

# IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN ILLINOIS AND DUPAGE COUNTY

DUPAGE FEDERATION MEETING

January 18, 2018

# ARRIVING IN ILLINOIS

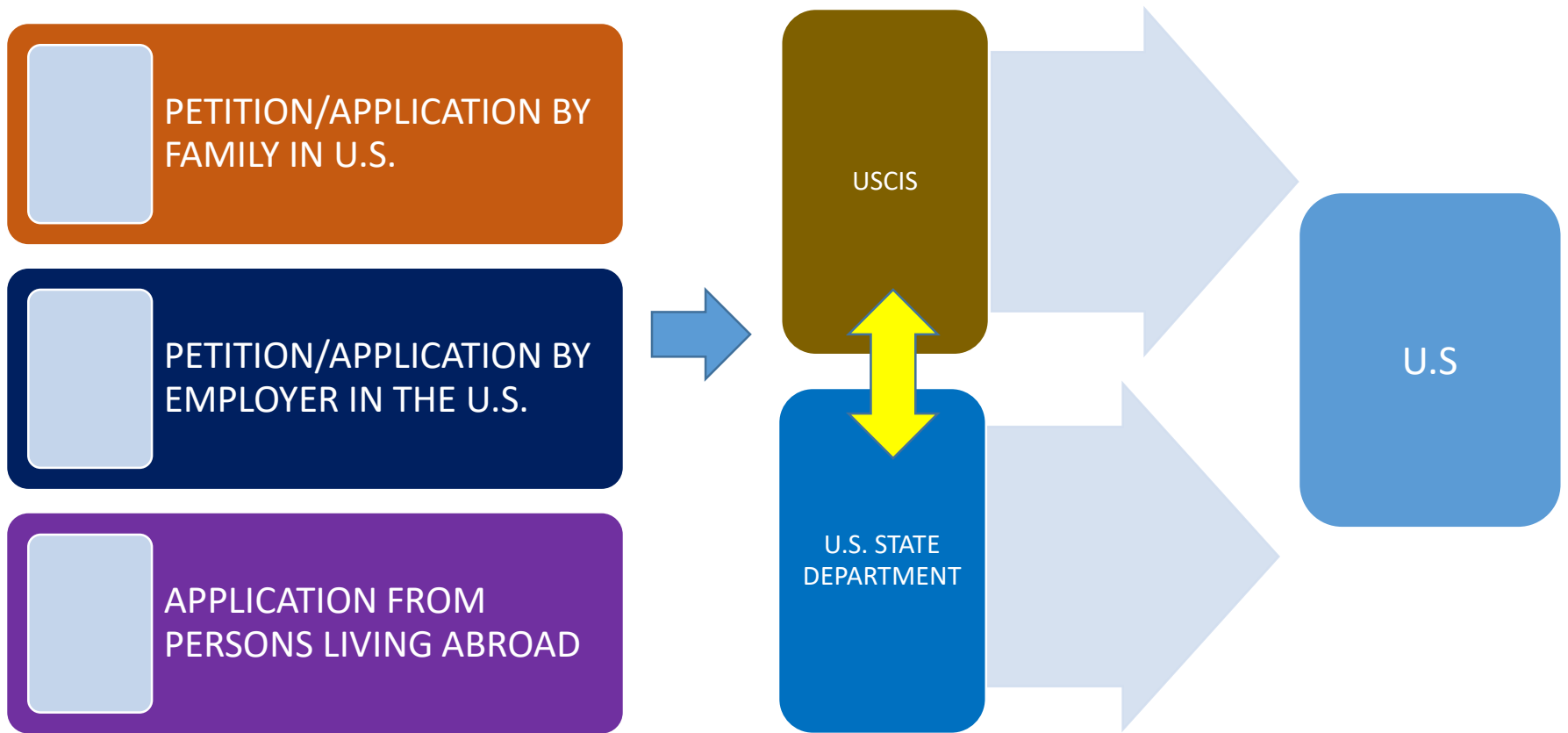
## IMMIGRANT

- Through processes established by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) based on priorities and special consideration, including family-sponsored and employment-based criteria

