



**COLLEGE & CAREER
READINESS**

The Role of Adult Ed Programs in the Shifting US Refugee Trends COABE 2024 - Session One

Presented by: Lisa Poplawski

August 22nd, 2024



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COABE Takeaway Refugee Topics



- Refugee trends
- Federal immigration policy
- Educational needs
- Discussion

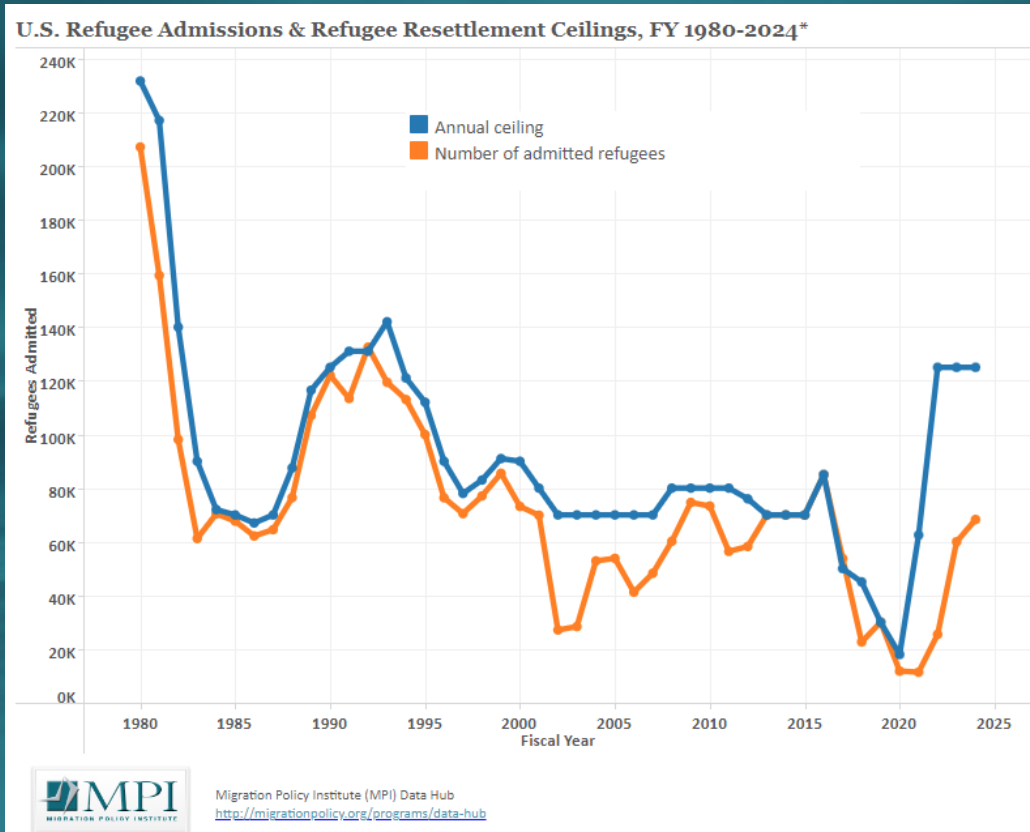
What does it mean to be a refugee?

A refugee is...

- outside their home country
- unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their:
 - Race
 - Religion
 - Nationality
 - Membership in a social group
 - Political opinion



Nationwide Refugee Trends



- Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) set nationwide 125K ceiling each year from 2022-2024
- Maximum of 50-60% of that ceiling is reached

Nationwide Refugee Trends

- 2021 – Operation Allies for Afghan Parolees
- 2022 – Uniting for Ukraine
- 2023 – Cuban/ Haitian/ Nicaraguan/ Venezuelan Parole Program
- Traditional agency-assisted resettlement continues
- Increasingly resettlement is happening through private sponsorship models – i.e., individual or community groups



North Carolina Refugee Trends

- The NC State Refugee Office (SRO) coordinates distribution of Federal ORR funds
- 57 /100 NC counties have contract agencies providing services with hopes of expansion
- Historically urban/agricultural resettlement, now expanding to more counties with housing and employment challenges
- Focus on requirements for assuring provision and equity of services, especially with private sponsorship creating new dynamic



