



jewish family services | wny



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

Building Circles of Welcome: Joining the Private Sponsorship Movement in the U.S.

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Poll

Is your agency already planning to be involved in private sponsorship of refugees in some capacity or form?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

What way do you expect to get involved?

- We are a HIAS affiliate and are integrating it into our co-sponsorship/support team program
- We are a HIAS affiliate and are interested in offering specific services to private sponsor groups
- We are not a HIAS affiliate but are interested in offering services to private sponsor groups
- We are thinking of other creative models
- We do not have any current plan for getting involved
- I'm not sure

Questions we will answer today:

1. What is Private Sponsorship of Refugees?
 - a) How is Welcome Corps different from the Sponsor Circles program?
 - b) How does this fit in with Refugee Resettlement?
2. How can someone form a Private Sponsor Group?
 - a) What are the requirements?
 - b) What supports do Private Sponsor Groups receive?
3. What might it look like for our agency to work in partnership with Private Sponsor Groups?
 - a) How can my agency work successfully with Private Sponsor Groups to support new arrivals?
 - b) What are some strategies for engaging the local community, including ethnic-cultural-based community groups and volunteers?



What is Private Sponsorship?

The Need

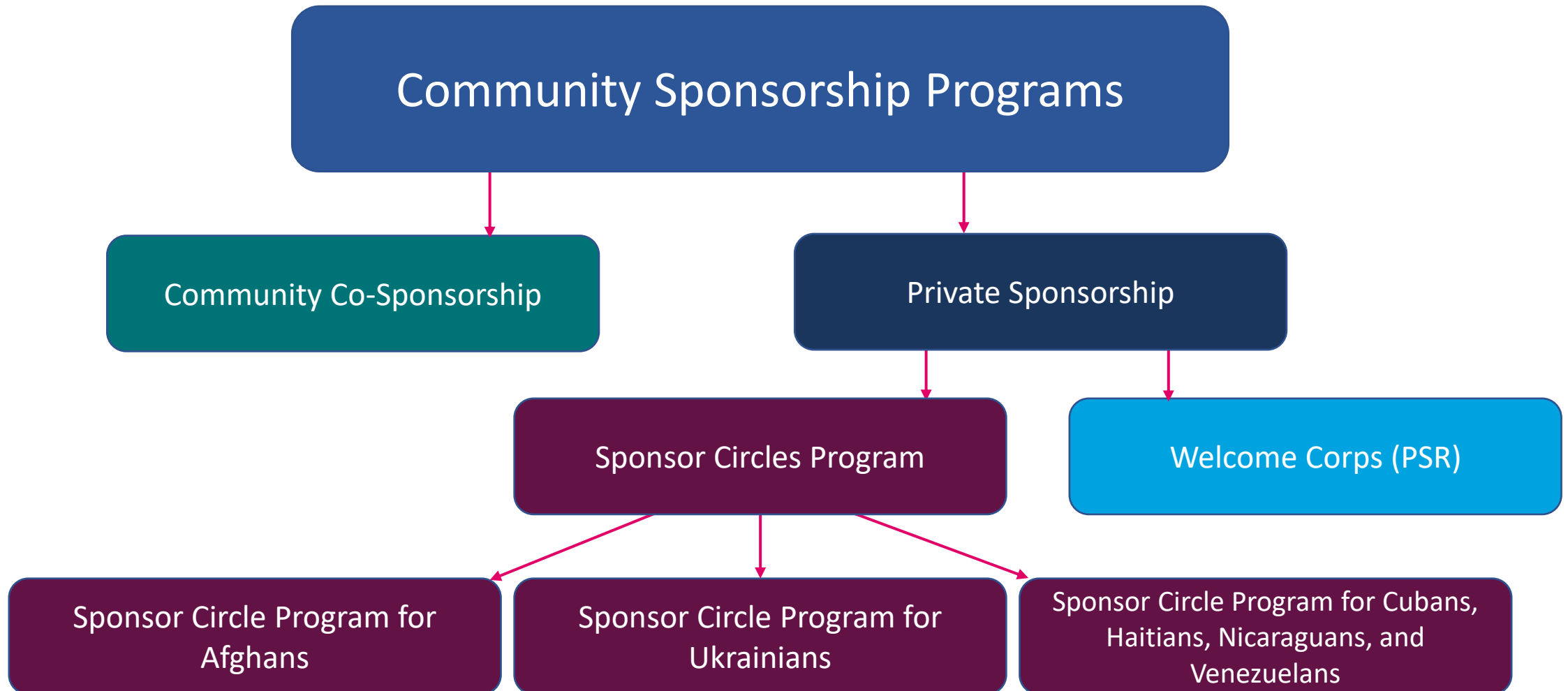
More refugees than ever before:

