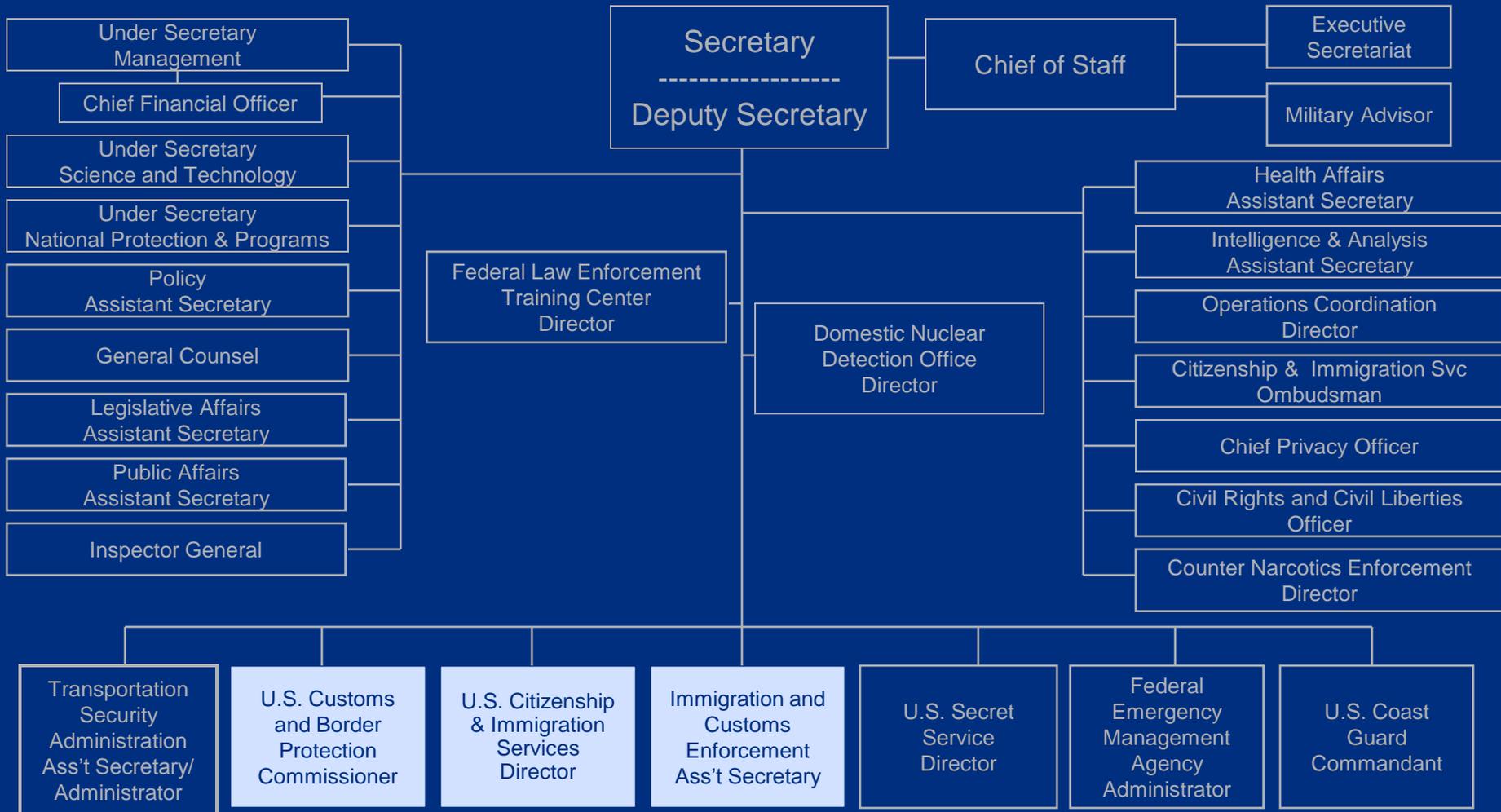




U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Department of Homeland Security



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and Immigration
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* highlighted boxes indicate immigration authority

DHS Mission

- Prevent terrorism and enhance security
- Secure and manage our borders
- Enforce and administer our immigration laws
- Safeguard cyberspace
- Minimize the damage from potential attacks and natural disasters



DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson



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and Immigration
Services

USCIS Mission

USCIS secures America's promise as a nation of immigrants by providing accurate and useful information to our customers, granting immigration and citizenship benefits, promoting an awareness and understanding of citizenship, and ensuring the integrity of our immigration system.



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and Immigration
Services

RAIO Mission

With a highly dedicated and flexible workforce deployed worldwide, RAIO will excel in advancing U.S. national security and humanitarian interests by providing immigration benefits with integrity and vigilance and by leading effective responses to humanitarian and protection needs throughout the world.



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

What We Do

- Adjudicate asylum and refugee applications
- Conduct protection screening for individuals seeking to enter the United States and migrants interdicted at sea.
- Authorize parole for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit
- Provide immigration and naturalization benefits to U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents overseas
- Work with community organizations; government agencies; international organizations & foreign governments on asylum, refugee, and immigration issues



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and Immigration
Services

A faded, light blue image of the Statue of Liberty's head and crown, with the crown's spikes clearly visible. The image is centered in the upper half of the slide.