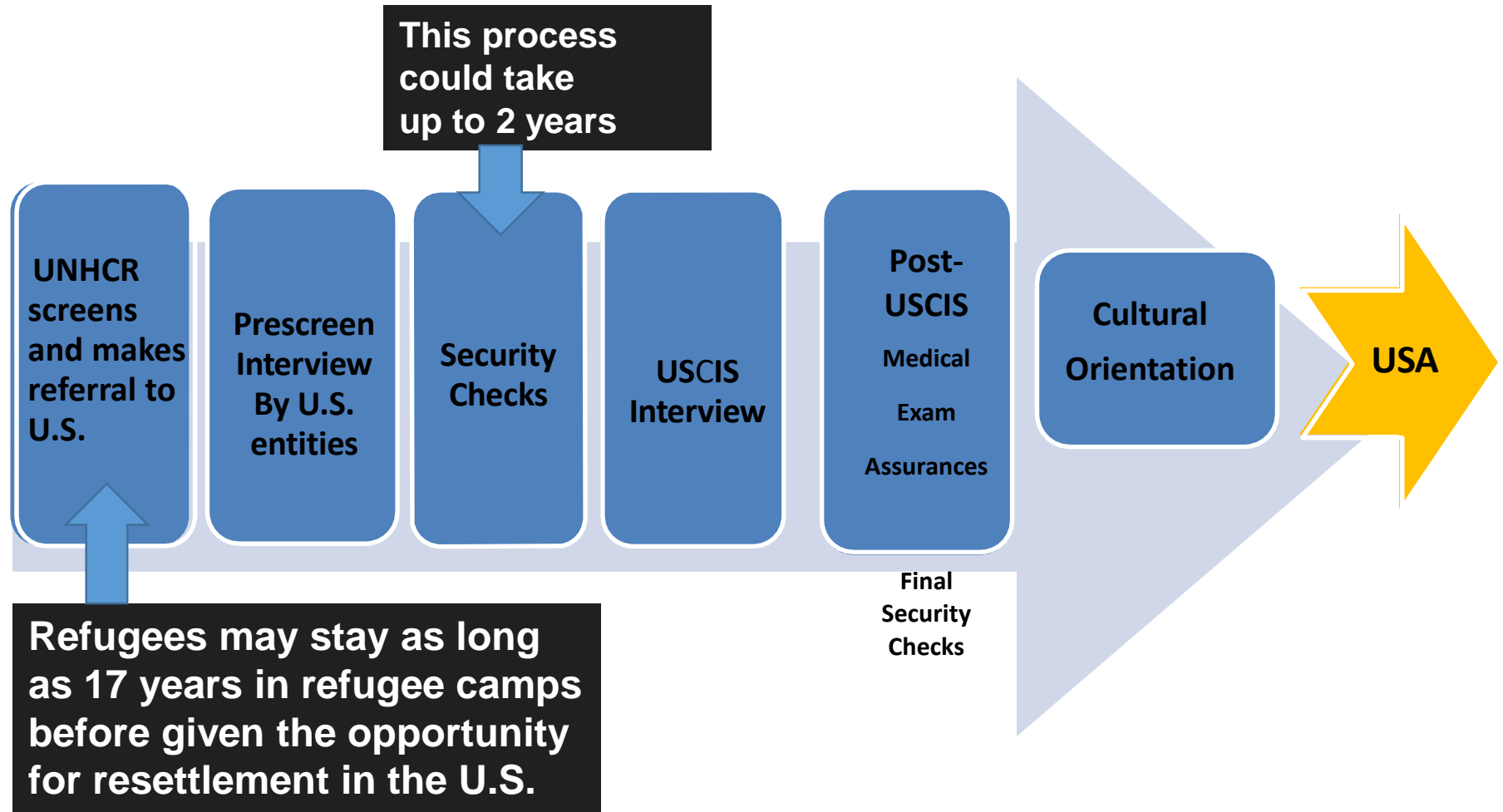
## REFUGEE

- Through process involving the White House, United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR), Homeland Security, State Department, States and Non-Profit Agencies