- At mid-year 2022, the UN Refugee Agency reported **103 million** forcibly displaced people globally.
- That's **1 in every 77 people worldwide**.
- 32.5 million of these people are refugees.

Fewer solutions than ever before:

- In the first six months of 2022, only **42,300 refugees were resettled**.
- Though small, this number actually represents an **increase**.
- In the same period in 2021 only 16,300 people accessed resettlement.

Initial Resettlement Support from Communities



Two-Phase Rollout for Welcome Corps through U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)

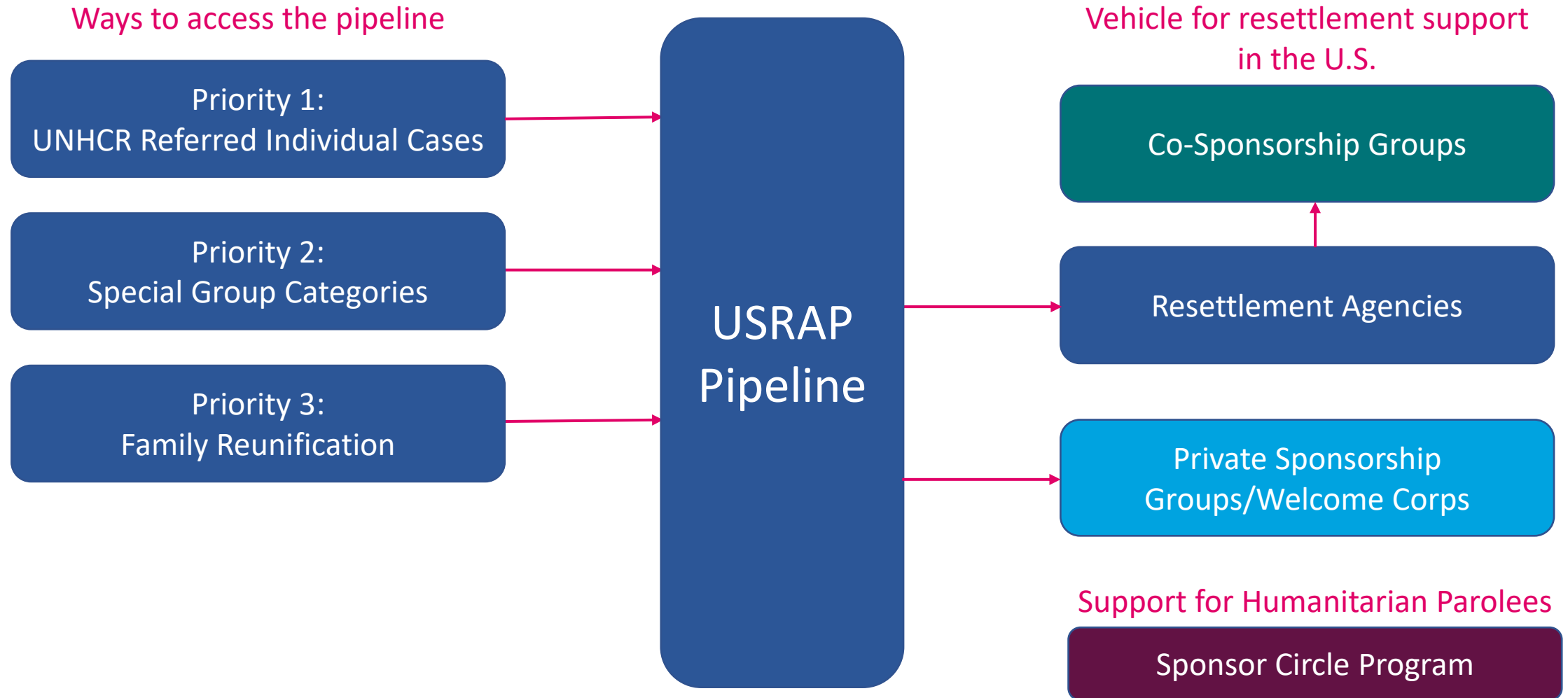
Phase 1: Now

- The application for sponsors is live
- Welcome Circles are **matched** to refugee cases already in the USRAP pipeline
- Focusing first on referrals from the Resettlement Support Center (RSC) in Africa

