

# Health Officers Connect Call (HOCC)

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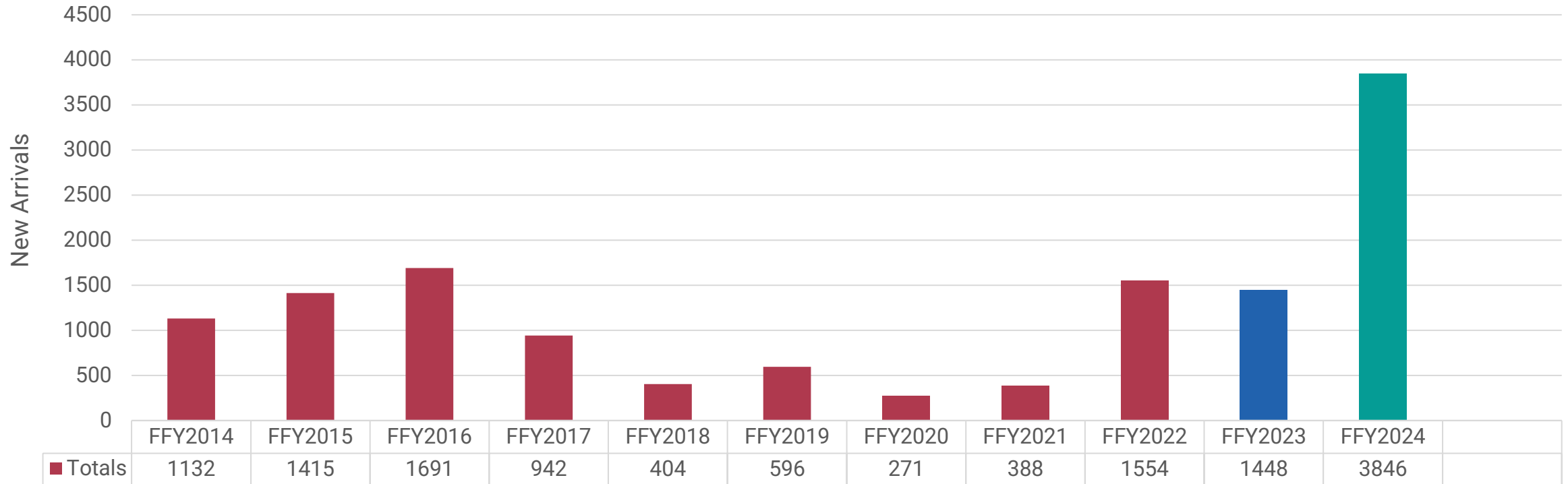
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

# Overview

- Process
- Numbers (FY2023, FY2024 projections)
- Resettlement Agency locations
- Wisconsin Public Health Association's (WPHA's) resolution
- Fiscal Impact Report
- Other Populations – Humanitarian Parole
- Welcome Corps
- How LHDs Can Help



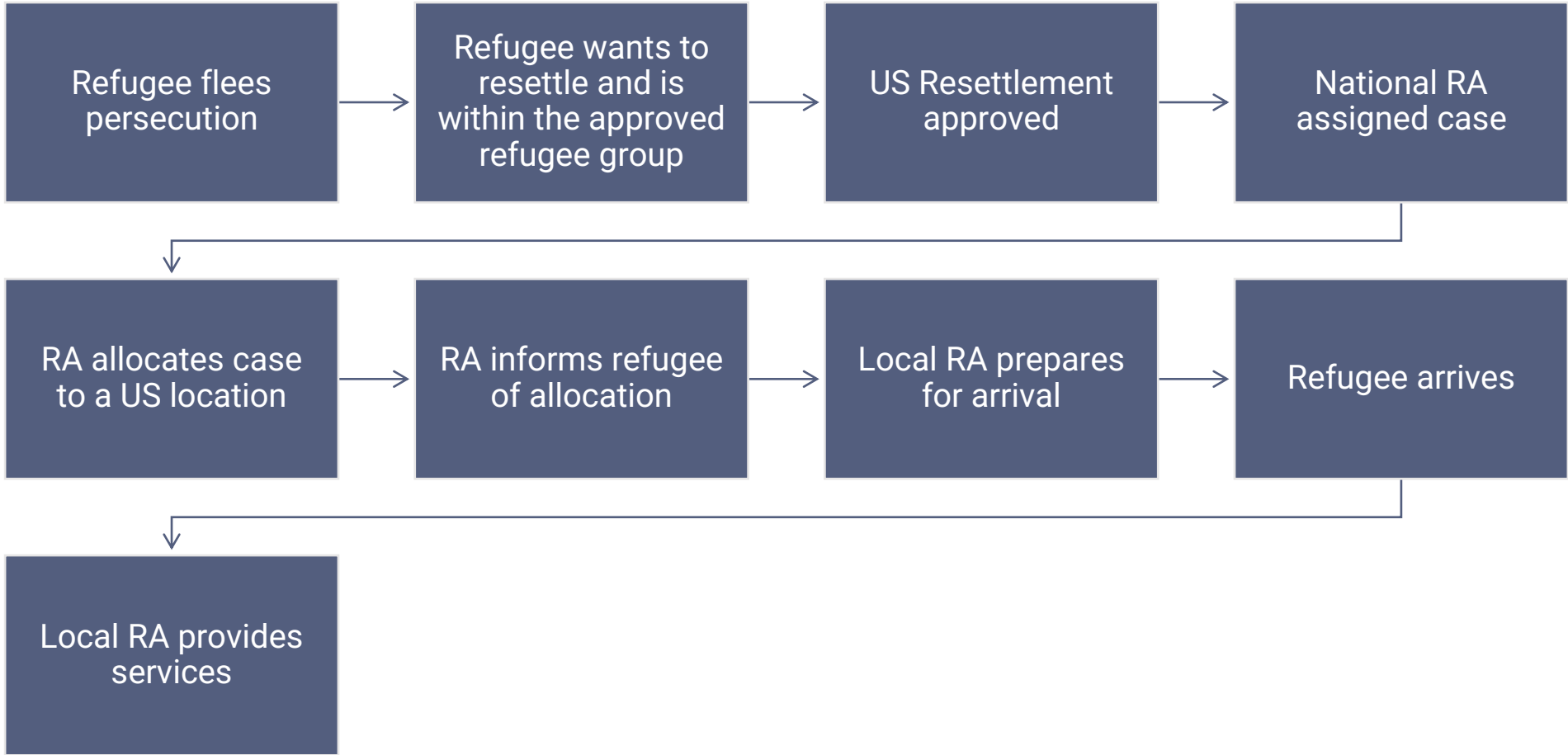
# Refugees and New Arrivals in Wisconsin Assisted by Resettlement Agencies