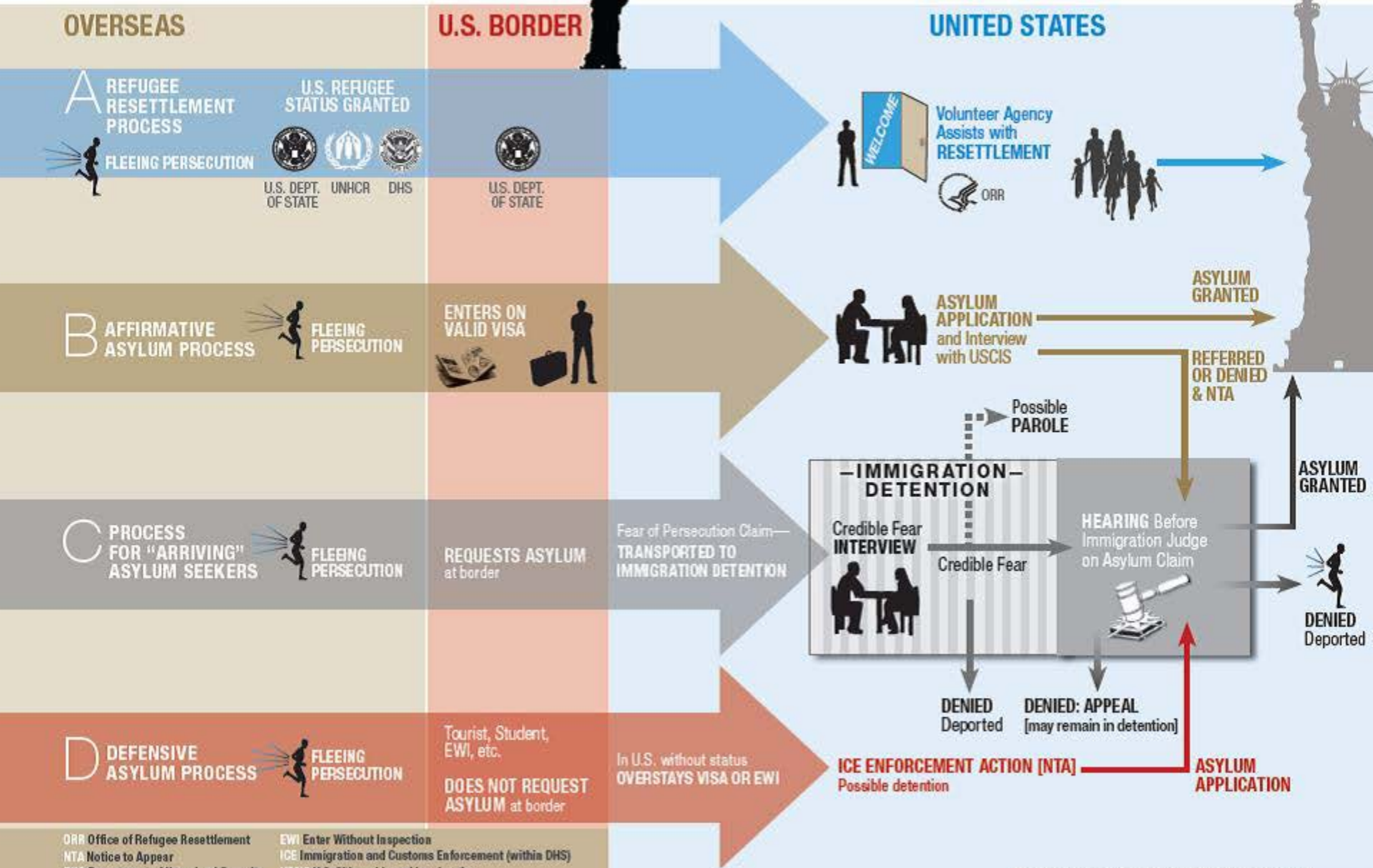
# IMMIGRANT ADMISSION



# U.S. REFUGEE ADMISSION PROCESS



# 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 Janir Robinson, Service/USA (February 2010)

# DUPAGE COUNTY REALITIES

- As of 2016, 171,325 foreign born individuals in DuPage County (18.43% of population)
- The % of foreign born who are living below 100% of FPL is higher for those who arrived 2010-2016 than those who arrived in previous years.
- Over 41,000 immigrants are below 200% of poverty line
- Over 5,700 immigrants who entered since 2010 are below 100% of poverty line
- Over 10,500 immigrants who arrived since 2010 have limited English proficiency.