County-Specific Refugee Trends



Ukrainian Resettlement

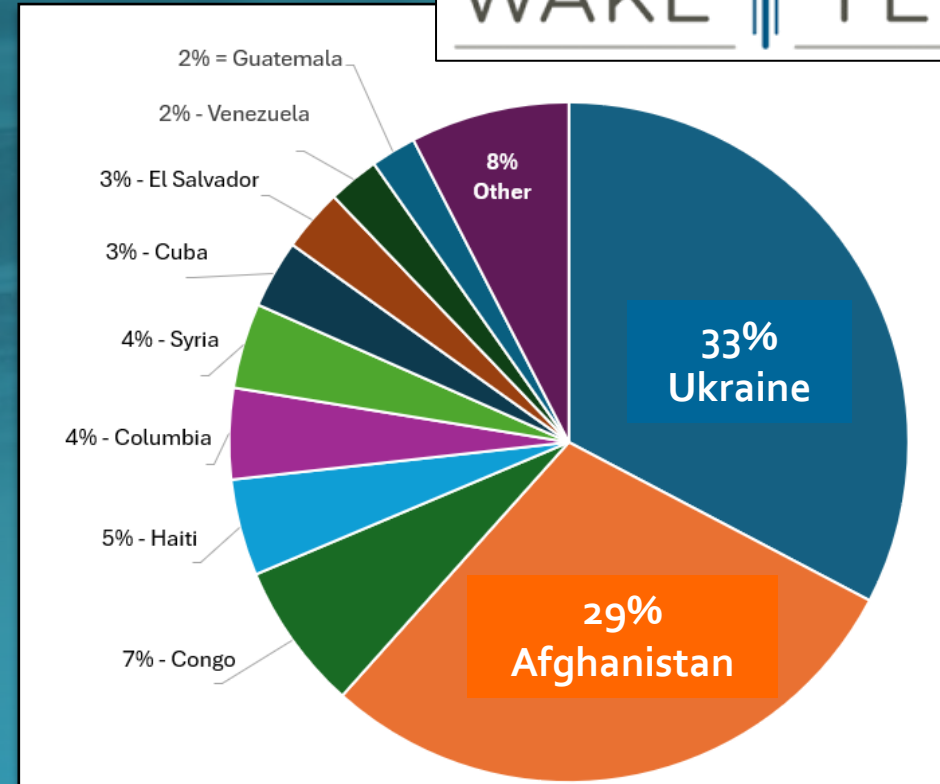
- Union
- Buncombe
- Mecklenburg
- Wake
- Cabarrus

Cuban/Haitian Resettlement

- Mecklenburg
- Guilford
- Forsyth
- Wake
- Randolph
- Gaston
- Cabarrus
- Johnston
- Robeson
- Cumberland

