



Immigrant Integration Forum

May 15 2024

What I'll share

- What is happening in the world that is bringing refugees and immigrants?
- Who is arriving in our state and region?
- What do people need when they arrive?
- How well are we meeting that need, what is missing, and what should be done to close the gap?

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1 out of every 74 people

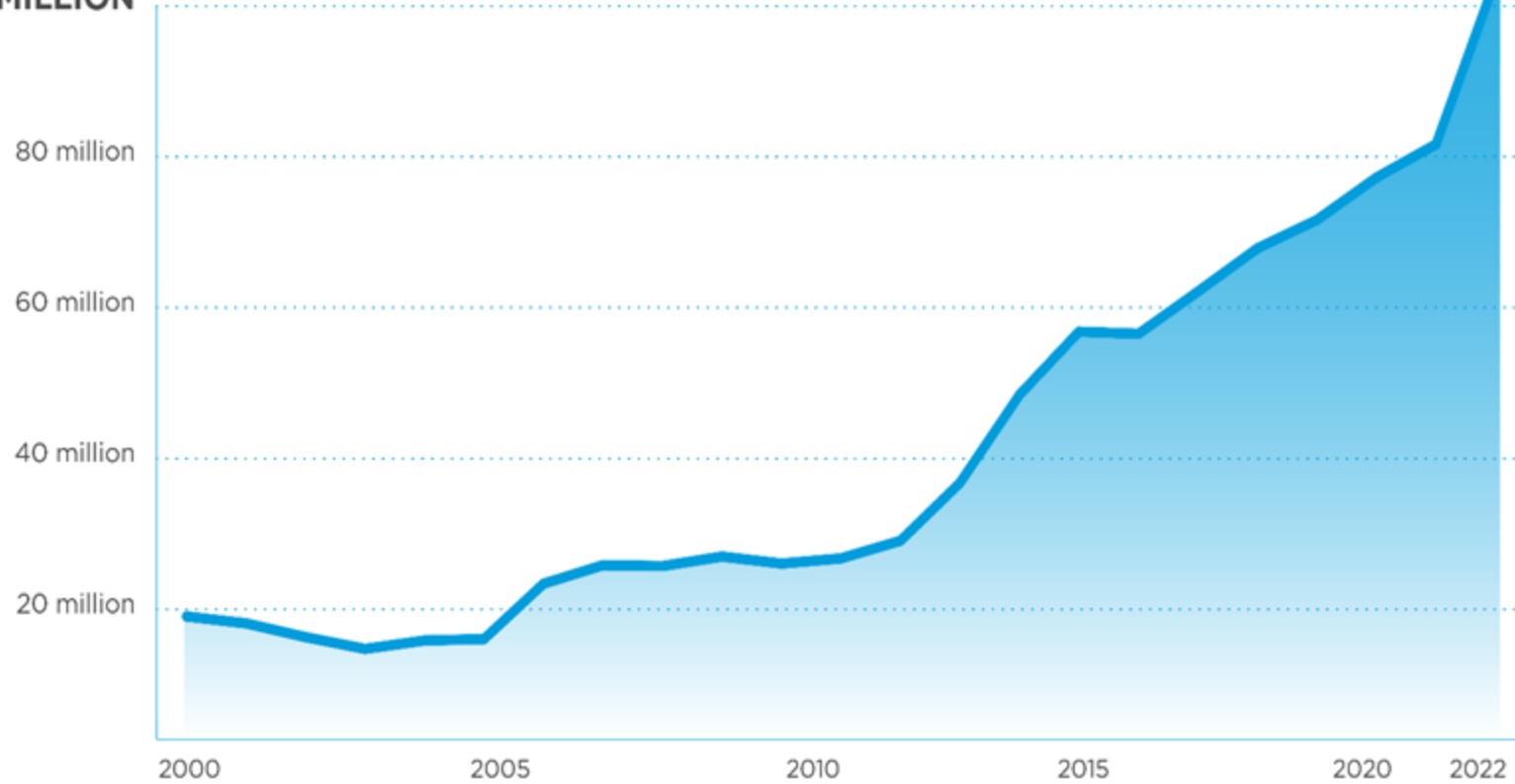
**More than the population of
Germany**

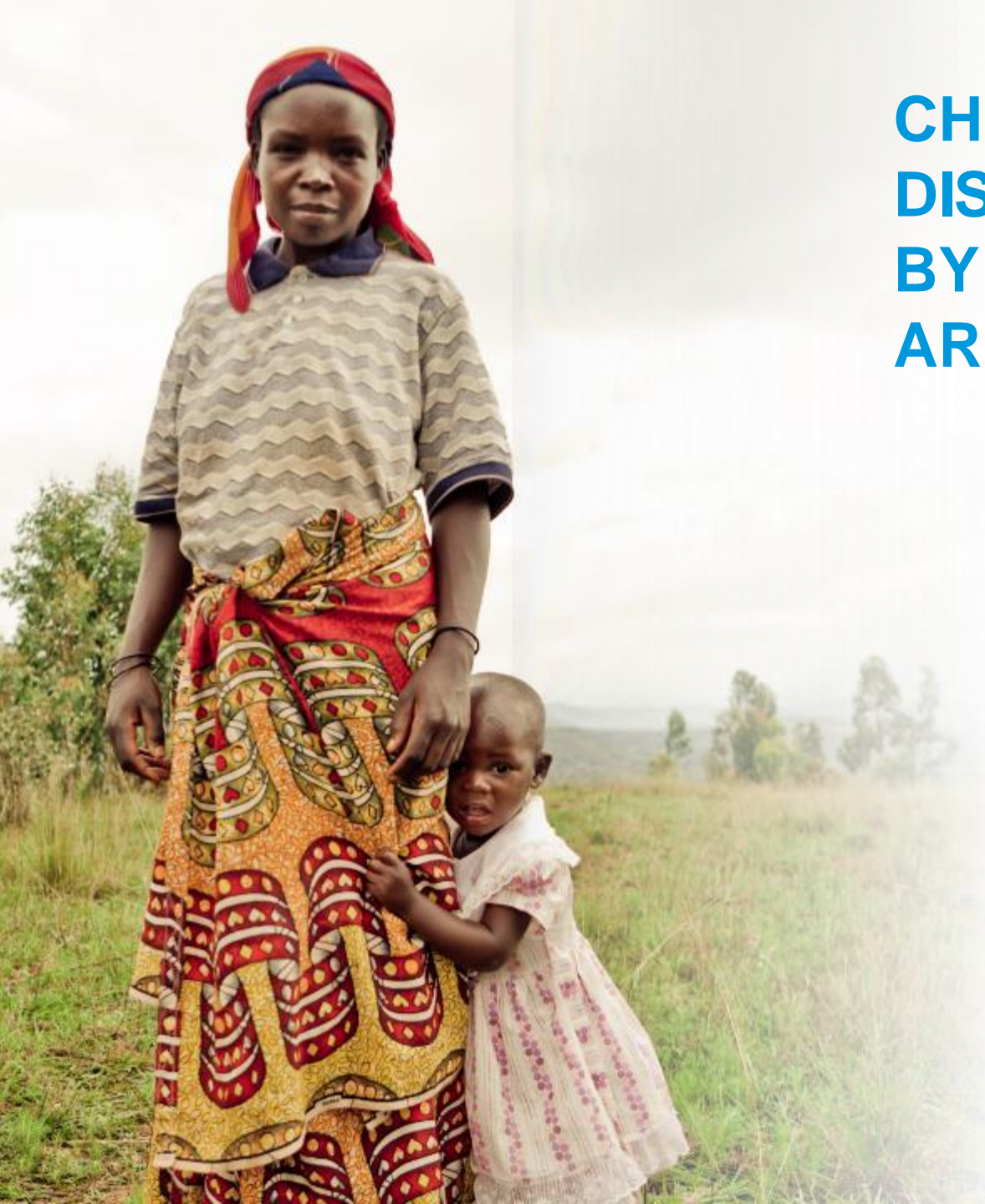


A global crisis

GLOBAL FORCED DISPLACEMENT

100 MILLION





CHILDREN REMAIN DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY FORCED DISPLACEMENT AROUND THE WORLD

- Children are overrepresented in the global refugee crisis, accounting for 41 percent of all forcibly displaced people but only making up 30 percent of the world's population. UNHCR