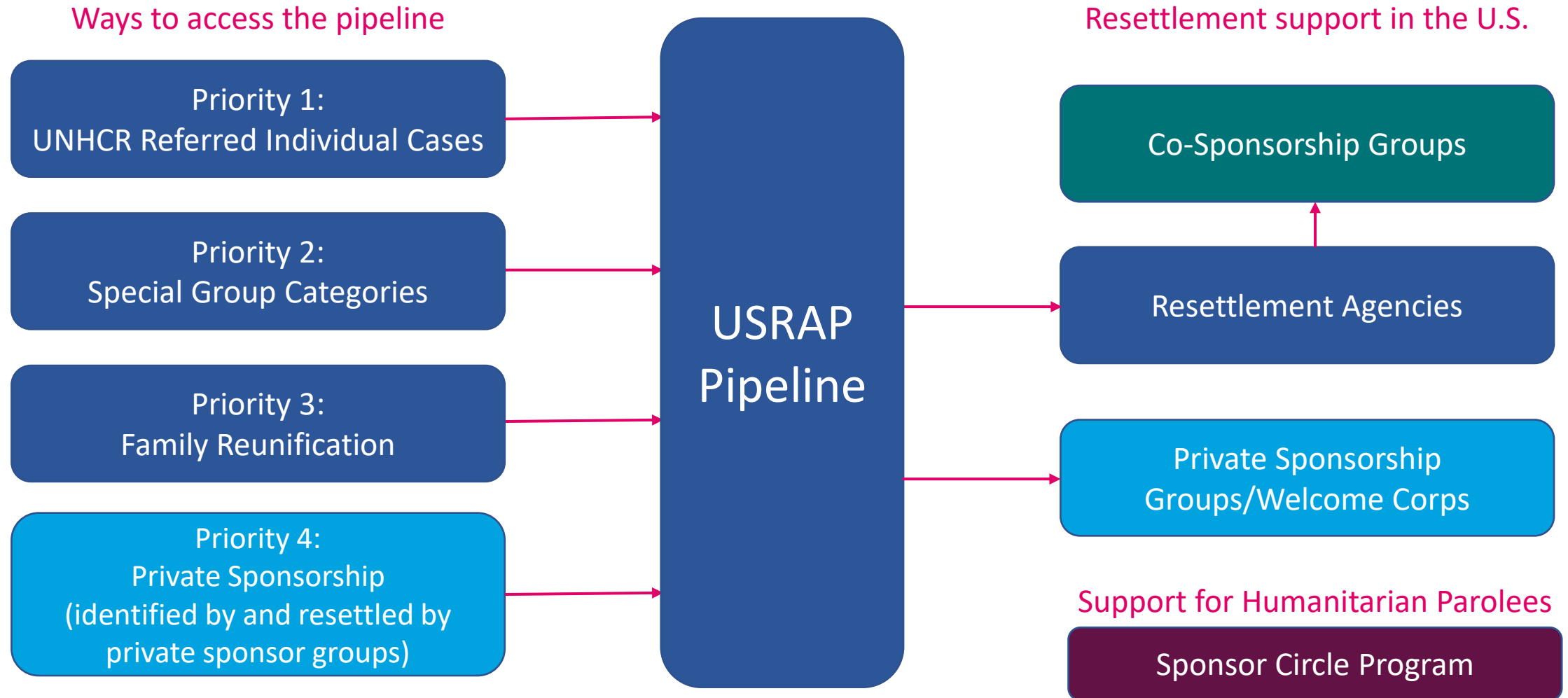
Phase 2: Mid-2023

- Will enable Americans to personally **identify** the refugees they wish to sponsor
- Will launch in mid-2023
- Welcome Circle requirements will likely be the same for this phase
- More details from the U.S. government to follow

