

**CULTURE AND CONTEXT:  
*SERVING INDIVIDUALS WITH  
A REFUGEE BACKGROUND  
IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM***

**Idaho Office for Refugees**

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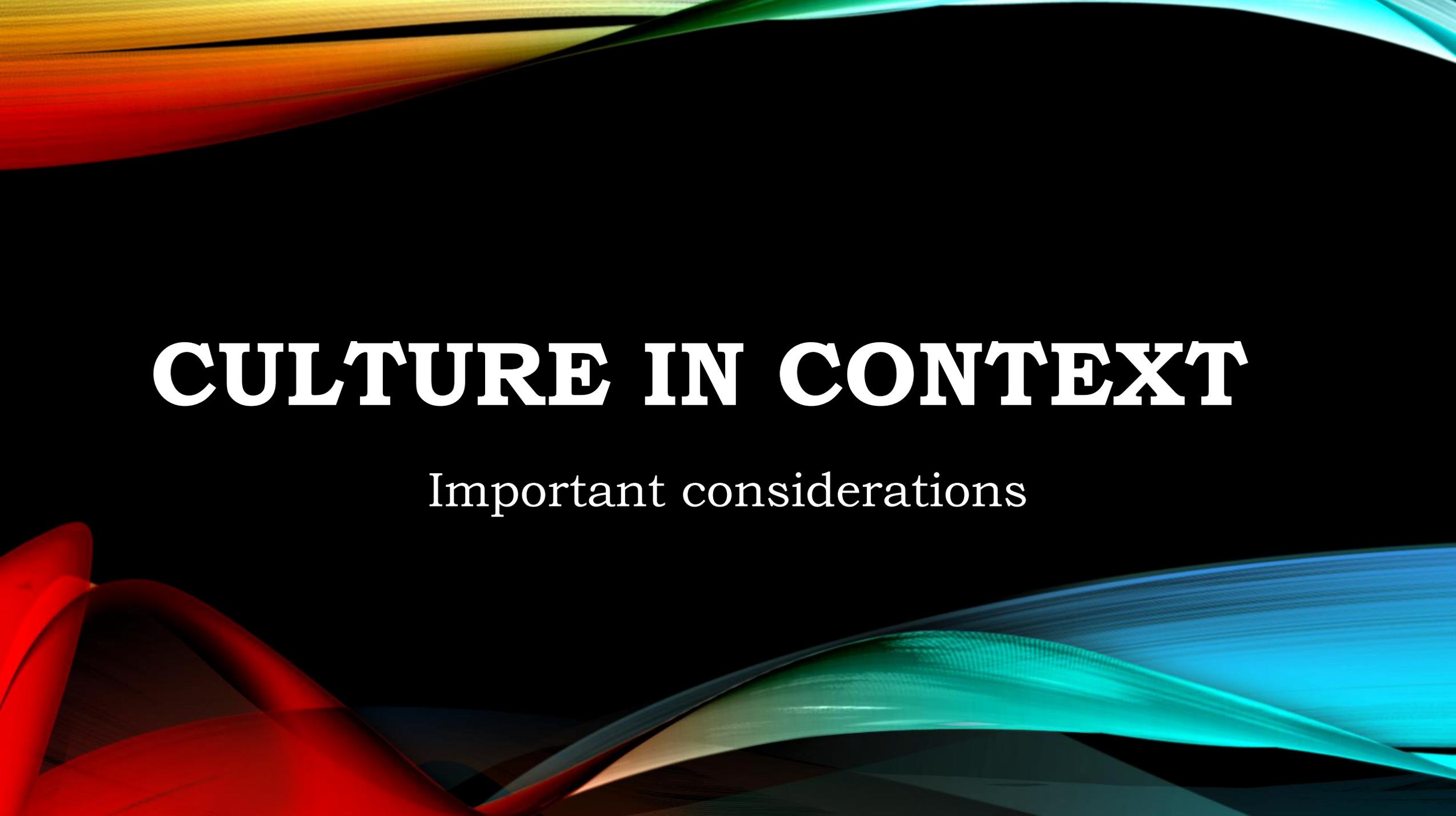
**May 2021**

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. Learn about who refugees are and how they get to Idaho.