Federal Fiscal Year (FFY): October 1 to September 30



# Resettlement Process



# FY 23 Arrivals

**1,448 total**

1,409 Refugees

38 Special Immigrant Visas (SIV)

From:

Burma

Democratic Republic of Congo

Syria

Afghanistan



# FY 24 PROJECTIONS

1,800 Resettlement Agency

3,846 Department of State

## Discrepancy:

Asylees

Cuban/Haitian entrants

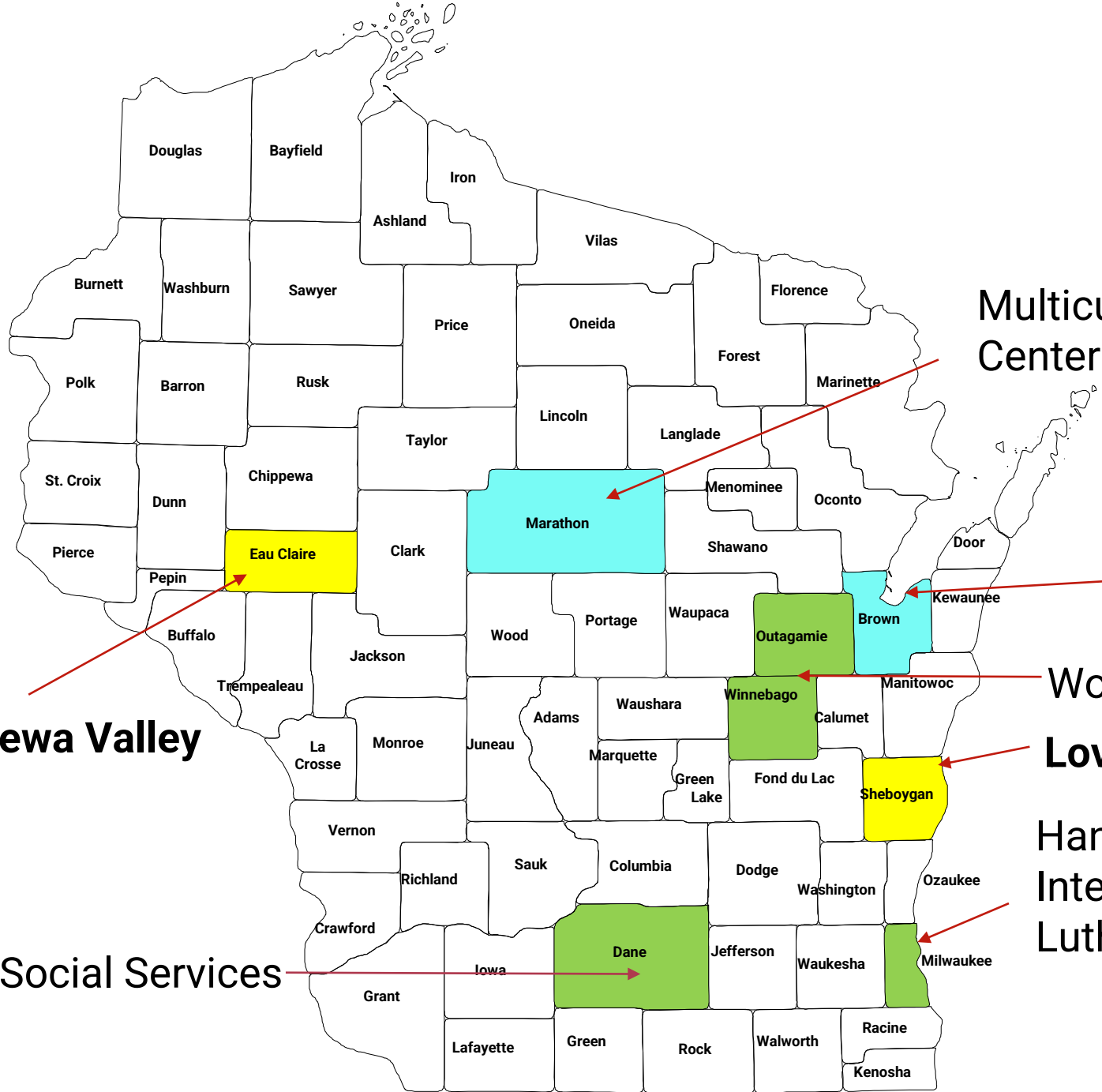
Victims of Human Trafficking

Ukrainians

Welcome Corps



# 2024



Multicultural Community Center

Catholic Charities of Green Bay

World Relief of Wisconsin  
Love, Inc.

Hanan Refugee Relief  
International Institute of WI  
Lutheran Social Services

World Relief of Chippewa Valley

Jewish Social Services





# Deciding on Local Affiliate location

New affiliates (Refugee Resettlement Agencies) consult with their communities and gain their support.

- Local government officials, typically mayors or (where run by) city councils and city managers
- Public safety
- Public health
- Schools
- Townhalls for public
- W-2 agencies and other social services providers.







# The Fiscal Impact of Refugees and Asylees at the Federal State and local levels from 2005 to 2019\*

Analysis of the fiscal impact of refugees and asylees on federal, state, and local governments from 2005 to 2019.

- Net impact of refugees and asylees over the 15-year period was + \$123.8 billion.
- Refugees and asylees contributed more revenue than they cost in expenditures to the government.

\* Ghertner, Robin, Suzanne Macartney and Meredith Dost. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, February 2024





## WPHA 2023 Resolution: Refugee Family Reunification

Refugee family separation public health crisis

- Negatively affects children and families long-term,
- Long-term physical and psychological harm
- Trauma
- Economic contribution



# Other Populations - Humanitarian Parole

[Uniting for Ukraine](#) April 2022 - IGRA to assess for TB infection and vaccine attestation required.

[Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan and Venezuelans \(CHNV\)](#) January 2023–IGRA to assess for TB infection and vaccine attestation required.

