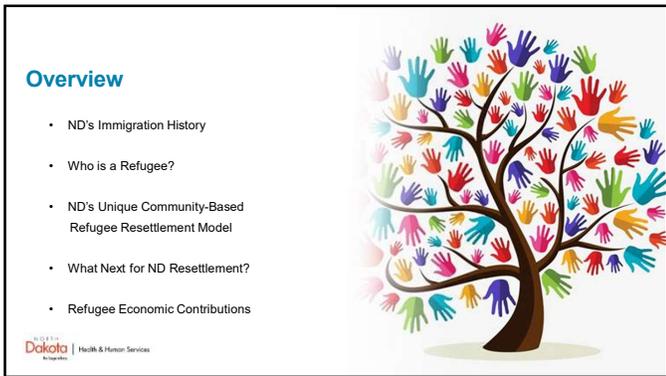




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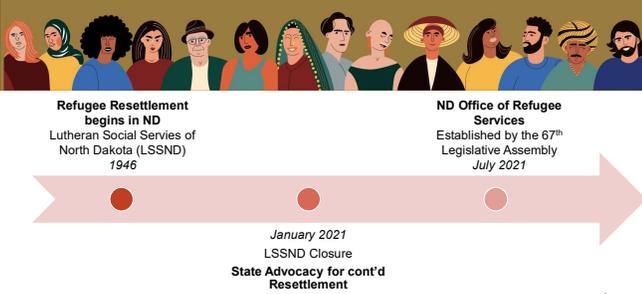


2



3

North Dakota Resettlement History



The timeline features a horizontal arrow pointing right with three red dots marking key events. Above the arrow is a row of diverse human figures. The text is as follows:

- Refugee Resettlement begins in ND**
Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (LSSND)
1946
- ND Office of Refugee Services**
Established by the 67th Legislative Assembly
July 2021
- January 2021**
LSSND Closure
State Advocacy for cont'd Resettlement

4

4

Who is a Refugee?

Refugees are people forced to flee their own country and seek safety in another country. They are unable to return to their own country because of feared persecution because of who they are, what they believe in or say, or because of violence.





There were 42.7 million refugees globally in 2024



In 2024, 1.6 million were able to return home



In 2023, UNHCR assisted 96,311 refugees to resettle in 24 countries

5

The Legal Process for Refugee Resettlement



Overseas Vetting

- 8 Government Agencies
- 6 Background checks
- 3 in-person interviews



U.S. Placement

- 10 Resettlement Agencies
- Initial 90 days in the U.S.
- Cultural Orientation



Long-term Success

- Employment Assistance
- English Language Learning
- Community Integration

6

6

North Dakota

How can we ensure refugee success across North Dakotan communities?

Dickinson

Top Industry: Oil and Gas
Population: 25K
▪ 4% immigrant

Bismarck

Top Industry: Health Care
Population: 75K
▪ 4% immigrant

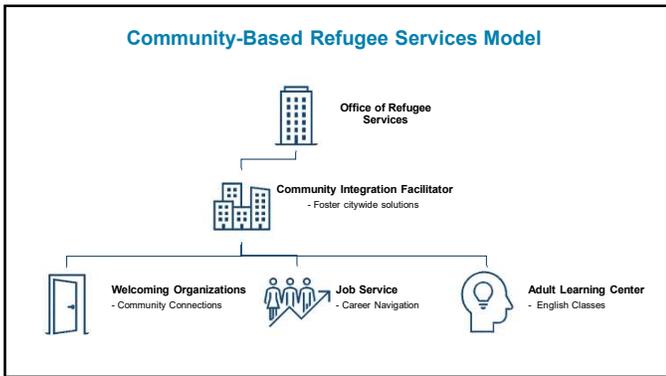
Grand Forks

Top Industry: Education
Population: 60K
▪ 6% immigrant

Fargo

Top Industry: Manufacturing
Population: 133K
▪ 8% immigrant

7



8

Preparing for Long-Term Success: Community Integration

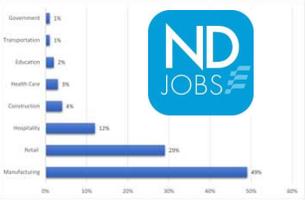
How do we help newcomers to stay in our communities and achieve their best?