2. Learn about the challenges of working cross-culturally with those who have been through the refugee experience.

3. Learn about resources in the community that are already working with refugees.



# **CULTURE IN CONTEXT**

Important considerations

# CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE (CQ) QUIZ

1. I TALK ABOUT MY CULTURE WITH OTHER PEOPLE.	OFTEN	SOMETIMES	NEVER
2. In the past few months, I have changed a behavior to adapt to another culture.	Often	Sometimes	Never
3. I will compromise.	Often	Sometimes	Never
4. I have friends from other cultures.	Often	Sometimes	Never
5. I often talk with people from other cultures.	Often	Sometimes	Never
6. I have made a friend in the past year with someone who was born in another country.	Often	Sometimes	Never
7. In the past few months, I discovered a bias I did not know I had.	Often	Sometimes	Never
8. I avoid people who do not speak my language well.	Often	Sometimes	Never
9. I avoid situations in which I find myself to be the minority.	Often	Sometimes	Never
10. I speak up when I witness discrimination.	Often	Sometimes	Never
	High	Average	Low

# UNPACKING CULTURE

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**Culture – The learned and shared patterns of perception and behavior of a particular group of people.**

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**Learned**

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**Shared**

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**Patterns**

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**Perception**

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**Behavior**

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**A Particular Group of People**

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# THE ICEBERG CONCEPT OF CULTURE