PSR – Matching Component

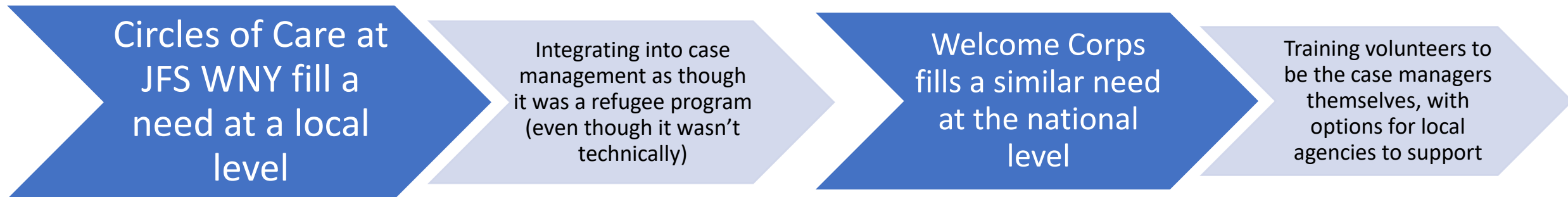


PSR – Identification Component



This is a regularized model for resettlement, not an emergency response program

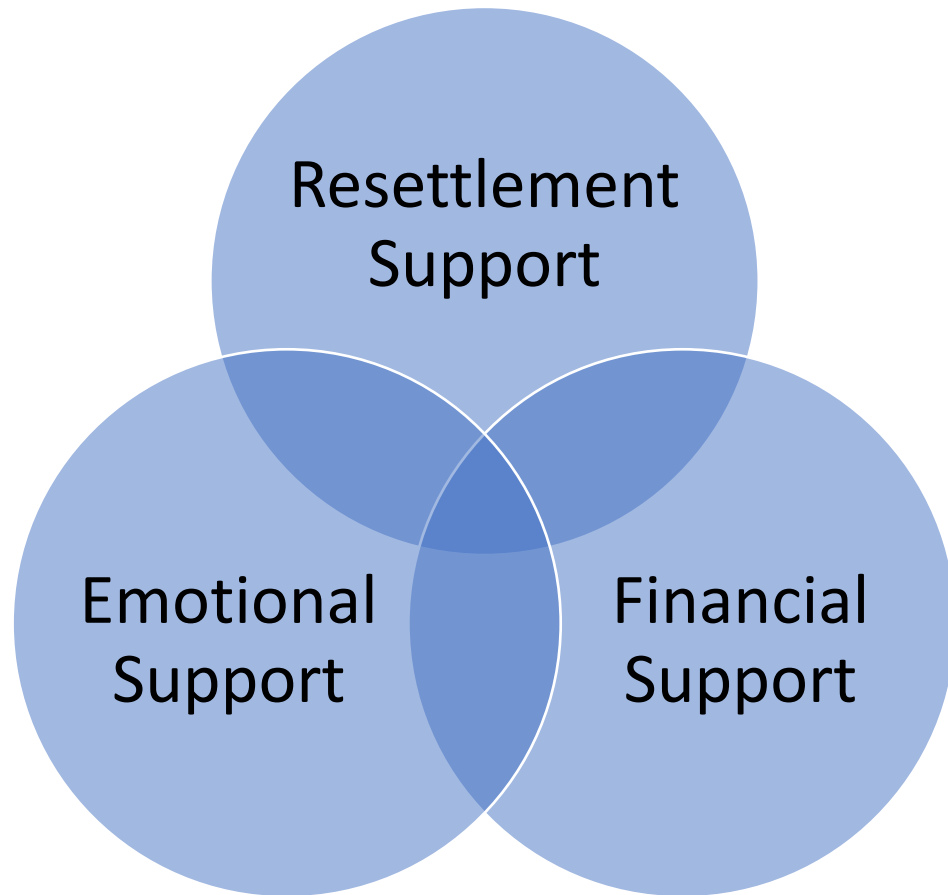
Parole programs were a band-aid. Some sponsors approached their commitment thoughtfully, while others jumped in blind.