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

March 2016

USRAP Mission

To offer resettlement opportunities to persons overseas who are of special humanitarian concern, while protecting national security and combating fraud.



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Services

Refugee Affairs Division

Refugee Affairs Division's (RAD) primary mission is to offer resettlement opportunities to refugees in accordance with U.S. law and international obligations. RAD's mission essential functions are to:

- Conduct interviews overseas with refugee applicants identified for possible resettlement to the United States and conduct protection screening interviews for migrants interdicted at sea.
- Work in close cooperation with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, including the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration at the Department of State, in order to support the annual number of refugee admissions determined by the President.
- Ensure the integrity of adjudications through liaison with anti-fraud, law enforcement, intelligence, and national security colleagues.



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and Immigration
Services

The Refugee Officer

USCIS officers conduct personal interviews with applicants to determine eligibility, generally with an interpreter.



Pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), all refugee adjudicators must complete specialized training.

Refugee Corps established in FY2006; processing demands supplemented by Asylum Corps and other specially-trained USCIS adjudicators.



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Services

Adjudication: Refugee Definition

INA 101(a)(42)

*Person outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return 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.**



* Excludes persecutors or those who have assisted in the persecution of others.



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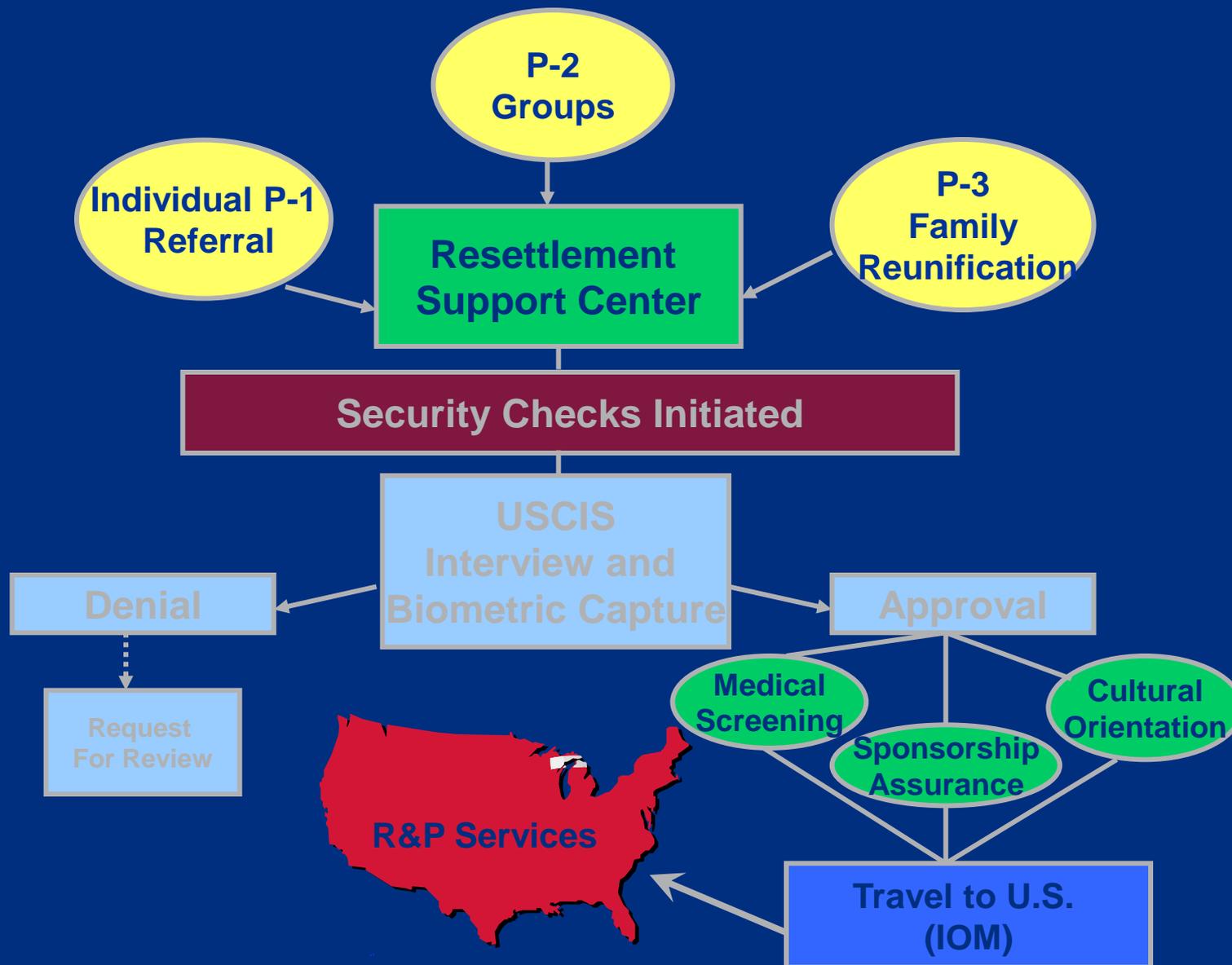
Eligibility Determination

1. Access - Does the principal applicant qualify under a processing priority (*i.e.*, P-1, P-2 or P-3)?
2. Refugee Definition - Does the principal applicant meet all aspects of the refugee definition under INA 101(a)(42)?
3. Firm Resettlement – Has the principal applicant been permanently resettled in a 3rd country with legal status, and does applicant enjoy rights and privileges afforded other such permanent status members of the 3rd country?
4. Admissibility - Is the principal applicant otherwise admissible or do any of the grounds of inadmissibility under INA Section 212(a) apply?