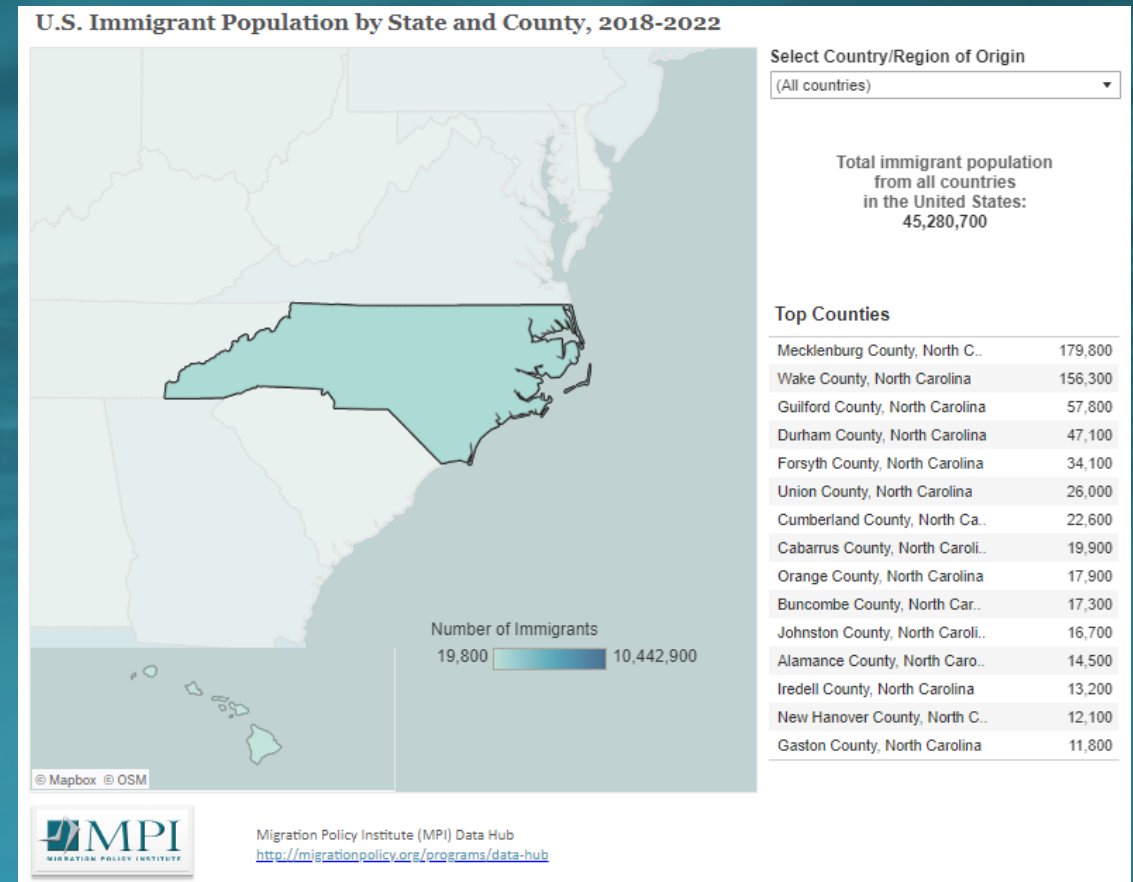
College-Specific Refugee Trends

- Wake Tech receives federal grant funds via the NC State Refugee Office (SRO) for College and Career Readiness adult education
- Top 4 countries of origin for grant program year 2023/24:
 - Ukraine
 - Afghanistan
 - Congo
 - Haiti



County-Specific Historical Data

- General immigration trends available for 2018-2022 on the Migration Policy Institute website
- State Immigration Data Profiles



Questions?

Federal Immigration Policy: Updates

- DACA in limbo:
 - Current recipients can renew
 - No NEW applicants being processed
 - New Dream Act legislation introduced but not progressed
- Farm Workforce Modernization Act to establish certified agricultural worker (CAW) status stalled after House approval
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS) has been granted to ~700,000 for 16 countries of origin



Federal Immigration Policy: Updates

- Parole-in-place for spouses of citizens allows application for green cards without leaving the country
- Specific temporary statuses granted for international humanitarian crises – i.e., Ukraine, CHNV, human trafficking, etc.
- Local governments attempting to meet the needs of expanded populations and requesting help from State and Federal agencies
- Senate has passed a bill to change policy on border management, but not passed in the House
- Current deportation at the southern border at an historic high



Federal Immigration Policy: Citizenship

- 878.5K eligible permanent residents gained Citizenship in Federal FY2023
- Naturalization down from previous fiscal year but up generally over the past four years
- Processing is moving faster – down from high of almost a year to about five months
- Fees/applications changed April 1, 2024
 - Up from \$640 to \$760
 - BUT new criteria for 50% discounts based on household income
 - Application length reduced 35%
- New Citizenship test is being piloted, final decision in 2024



Federal Immigration Policy: Potential Changes & Challenges

- Repeal of TPS, parole, DACA, birthright citizenship for children of unauthorized migrants, limited asylum, reinstitute travel ban, deport/deny admission on ideological beliefs
- Suspend legal immigration process based on backlog
- Deny college students financial aid in States allowing access to in-state tuition to certain immigrants – impacting 67% of college students
- Eliminate housing subsidies for individuals residing with non-US citizen or legal permanent resident
- Suspend temporary worker visas in agricultural, construction, hospitality and forestry

Questions?

Educational Needs: Initiatives



- OCTAE & USCIS are working together for Gateways to Access and Inclusion Network (GAIN) Project focused on developing immigrant integration measures
- EARN – Enhancing Access for Refugee and New Americans, working with IELCE/IE - *see reference page*

Educational Needs: Measurable Indicators



- Research in the works by OCTAE and other expert agencies to develop measures of immigrant integration
- Beyond traditional MSG measures of testing, employment/wage gain, credentialing, Citizenship
- Formalizing these measures into easily trackable policy, curriculum, and support systems in existing institutions
- Creating incentives for institutions to formally pursue continuation or creation of programs for effective civic, linguistic, and economic integration

Educational Needs: Advancing Equity

- Executive orders issued to address equitable provision of services
- Partner with local organizations – resettlement agencies, literacy programs, community-based organizations
- Assess/address students with multiple challenge factors
- Make extra efforts to create a safe and welcoming environment in unpredictable times
- Equity initiatives are underway at the State and Federal level, particularly around career pathways and technology