estimates that more than 1.9 million children were born as refugees between 2018 and 2022 — an estimated 385,000 children per year.

Afghanistan

Nearly 100,000 resettled in US after the fall of Kabul, including 2,500 in the Chicagoland area

There are still millions of forcibly displaced people, waiting for a permanent solution



Ukraine

The U.S. began Uniting for Ukraine to allow Ukrainians temporary humanitarian parole, after the war started

Over 30,000 Ukrainians have arrived to the Chicagoland area since the war began



Refugee resettlement

The U.S. is aiming to resettle 125,000 refugees from around the world, across the U.S. this year. Some of the largest populations are from Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Guatemala, Burma/Myanmar, and Eritrea.

IL will resettle nearly 4,000 refugees this year



Asylum Seekers

Chicago has received over 41,000 new arrivals from the southern border since August 2022.

Many are from Venezuela, although dozens of other countries of origins are represented

They are in the U.S. with the knowledge and permission of U.S. government, while waiting for their court date



Venezuela

Over 8 million people have fled country in the last decade due to political instability and economic crisis

The majority are living in the neighboring countries of Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador

Thousands of people are seeking asylum in the U.S.



Local context: western suburbs

People are arriving to our communities from many country backgrounds, and with different immigration statuses

World Relief in the suburbs has a waiting list of over 100 people

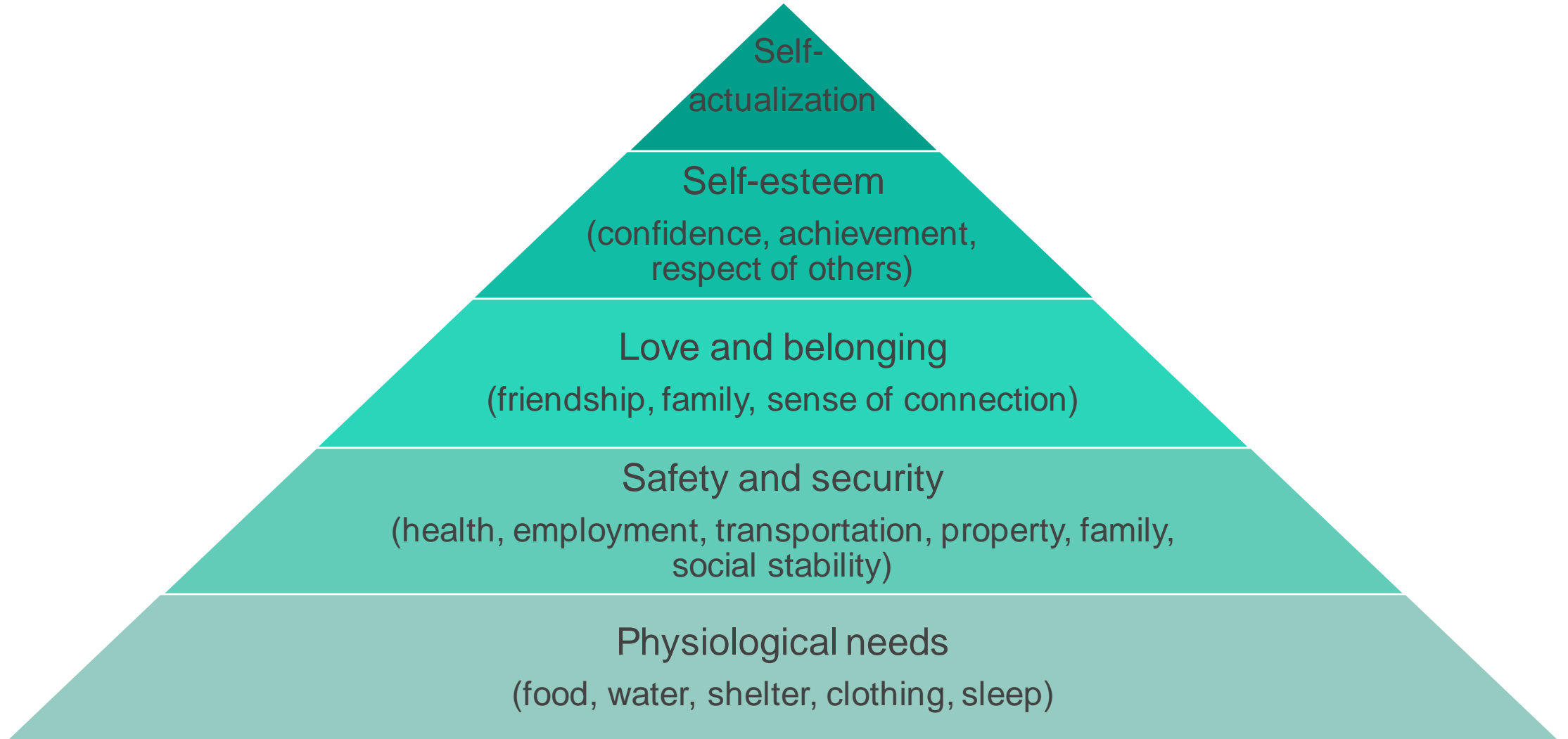
2-4 weeks wait before people can be seen