# DUPAGE COUNTY REALITIES

- In FY17, World Relief served over 2,600 immigrants with immigration legal services in our DuPage location.
- In FY17, World Relief resettled 224 refugees. Estimates for this year are 225 refugees. This is compared to over 380 people annually in each of previous three years.
- The majority language group that WRDA serves are Spanish-speaking. The next most frequent language is Arabic, followed by Nepali and several Burmese languages.

# DUPAGE COUNTY REALITIES

- Strengths within low income immigrant communities in DuPage County:
  - Strong religious communities (Christian, Muslim, Hindu)
  - High rates of entrepreneurship – restaurants, catering, import/export, alterations, car repair, etc.
  - Pursuit of citizenship over time
  - English language acquisition
  - Investment in the next generation



# DUPAGE COUNTY REALITIES

- Primary challenges low income immigrants face, as expressed by educators, local service providers, and law enforcement:
  - Language access
  - Transportation
  - Cost of living
  - Cultural adjustment/ navigating systems
- Additional needs WR observes:
  - Affordable immigration legal services
  - Limited safety net for undocumented and asylum seekers

# CASE STUDY

- Chou and Sai

# FINDINGS FROM INTEGRATION STUDIES

Colorado longitudinal study, Burmese and Bhutanese refugees:

- 69% employed at or above education level after 5 years
- Increase from 13% to 58% (over course of study) in reports of speaking English fluently or in work/social situations
- Those over 55 and with disabilities struggle with language and adjustment
- Both at baseline and at study end, fewer than half regularly speak with people whose first language is English

# FINDINGS FROM INTEGRATION STUDIES

Empowering (non-oppressive) model of refugee resettlement

Signs of empowerment:

- Career advancement/ adequate income
- Community leadership/ helping others
- Local language skills
- Transportation

What do oppressive practices look like?

- Lack of community education on refugee resettlement
- Hostile/ unwelcoming community members
- Refugees not treated with dignity and worth
- Systemic oppression

Strategies to empower:

- Relationship building
- Educate refugees: Cultural adjustment, teach independence
- Educate American Born Community, including faith community
- Help refugees to be able to use their skills/ education

# IMMIGRATION LAW: WHO CAN PRACTICE?

- Two main groups:
  - Attorneys
  - DOJ (Department of Justice) Accredited Representatives

# WHAT IS “PRACTICING LAW”?

It is not:

- Translation/interpretation
- Referral to an attorney
- Preparation of photos
- Hosting an information session
- Gathering supporting documents
- Filling out intake forms/ collecting biographical information
- Filling in the blanks as directed by client

# WHAT IS “PRACTICING LAW”?

It is:

- Representing immigrants in court or in front of USCIS (G-28)
- Drafting legal documents or filling out immigration forms
- Giving legal advice

# WHAT COULD RESULT FROM UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF IMMIGRATION LAW?

- Client liability
  - Irreparable harm to client, e.g., deportation
  - Increased likelihood of mistakes
- Agency liability
  - Agency or individual providing help
  - Most states could investigate agency for unauthorized practice of law
- Repercussions from the DOJ and/or other agencies



# WHERE CAN I FIND LEGAL HELP?

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## **Pro Bono legal services** (free or low cost)

- **EOIR list of representatives in Immigration Court.** This list gives some assurance that the groups listed have immigration expertise in removal. If they can't take the case, they can refer to reputable attorneys with the needed expertise
  - <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers-map>
- **DOJ Accredited Representatives**  
<https://www.justice.gov/eoir/recognized-organizations-and-accredited-representatives-roster-state-and-city>
- **Non Profit Service Providers** -Immigration Advocates Network  
<https://www.immi.org/info/FindLegalHelp>
- **Attorneys**-American Immigration Lawyers Association-  
<http://www.aila.org/about/immigration-lawyer-search>