

# Employment and Refugee Resettlement

## **Presentation to Welcoming Falls Church**

Emily Norton, Assistant Director, Matching Grant  
US Council for Catholic Bishops, Migration &  
Refugee Services

May 4, 2022

# AGENDA

- ▶ Populations of concern:
  - ▷ Refugees, Afghan Humanitarian Parolees, Urkanians
- ▶ Employment

# Who is a **Refugee**?

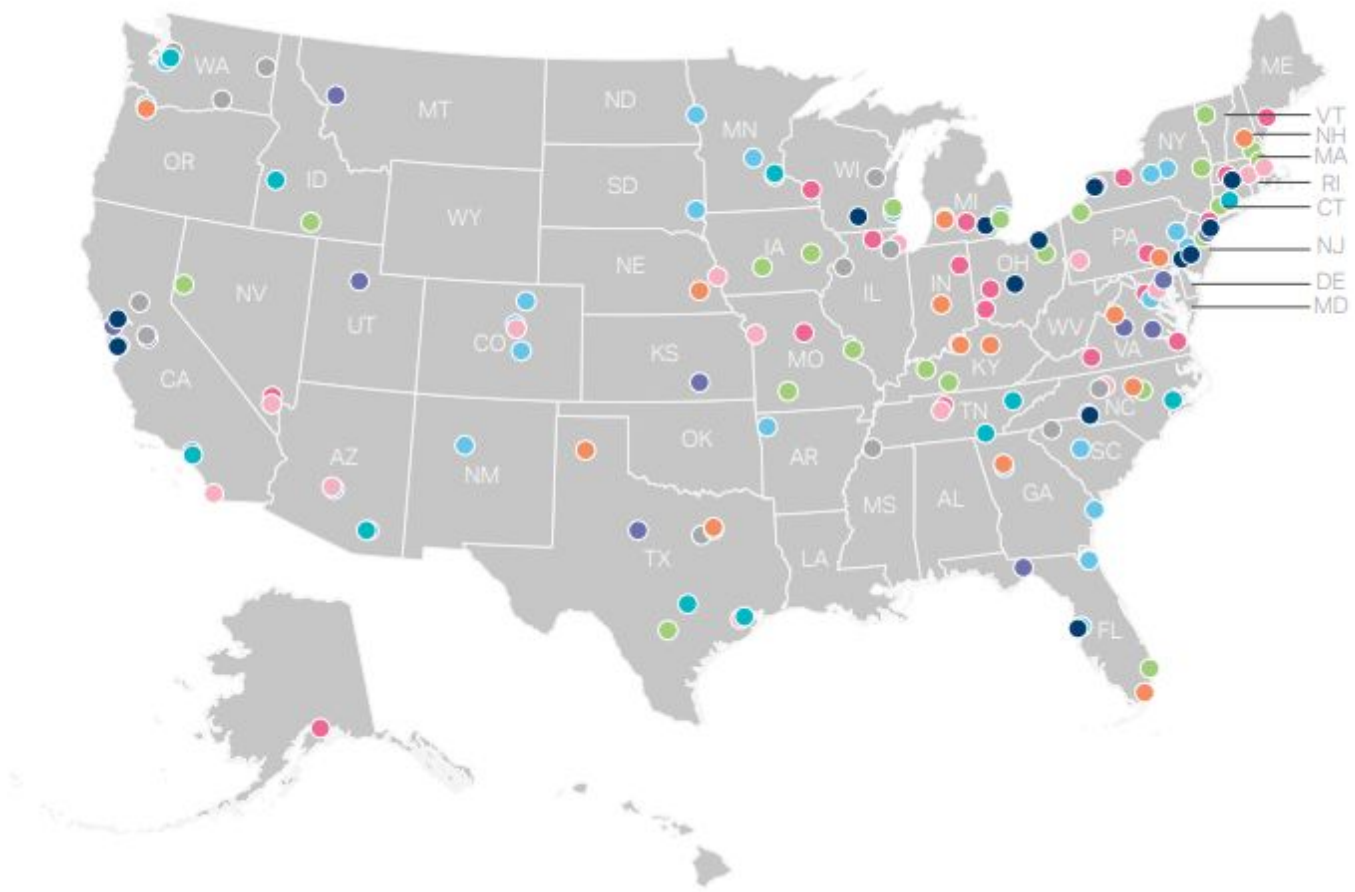
- ▶ Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict, or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country.
- ▶ Refugees are unable/unwilling return home due to a well-founded fear of persecution due to:
  1. Race
  2. Religion
  3. Nationality
  4. Membership in a particular social group
  5. Political opinion



**5 Grounds of Persecution**

# What is Refugee Resettlement?

- ▶ Three Durable Solutions:
  - ▷ Voluntary Repatriation
  - ▷ Local Integration
  - ▷ Third country Resettlement
- ▶ **Resettlement** is the transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought refuge to another country that has agreed to admit them.



# Are **Refugees** eligible to work?

- ▶ Yes! Refugees have work authorization incident to their status. This means they can work immediately even if they have not received their employment authorization (EAD) card yet.

# WHAT IS Parole?

- ▶ Parole is the discretionary authority granted to the Secretary of Homeland Security to allow an individual to enter, return to, or remain in the U.S. without granting the person formal admission.
- ▶ Parole is typically granted for a finite period of time.
- ▶ Parole is not a permanent immigration status and does not provide a path to permanent status.

# WHO ARE Afghan Humanitarian Parolees

- ▶ Afghan Humanitarian Parolees are Afghan nationals who were **paroled** into the United States by DHS on or after **July 31, 2021** and before **September 30, 2022**, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefits.
- ▶ Roughly **76,000** Afghan Parolees were evacuated to various military bases or “safe havens” throughout the United States where they stayed until they were able to be resettled.
- ▶ Afghan Parolees have been granted **two years** of parole, after which they need to adjust their status (mostly through asylum applications) in order to stay in the U.S.



# Are **Afghan Parolees** eligible to work?

- ▶ Yes, but only after they have applied for and **received** employment authorization documents from USCIS.
- ▶ Afghan Parolees **do not** have employment authorization incident to their status the same way refugees do.

# What is happening with Ukraine?

The Biden administration has announced a plan to welcome 100,000 displaced Ukrainians to the US. There are three priority groups under consideration:

- ▶ Ongoing resettlement through the Lautenberg Program. These individuals would arrive as refugees
- ▶ Vulnerable individuals whose protection needs might not be met by European countries (e.g. medical cases, LGBT persons, refugees residing in Ukraine that had to flee etc.) These individuals would come as refugees
- ▶ Individuals who would like to come to the US temporarily (likely through humanitarian parole). Must have a fiscal sponsor in the US.

# Top industries for refugee employees

Consumer packaged goods

Food processing

Health care

Hospitality

Manufacturing

Retail

Technology

Staffing

Transportation and logistics

# Refugees with advanced skills/education



<https://www.upwardlyglobal.org/>

**Questions?**