Private sponsorship in a vacuum doesn't help anyone – not serving the refugees, sponsors, or agencies

Models for Success: HIAS Welcome Circles

Welcome Circle Responsibilities



Resettlement Support

- Airport reception
- Housing
- Basic necessities
- Essential documentation
- Public benefits and services
- Health and mental health services
- Education and childcare
- Language acquisition
- Interpretation and translation
- Cultural connections
- Community and cultural orientation
- Employment
- Transportation
- Transition from sponsorship
- Reporting and feedback

Resources from HIAS

Technical and
Operational
Resources on
Refugee
Resettlement

Workshops, Guides,
and tools HIAS has
Developed
Specifically for
Private Sponsorship

Office Hours
with HIAS'
Technical
Experts

1:1 Check-ins
between HIAS
staff and circle
leads

24/7 Access to
Online
Community of
Practice to
Connect With
Others and
Problem Solve

Requirements to form a Welcome Circle



Form a core group of
5-8 people



Background check



Take required online
training



Submit a formal
application that
includes a "Welcome
Plan"



Minimum six-month
commitment



Sign a code of conduct



HIAS reviews
applications and
provides feedback
before groups submit



Models for Success: JFS of WNY Circles of Care



Responding to the Uniting for Ukraine Challenge

Challenge

- U4U / private sponsorship was a new concept
- UHPs were coming rapidly
- Without a connection to a resettlement agency, difficult to locate those in need
- Ambiguity – social service and benefits
- Not eligible for R&P and no supplemental funding available at onset

Strengths and Experience

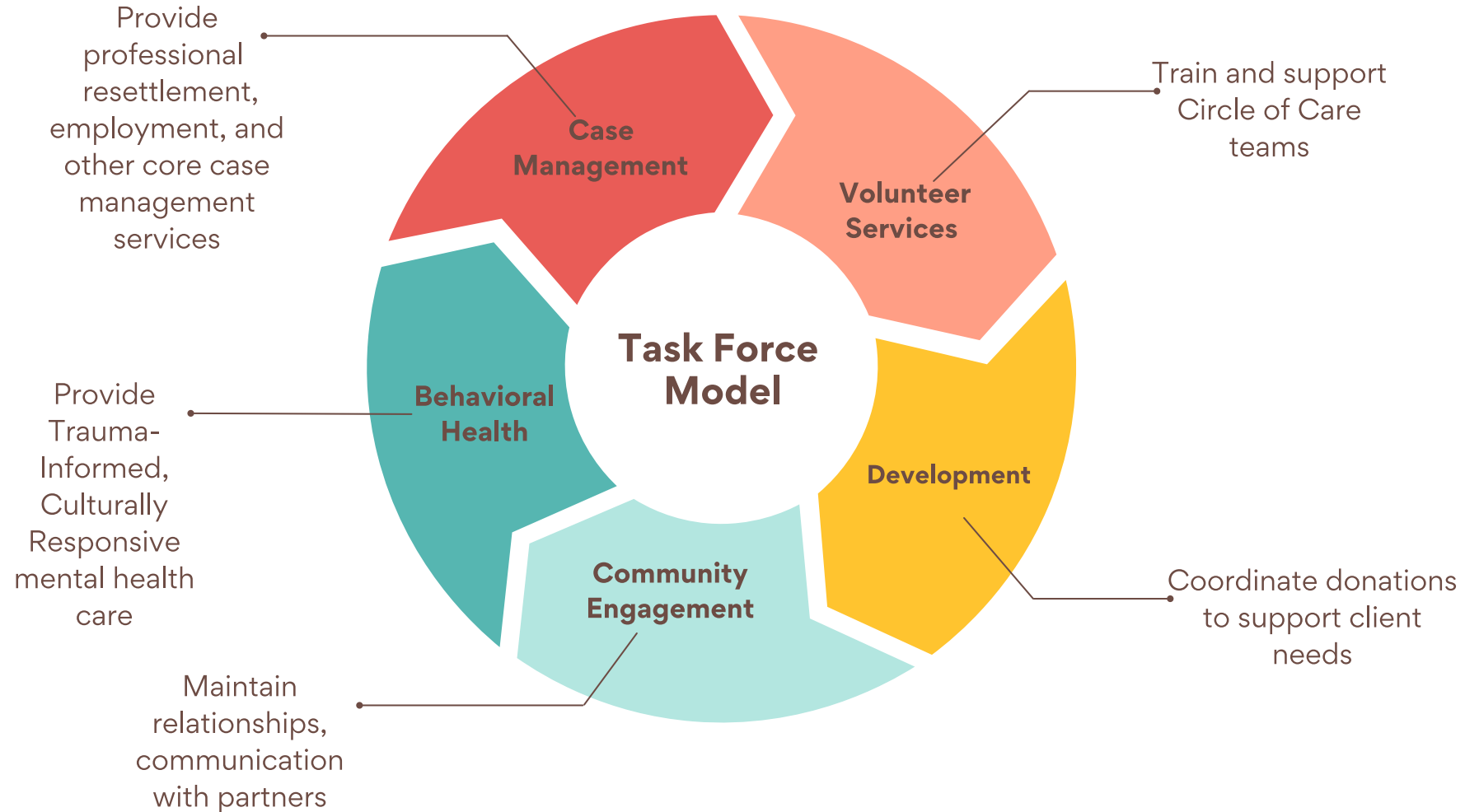
- Committed volunteer base
- Community knowledge and acceptance of migrants
- Experience with rapid mobilization and program development
- Inter-agency collaboration
- Deep relationships with local and state elected officials