- 1) Reduce Barriers to Economic Wellbeing
- 2) Promote Community Awareness
- 3) Increase Engagement in Community Life

9

Refugees have permission to work and stay





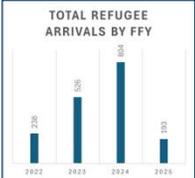
Industry	Percentage
Government	1%
Transportation	1%
Education	2%
Health Care	3%
Construction	4%
Hospitality	11%
Retail	20%
Manufacturing	49%

New American Employment Program
North Dakota Job Service Centers

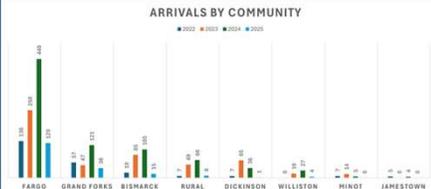
- 636 Employable Adults
- Average time to employment: 90 days
- Average wage: \$18.53

10

Refugee Arrival Trends 2022-2025



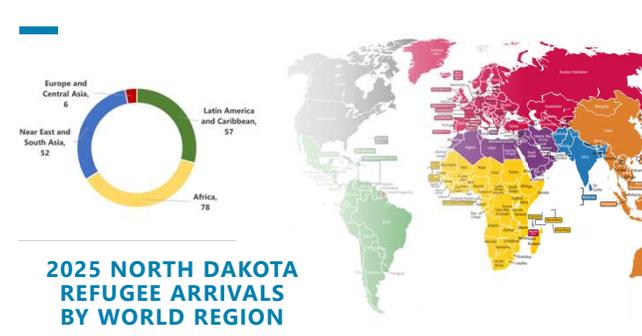
Year	Arrivals
2022	208
2023	506
2024	554
2025	100



Community	2022	2023	2024	2025
FARGO	116	192	224	108
GRAND FORKS	17	17	17	17
BISMARCK	14	14	14	14
RURAL	12	12	12	12
DICKINSON	10	10	10	10
WILLISTON	10	10	10	10
MINDOT	10	10	10	10
JAMESTOWN	10	10	10	10

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World Region	Number of Arrivals
Africa	78
Near East and South Asia	52
Latin America and Caribbean	57
Europe and Central Asia	6

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Executive Order 14163
Realigning the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

- 1) To admit only those refugees who can fully and appropriately assimilate into the United States and to ensure that the United States preserves taxpayer resources for its citizens.
- 2) To the extent permitted by law and as practicable, State and local jurisdictions be granted a role in the process of determining the placement or resettlement in their jurisdictions.

Executive Order 14204
Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa

- 1) The US will not provide aid or assistance to South Africa because of that government's "unjust racial discrimination" against Afrikaners (including seizing property).
- 2) Provides direction to the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to consider Afrikaners who are victims of discrimination for resettlement through USRAP.

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Where will arrivals originate from in 2026?

Priority Population
Afrikaners

- Primary Languages: Afrikaans and English
- Digitally Literate
- Trade Degrees Common
- Experience or Witness to Extreme Violence



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Where will arrivals originate from in 2026?

Lautenberg Amendment
Ukraine

- Primary Languages: Ukrainian and Russian
- Digitally Literate
- Education: Compulsory – Grade 12
- War, Civilian Casualties, Damaged Infrastructure



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Where will arrivals originate from in 2026?

Special Immigrant Visa holders Afghanistan

- Primary Languages: Pashto and Dari
- Family is the base institution
- Education and training vary widely
- Plagued by 40 years of conflict



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What does the State Refugee Coordinator do?

Coordinates access to services that support the effective resettlement and integration of refugee populations in the state.

What doesn't the State Refugee Coordinator do?

Evaluate refugee claims and make eligibility determinations. Eligibility is determined at federal level.



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Big Picture - The Economics of Welcoming



2005 - 2019

Refugee tax contributions after the cost of initial government services

\$124 Billion



2022

Refugee spending power

\$82 Billion



2022

Business income from 190,000 U.S. Refugee entrepreneurs

\$6.7 Billion



Refugees: **78.2%**

U.S. Born **61.9%**

18

"To the Immigrant, the word America belongs to the same class of words as heaven, mother, love, and hope. It stands for the fulfillment of dreams, for equality, liberty, and opportunity."

- Nils Nilson Rønning



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NO DAKOTA