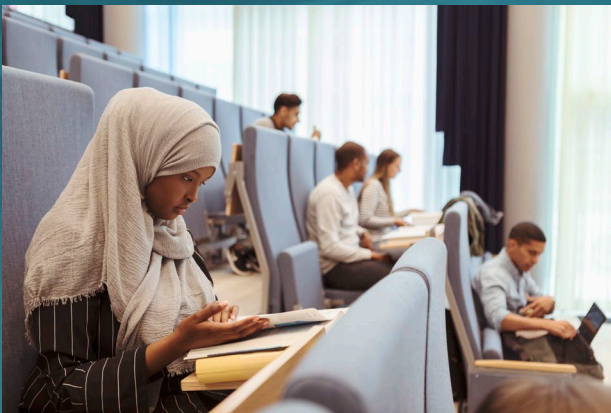


Educational Needs: “Brain Waste”

- Recently immigrated refugees coming to the US with higher levels of education
- English language skills are critical
- Mismatch of professional opportunities with existing skills/credentials
- Challenges of re-entry into fields of expertise vary, particularly medicine, law, and education
- Existing College & Career Readiness programs have different challenges to meet these needs



Educational Need: Foreign Credentials



- Each institution, agency or company may have different credential evaluation requirements
- 'Start at the end' – research expectations before engaging expensive & time-consuming effort
- Find the common denominator – sometimes specific agency credential evaluations are acceptable for more than one organization

Educational Needs: IELCE/IET



IELCE –
WIOA Title II, Section 243

- Civics education
- English language acquisition

IET –
WIOA Title II, Section 231

- Workforce preparation
- Workforce training

Adult Education & Literacy Programs

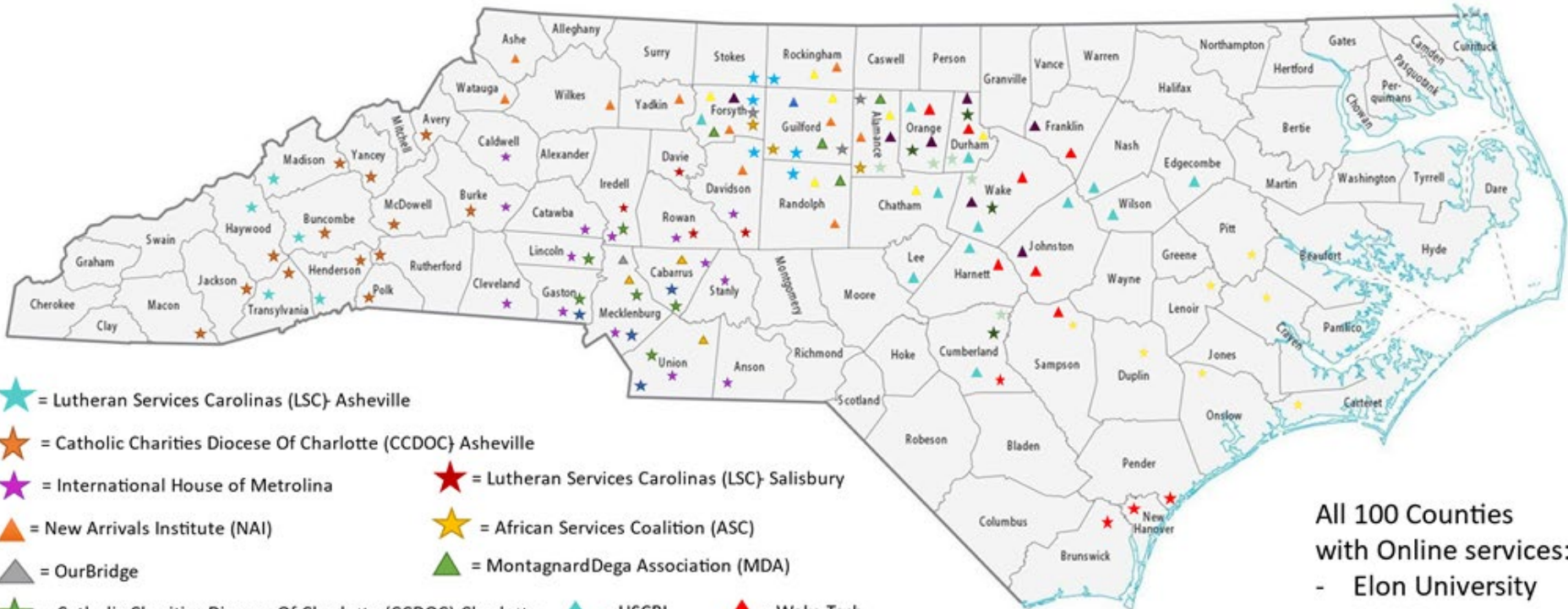
Discussion Topics



- How to address 'brain waste?'
- How do programs reach populations based on local immigration trends?
- What are potential programmatic considerations for new measures?
- How to embed civics, linguistics, and economics in adult education curriculum?