Defining Stakeholder Roles

Stakeholder Roles



Developing an Integrated Response



Community Engagement

- Education and outreach to volunteers / sponsors
 - Legal Sponsorship Information Sessions
 - Circle of Care Orientation
- Coalition building with community based ethnic organizations
 - Establishing communication channels
 - Partners meetings



Circles of Care



Home Set-Ups

Furnish and decorate apartments for newly arrived clients.



Community Navigation

Accessing grocery stores, banks, libraries, laundromats, etc.



Social Support

Support the clients in building a new social support network.



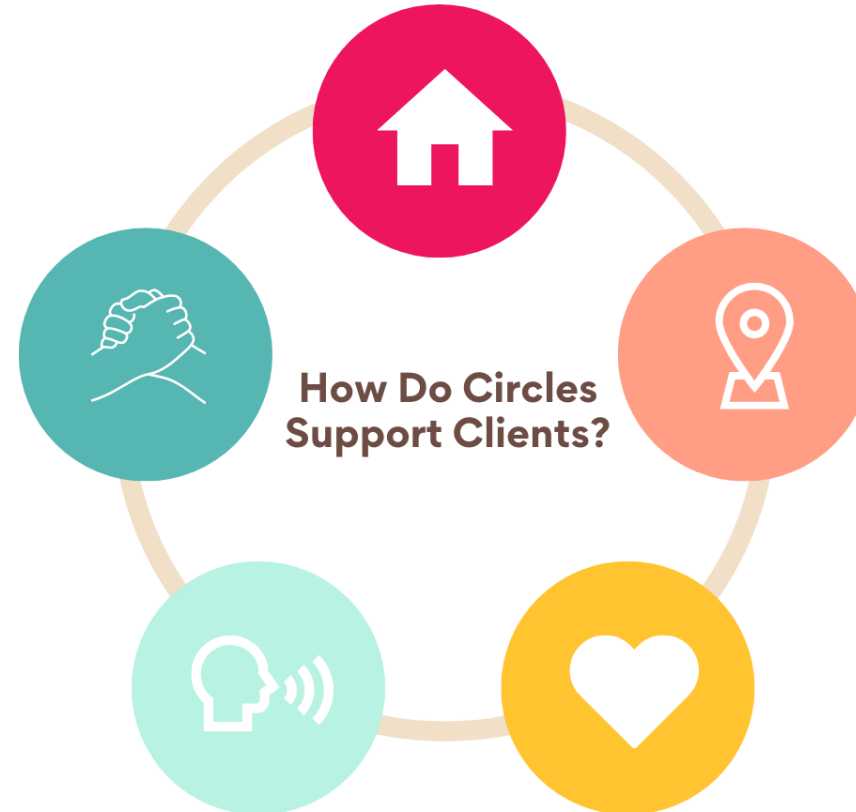
English Language Development

Work with clients to build English language comfort and fluidity.



