somali Community Resettlement Services
- Southern MN Regional Legal Services
- Stearns County
- St Paul School District
- United Community Action Program
- University of Minnesota
- Voices in the Wilderness

Changing Resettlement Landscape

BIG PICTURE – The Changing service landscape

Same:

- Program goals: Self sufficiency through employment, community integration
- Federal requirements: eligible populations, under 5 years

Different:

- Refugee Arrival Trends
- Afghan and Ukrainian Humanitarian Parole arrivals and eligibility
- How and where work happens as result of COVID
- Public opinion and support
- Shifts in expertise to meet current needs
- Increased federal resources, lengthened services timeline for RCA, MG, PC
- Tight labor market





Constructing wellbeing in a shifting landscape: Adapting to provide quality services across a continuum

Quality

Technical
Expertise

Cultural
Expertise

Partnerships
that add value

Continuum

Immediate
needs to goal
achievement

Assess needs
throughout five
year eligibility



Looking ahead – advancing **Coordination** and **quality** in the current landscape

Eligible populations and new arrivals looking ahead:

- Refugees: Diverse groups, including Afghans – proposed up to 2200 through local resettlement affiliates
- Humanitarian parolees: Afghan and Ukrainian
- SIVs
- Alternative pathways for resettlement - Sponsor Circles and Private Sponsorship models (Welcome Corp)

Federal investments / changes:

- Short-term, community specific resources (Afghan, Ukraine) to states
- Designated “set aside” funding to states to support school districts, physical and mental health promotion
- Significantly increased investments from ORR to local resettlement affiliates through Preferred Communities and Matching Grant Programs
- ORR Notice of Funding announcements – Direct grants through competitive processes: www.Grants.gov (Search by Refugee)

NEW RPO Positions / Structure

- Program leads- be attentive and intentional to ensure quality services, relationships, innovations, and adaptations and coordination across RSN as well as other federal, state and community resources.
- Investment in Community engagement, training, events and communications positions
- New engagement areas to include resettlement pathways and housing program leads
- (4 positions posted and closed, two more coming)

Thank you!

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