Largest populations “walking in” to seek assistance: Ukrainian, Venezuelan, Colombian

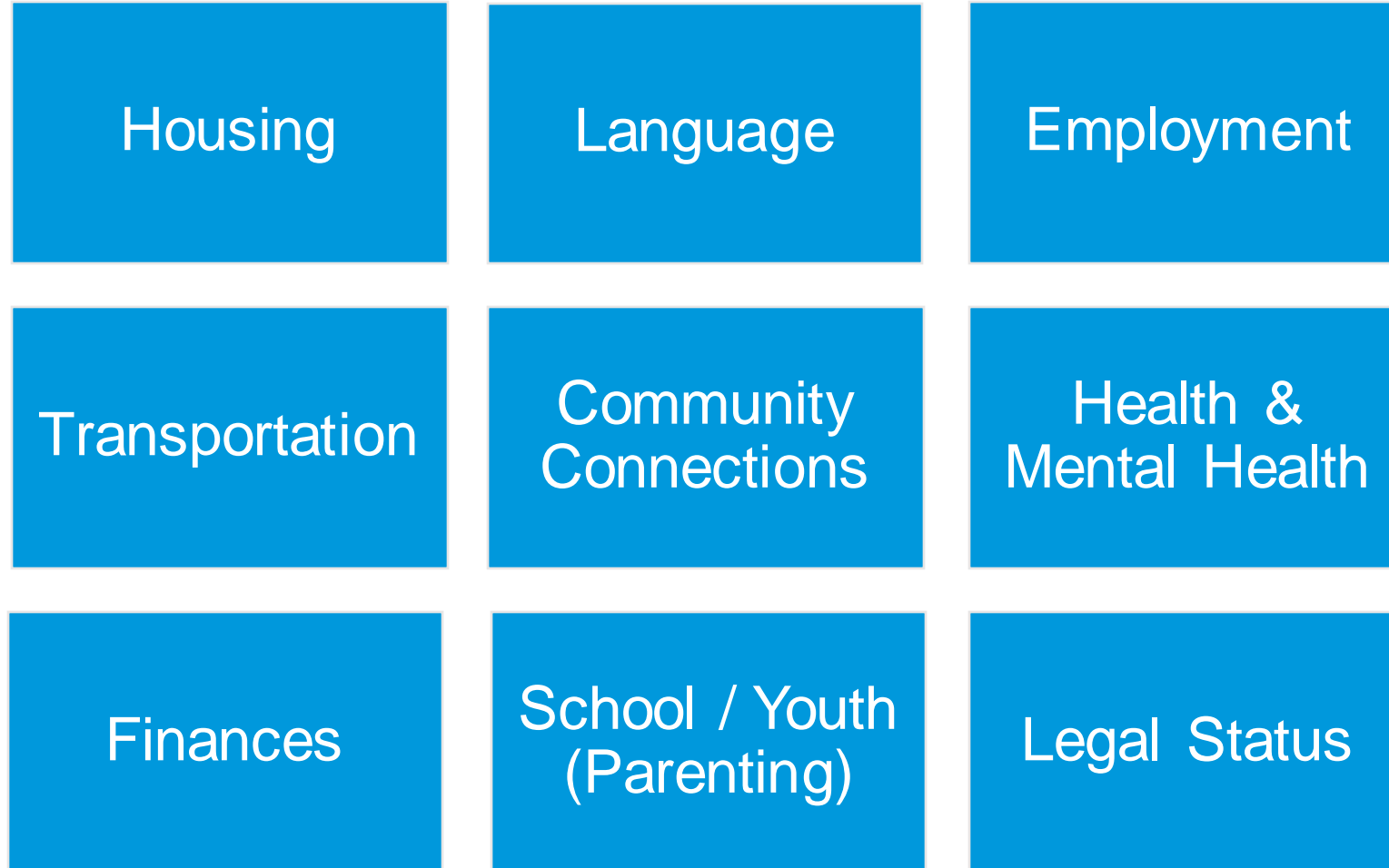


Why Chicagoland?

Maslow's hierarchy of needs



9 stability Factors



Top requests for support we receive

Housing

Employment assistance

Immigration legal services

Free medical care

English classes

Direct financial assistance for crisis situations

Food pantries

Mental health counseling

Some immigration status definitions

- **Refugee:** A refugee is a person who has been forced to flee their home country due to persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. People admitted to the US with refugee status typically arrive by plane, and have gone through an interview/approval process while overseas. They have immediate work authorization.

Service eligibility: They are eligible for SNAP, Medicaid and other public benefits, and can also receive services funded by the federal government to help them with employment, case management, and overall adjustment

Some immigration status definitions

- **Asylum seeker:** someone who is fleeing persecution and enters the U.S. to seek protection. They arrive by crossing a border or by plane. They must apply for asylum in order to present their case to stay in safety. This process can be lengthy. They can receive work authorization 150 days after applying for asylum.

Service eligibility: In IL, asylum seekers can receive some public benefits through VTTC. They do not receive work authorization initially. Some migrants who have come through the CBP One App and were given parole at the border for 1-2 years can apply for work authorization before applying for asylum

Some immigration status definitions

- **Asylee:** Someone who has successfully been granted asylum by the U.S.

Service eligibility: After they are granted asylum, individuals are eligible for the same humanitarian benefits and rights as refugees including employment, case management, and adjustment support, and are on a pathway toward a green card

Some immigration status definitions

- **Humanitarian Parolee:** Temporary status was granted overseas or at the border to enter/stay in the US, based upon humanitarian reasons (i.e. sick relative, or fleeing a crisis such as the war in Ukraine).
Service eligibility: Varies based upon the type of humanitarian parole and country of origin. Work authorization is often, but not always, provided with this status. For example, services for Ukrainian humanitarian parolees and Afghan humanitarian parolees were very similar as for refugees, but were time limited.

Needs & Gaps

Needs & Gaps

- Housing
- Immigration legal services
- Income & employment
- Food pantries
- Transportation
- Mental health counseling
- Free & charitable health clinics
- Direct financial assistance

Creative collaborative solutions

world relief[®] 
CHICAGOLAND