Cultural Skill-Building

Help clients understand US cultural, social, and employment norms.

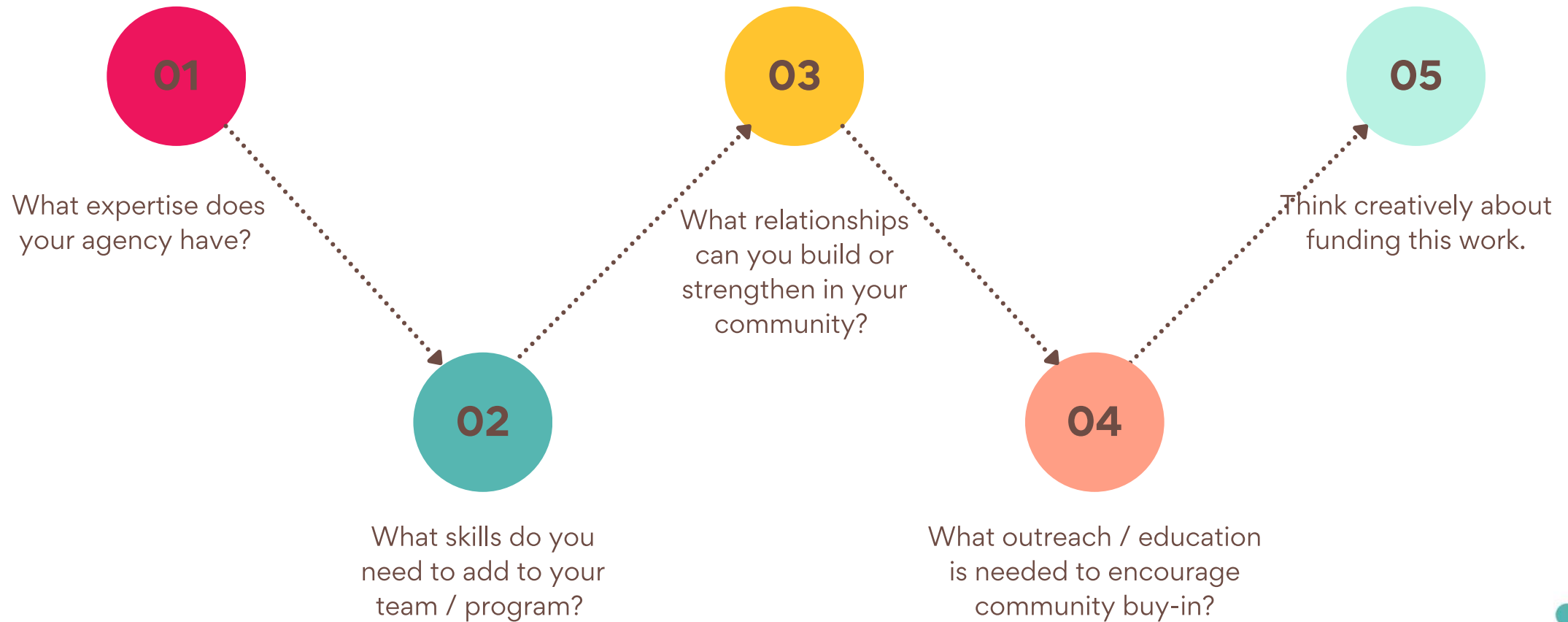


Leveraging Funding

- This is not R&P
- Matching Grant, Preferred Communities Supplemental
- Family Support Fund / Private Donors
- Working with partner orgs to sponsor cases
- Directly sponsoring cases
- Relationship building with employers



Brainstorming!



Talk with us

HIAS

Visit: hias.org/welcome-circles

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Email: info@hias.org

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Call: 800-HIAS-714
(800-4427-714)

JFS of WNY

Visit: <https://jfswny.org/ukrainian-community-care/>

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Email: Imaguire@jfswny.org

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Call: 716-833-1900



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[hias.org](https://www.hias.org)

LM will add in the JFS socials