[Family Reunification Parole Processes for Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras](#) July 2023 - Individuals come as humanitarian paroles to join family (citizens or legal permanent residents). They must see a panel physician before coming. Process to promote family unity.



# Alternative Immigration Pathways **Recommendations** for **LTHDs**

- Be aware of new immigration pathways and the potential to see new immigrants in Wisconsin communities.
- Recognize not all will have access to Medicaid and refugee RA support.
- Be knowledgeable where different immigrants may be referred to for TB attestation and screening, or the full refugee medical screening exam.



# WELCOME CORPS



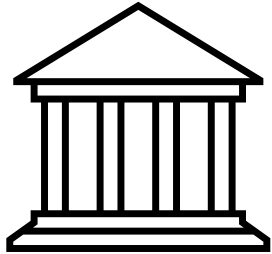
# WELCOME CORPS

- Launched January 2023 by the U.S. Department of State
- New program that empowers any Americans to resettle refugees
- Addition to “traditional” model of resettlement via resettlement agencies
- Requires financial, in-kind, and time/effort support for 90 days after arrival
- Privately Sponsored refugees are eligible for the same services and benefits available to other refugees **INCLUDING MEDICAID**



# How is this different?

## Traditional resettlement



Resettlement  
Agency (RA)



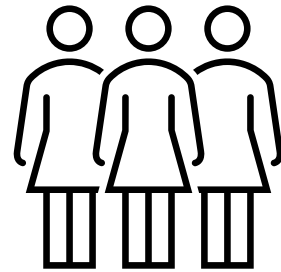
RA is responsible for all  
core services in first  
90 days

Federal Government

## Private sponsorship



Welcome  
Corps



Sponsor is responsible for  
all core services in first  
90 days

Federal Government

# Local and Tribal Health Departments' (LTHDs) Responsibility

- Know that refugees could resettle through private sponsorship in your community
- Offer services you would to anyone else
- Promote all health department services that can be provided (communicable disease follow up, PNCC, WIC, etc.)
- Help private sponsors connect to health care





# Public Health as Ally

- Know community
- Know community resources
- Services
  - Immunizations
  - Communicable disease follow up
  - Maternal health programming
- At the table – remember refugees as part of your community
- Build connection with state and local resettlement efforts



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