Resources: County-Specific Agencies

Working In 57 Counties in FY 23-24





All 100 Counties with Online services:



- Elon University
- CWS-D
- NAI

Resources: Regional Agencies







Asheville/Western NC

-  = Catholic Charities Diocese Of Charlotte (CCDOC) Asheville
-  = Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) Asheville







Coast

-  = Church World Service (CWS)- Wilmington
-  = Interfaith Ministries






Piedmont - Charlotte

-  = Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency
-  = OurBridge
-  = Catholic Charities Diocese Of Charlotte (CCDOC) Charlotte
-  = Refugee Support Services (RSS)
-  = Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) Salisbury
-  = International House of Metrolina

Triad – Greensboro area

-  = New Arrivals Institute (NAI)
-  = African Services Coalition (ASC)
-  = Senior Resources of Guilford
-  = Center for New North Carolinians (CNNC)
-  = MontagnardDega Association (MDA)
-  = Church World Service (CWS) Greensboro

Triangle – Raleigh/Durham

-  = Church World Service (CWS)- Durham
-  = World Relief- Durham
-  = USCRI
-  = Wake Tech
-  = Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) Raleigh

Resources: NC State Refugee Office

Three Service Areas

The NC SRO enters into contracts with agencies across the state to provide the services below.

Refugee Public Assistance: Cash Assistance and Medical Assistance Programs

Refugee Service Programs: Mental health, assistance with school, Youth Mentoring, ESL, Employment Programs, and more

Refugee Support Activities: We gather service providers from around the state to share ideas, brainstorm new programs and needs, and provide professional development to better help refugees.

References & Resources:

- [Switchboard: Who are Refugees and How Do They Arrive in the United States?](#)
- [Migration Policy Institute Data Hub](#)
- [United State Congressional Website](#)
- [The Biden Administration's Parole-In-Place Announcement: Helping Mixed-Status Families Stay Together and Avoid Bureaucratic Traps | American Immigration Council](#)
- [Article: The Biden Administration Is on Pace to Ma.. | migrationpolicy.org](#)
- [Article: Naturalized Citizens in the United States | migrationpolicy.org](#)
- [Enhancing Access for Refugees and New Americans | Adult Education and Literacy | U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [Leveraging Digital Skills: Immigrant-Origin High School Graduates Offer a Pool of Talent for U.S. Employers](#)
- [Biden at the Three-Year Mark: The Most Active Immigration Presidency Yet Is Mired in Border Crisis Narrative](#)
- [The Biden Administration's Humanitarian Parole Program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans: An Overview | American Immigration Council](#)
- [EARN: Enhancing Access for Refugees and New Americans](#)
- [EARN Video: Civics Engagement in Adult Education](#)
- [Switchboard: Refugee Related Professional Resources](#)
- [United States Citizenship & Immigration Services](#)
- [United States Office of Refugee Resettlement](#)



COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

COABE 2024 Series
Thursdays from 2-3pm

Strengthening Leadership, Collaboration, & Digital Equity in Adult Ed

September 26th

Session Two

Growing an Effective Team and Compassionate Work Space

October 23rd

Session Three

Enhancing Education with Digital Scavenger Hunts and AI: A Dynamic Duo

November 21st

Session Four

And more to come in the Spring of 2025!!!

Register for our upcoming...

WEBINARS

New Director's Orientation: Session 2

September 26th (10am-12pm)

Answers & Help for Title II Directors

New Director's Orientation: Session 3

October 17th (10am-12pm)

Performance & Monitoring

New Director's Orientation: Session 4

November 14th (10am-12pm)

CCR Programs & Initiatives

Instructor credentialing courses

SIA

Sept 9 – Nov 22, 2024

(Standards-in-Action)

Core

Sept 23 – Dec 6, 2024

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- Scott Phillips, NC State Refugee Office
- Kim Saunders, NC State Refugee Office