**Like an iceberg, 90% of culture is below the waterline of visibility.**

## **The surface culture**

Easily visible

Emotional response / Low

## **Shallow culture**

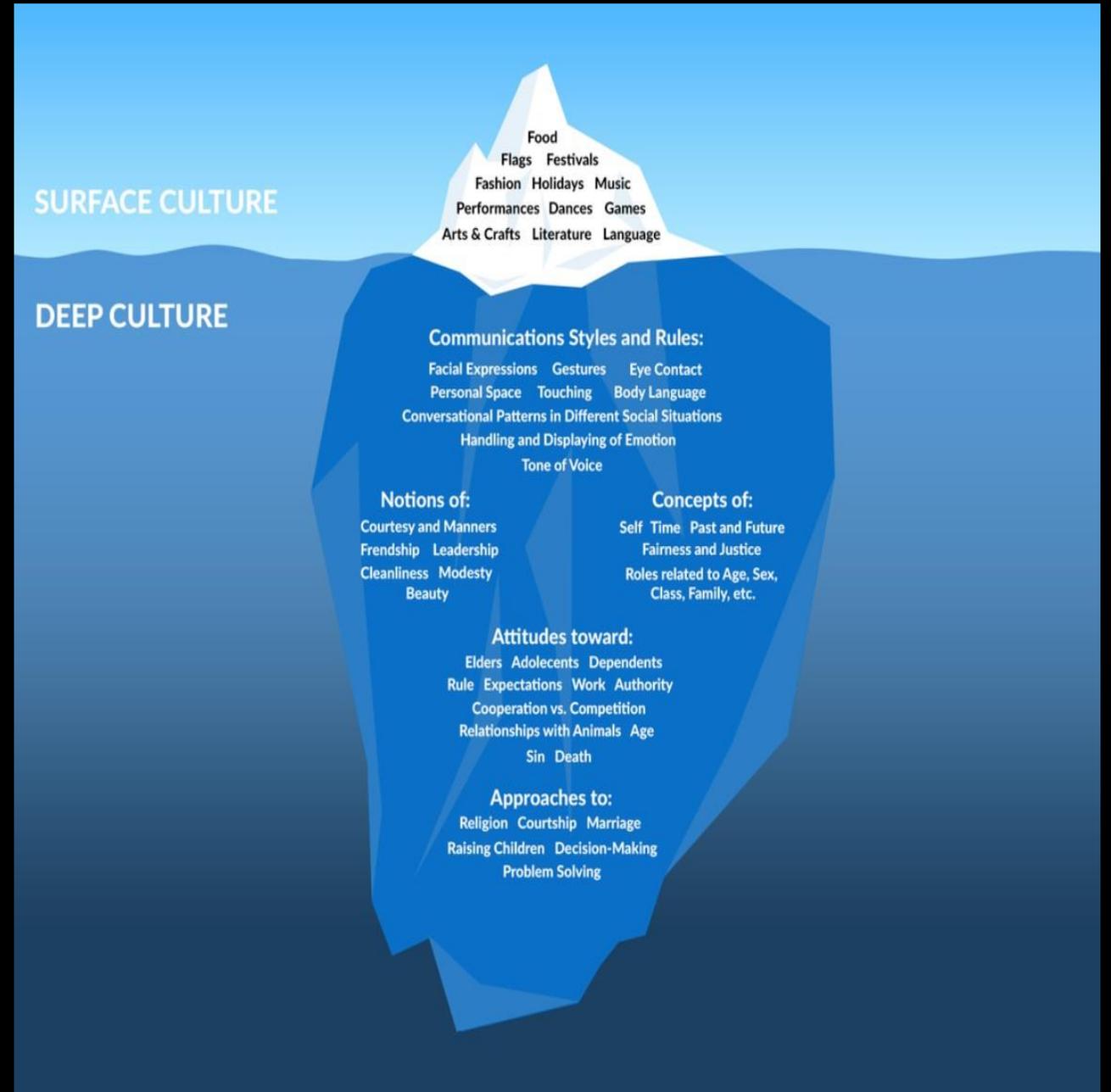
Unspoken rules

Emotional response / High

## **Deep culture**

Unconscious Rules

Emotional response / Intense



# FOUR OVERARCHING PATTERNS OF CULTURE

	<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Identity</b>	<b>Values</b>	<b>Worldview</b>
<b><u>JUSTICE</u></b>	What is the truth? What are the facts? Individual	Judicial	Guilty/ Not guilty	Doing what is right based on written standards	Legal
<b><u>HONOR</u></b>	Maintain my community's approval	Shared stories Geography Religion Community Family	Honor/ Shame	Reputation based on honor code	Communal
<b><u>HARMONY</u></b>	Saving face	Group	Group	Relationships	Relief
<b><u>RECIPROCITY</u></b>	Exchange of Resources	Uneven relationships in informal networks	Power/Control or Obligation	Resources + Connections	Reciprocal

# **CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE (CQ)**

THE CAPABILITY TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY ACROSS CULTURES

## **1. CQ Drive**

- **Interest & Confidence**
- The motivation to engage (learn & adapt) with others from a different culture

## **3. CQ Strategy**

- **Situational awareness**
- Understanding how to adapt

## **2. CQ Knowledge**

- **Culture & how it works**
- How it impacts people (Starts with understanding one's own culture)

## **4. CQ Action**

- **Behavioral changes in cross-cultural settings**
- Adaptation of speech & behavior

How the global becomes local.

