



## Talking Points: Refugee Resettlement in Idaho

### Values: Compassion, Moral Leadership, and Freedom

*As a people, we have always demonstrated compassion for those who have been terrorized and/or lived in constant fear.*

#### **The Rapid Growth of Refugee Populations is a Global Crisis**

- The current worldwide displaced population of 120 million people is the largest since the end of WWII. ([UNHCR](#), [IRC](#))
- Our country has a proud, long-standing tradition of doing our part, providing refuge in the face of an international crisis. ([History & purpose of the U.S. refugee program - Niskanen Center](#))

#### **By Resettling Refugees, We're Saving the Lives of The World's Most Vulnerable**

- Tyrants and terrorists have forced refugees to flee their homes and seek freedom - namely, freedom from fear.
- They're escaping the very same terrorism and horrific violence our country is working to defeat.
- U.S. policies give special consideration to the world's most vulnerable, specifically women, children, families, and those with medical needs.
- We have an obligation to help the very people that put their lives at risk by aiding U.S. military personnel as translators and interpreters.

### Values: Personal Responsibility and Economic Vitality

*Upon arriving in the US, refugees have a remarkable record of success. They get jobs, start businesses, pay taxes, and buy homes, adding to the economic vitality of the community and the state.*

#### **Refugees Contribute to Idaho and Its Economy**

- The standard resettlement period is a 90-day program with the opportunity for additional support with the goal of moving people towards self-sufficiency.
- A 2023 report by the [American Immigration Council](#) shows that people with refugee backgrounds are successful at securing employment, allowing them to pay taxes, buy homes, and start businesses.
- Populations with refugee status have permanent residency eligibility and immediate legal work authorization in the United States



# Neighbors United

Refugee Collaborative of Boise

- Over a 15-year period, people who received refugee and asylee status in the U.S. paid nearly \$124 billion more in local, state, and federal taxes than they received in public benefits. ([U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#))

## Values: A Shared Desire for Vibrant Community

*Though most have faced extraordinary circumstances and overcome great odds, there's no such thing as a typical refugee. People are often surprised to find that in many ways, they're just like you and me.*

### **We All Desire Safety and Opportunity**

- People with refugee backgrounds come from a wide array of backgrounds - many are college educated and hold professional degrees in medicine, engineering, and law. Many are multilingual. Some served as interpreters for the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Many people with refugee backgrounds seek a life that offers security and opportunity for their families - something that Americans want for their families as well.

## Values: Security and Safety

*Idahoans have been unselfish in their support of refugee admissions, and they rightfully expect the program to be as safe as possible.*

### **The Refugee Screening and Approval Process is Incredibly Stringent**

- No one else entering the U.S. is subject to the health and security scrutiny that refugees undergo - a rigorous 18- to 24- month process.
- Any questions or unexplained holes in someone's past result in that person not being approved for admission.
- The Department of Homeland Security, which is responsible for protecting Americans from foreign threats, must approve every refugee applicant. The National Counterterrorism Center and the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center are also involved. ([Refugee Processing and Security Screening Process from USCIS](#))
- Our allies around the world have their own protocols that are different from the U.S. admissions process.

## Values: Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability

*The refugee resettlement network in Idaho pools resources in efficient and creative ways to provide refugees the necessary support and accelerate their path to self-sufficiency.*

### **Refugee Resettlement is Federally Funded & Brings Resources into Idaho**

- In 1997, Gov. Batt terminated the state administered refugee program, opting in favor of private sector administration, which was assumed by [Jannus, Inc.](#) (formerly Mountain States Group).



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- Jannus receives funding from the Federal Departments of State and Health and Human Services and is held accountable through rigorous oversight and monitoring.
- Resettlement resources (\$8-10M in federal funds, employment, training, partnership development) help build infrastructure that benefits not only refugees, but other vulnerable populations like veterans and the homeless.
- There are two refugee resettlement agencies in the Treasure Valley - [Agency for New Americans](#) and the [International Rescue Committee](#) - and one in Twin Falls, a branch of the [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants](#).