# OVERVIEW OF RESETTLEMENT



# WHO IS A REFUGEE?



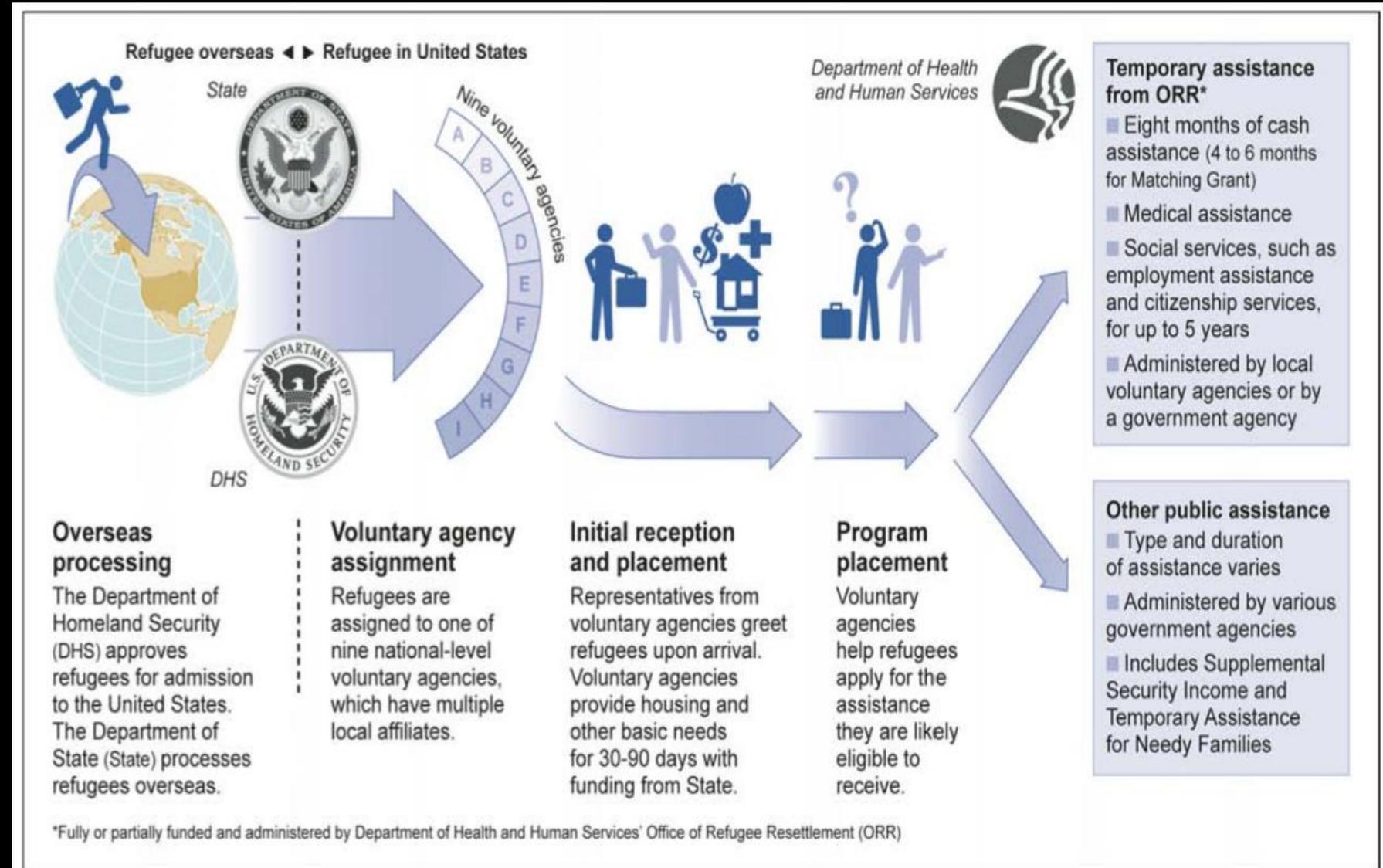
# REFUGEE

- The term **refugee** means any person who is **outside any country** of such persons nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is **unable or unwilling to return** to that country because of **persecution** or a **well-founded fear** of persecution on account of **race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion**... The term refugee does not include any person who ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

*--The US Refugee Act of 1980*

# PROCESS OVERVIEW

- Process begins overseas and takes an average of two years.
- US Department of Homeland Security makes final decision, not the UN.
- Federal partners include DHS, State Department and Office of Refugee Resettlement.
- Refugee Status is a legal status, not necessarily a defining aspect of someone's personhood.



# PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION

- USRP fiscal year starts October 1
- Prior to any arrivals coming in a new Fiscal Year, the President must sign the *Presidential Determination* that sets the admissions priorities and ceiling for the fiscal year.
- The admissions priorities and ceiling are determined through consultation between the State Department, Congress and the President.
- •Once the PD is signed, arrivals can resume.

# WHO DECIDES WHO COMES TO IDAHO?

- There are ongoing consultations between local, state and national partners
- Family Reunification is a priority
- Language access, community capacity, employment, medical issues, etc. are all considered.



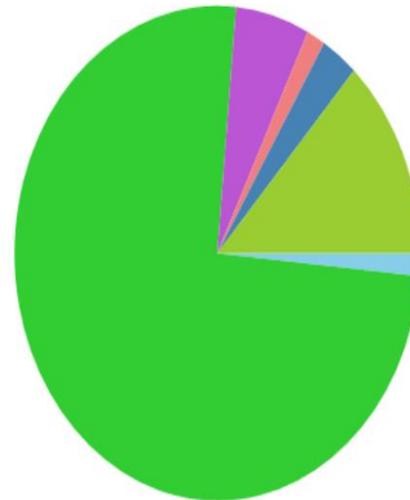
# IDAHO OVERVIEW

## FY 2021 so far

- Historically low numbers
- Expected increase over the next few years
- Expanded list of countries of origin moving forward.

Countries of Origin Total: 68

Afghanistan 1 Congo (Former Zaire) 51 Iran 4 Rwanda 1 Sudan 2 Ukraine 9



# SERVICE PROVIDERS IN IDAHO

- Agency for New Americans (ANA)
- CSI Refugee Center (CSI)
- Economic Opportunity (EO)
- English Language Center (ELC)
- Gardens (GG)
- Global Talent (GT)
- Idaho Office for Refugees (IOR)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Various ethnic community-based organizations



# SERVICES IN IDAHO

**Idaho has developed a strong network of services to assist people who arrive as refugees along their resettlement journey.**

- Combination of Federal, State, Local and Private funding
- **Most intensive services** are during the first year and include Case Management, Employment, Cultural Orientation, English Classes, School enrollment, housing, community health navigators, and referral to community partners as needed.
- **Subsequent services** include youth mentoring, economic development, education support, employment upgrades, and other services for needs that arise.
- **Broader network** includes programs like Artisans for Hope, Nations United Soccer, Refugee Speakers Bureau, Glocal, Neighbors United, Gates of Hope, and more.

# CULTURAL/LANGUAGE ACCESS

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires language access to LEP populations in service delivery funded by federal funds.
  - Language access is a key component of effectively serving this population.
  - Cultural Brokers offer another layer of interpreting the culture behind the language.
- Language access resources:
- [Boiseinterpreters.com](http://Boiseinterpreters.com)
  - [Interprelink.com](http://Interprelink.com)
  - Ada County court system provides training and keeps a list of interpreters
  - Resettlement Agencies
  - Idaho Office for Refugees

# CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE LEGAL SYSTEM

- Language access
- Different experience with legal systems in other countries
- Trauma
- Lack of understanding of the U.S. legal system
- Turning 18 in the US is different than in many other countries.
- Individual vs. collectivist

# QUESTIONS?

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