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Process Flow



USRAP Admissions

The President, in consultation with Congress, establishes the number and groups of refugees eligible for admission each fiscal year. As a ceiling, this determination sets the maximum numbers of refugees that may be admitted.

REGION	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Africa	12,000	12,000	15,000	17,000	25,000
East Asia	18,000	17,000	14,000	13,000	13,000
Europe and Central Asia	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Latin America & Caribbean	5,500	5,000	5,000	4,000	3,000
Near East / South Asia	35,500	31,000	33,000	33,000	34,000
Unallocated Reserve	3,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
TOTAL	76,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	85,000

2015 Refugee Interview Locations



Asylum Mission

The mission of the Asylum Program encompasses the management of three main programs:

- 1. Affirmative asylum
- 2. Credible fear screenings
- 3. Reasonable fear screenings for certain individuals subject to administrative removal



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Who May Be Granted Asylum?

- Any individual who has properly applied for asylum and is determined to be a refugee under section 101(a)(42)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
- Definition of a refugee according to section 101(a)(42)(A) of the INA:
 - An individual who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, or country of last habitual residence if stateless, because of
 - Past persecution or a well founded fear of future persecution
 - On account of race, nationality, religion, political opinion or membership in a particular social group



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Reasons Why Individuals Can Be Barred from Receiving Asylum

- Persecution of others
- Conviction of a particularly serious crime
- Commission of a serious nonpolitical crime outside the U.S. prior to arrival
- Danger to national security and/or terrorist activity
- Firm resettlement in another country prior to arrival



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Benefits of Asylum Status

- Can remain in the US indefinitely, unless asylum status is terminated
- Work authorization
- Can apply for Lawful Permanent Resident status one year after being granted asylum
- Family reunification (spouse and unmarried children)
- Assistance and services run by state and private, non-profit agencies through Office of Refugee Resettlement
- Social Security card



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and Immigration
Services

Who Can Apply for Asylum with USCIS?

- Any individual who is physically present in the U.S. or who arrives in the U.S. irrespective of status (whether here legally or illegally).
- Except:
 - Individuals who fail to apply within 1 year after the date of individual's arrival in the U.S. (unless the individual can show changed or extraordinary circumstances).
 - Individuals who have been previously denied asylum in the U.S. (unless the individual can demonstrate that there are changed circumstances which materially affect his/her eligibility for asylum).



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Highlights of the Affirmative Asylum Process

Applicant Is Fingerprinted and Background Security Checks Are Conducted

- Applicants 13 years of age and older receive a notice from the Service Center to go to an Application Support Center to have their fingerprints taken. Fingerprints are sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for a background/security check.
- Fingerprints have to be taken before USCIS can interview on an application, and USCIS must receive the results of these checks before an asylum application can be approved.



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and Immigration
Services

Highlights of the Affirmative Asylum Process

Applicant Is Interviewed by an Asylum Officer

- The applicant is interviewed by an Asylum Officer at one of the eight asylum offices or two sub-offices OR a USCIS field office
- An applicant must bring:
 - any spouse and/or children who are seeking derivative asylum benefits
 - an interpreter if the applicant cannot proceed with the interview in English
- The applicant may also bring:
 - an attorney or accredited representative to the interview
 - witnesses to testify in support of the applicant
- The interview will generally last about 90 minutes, although the time may vary depending on the case.

Highlights of the Affirmative Asylum Process

Asylum Officer Makes Determination on Eligibility and Supervisory Asylum Officer Reviews the Decision

- The Asylum Officer will determine whether the applicant:
 - Is eligible to apply for asylum;
 - Meets the definition of a refugee in INA § 101(a)(42)(A); and
 - Is barred from being granted asylum under INA § 208(b)(2).
- A Supervisory Asylum Officer reviews the Asylum Officer's decision to ensure it is consistent with the law. Depending on the case, the Supervisory Asylum Officer may refer the decision to Asylum Division Headquarters staff for additional review.

Highlights of the Affirmative Asylum Process

Applicant Receives Decision

- In most cases, the applicant returns to the asylum office to pick up the decision two weeks after the interview was conducted.
- Longer processing times may be required for an applicant who is currently in valid status, was interviewed at a USCIS field office, where security checks remaining pending, or whose case is being reviewed by Asylum Division Headquarters staff. The decision is generally mailed to the applicant in these situations.

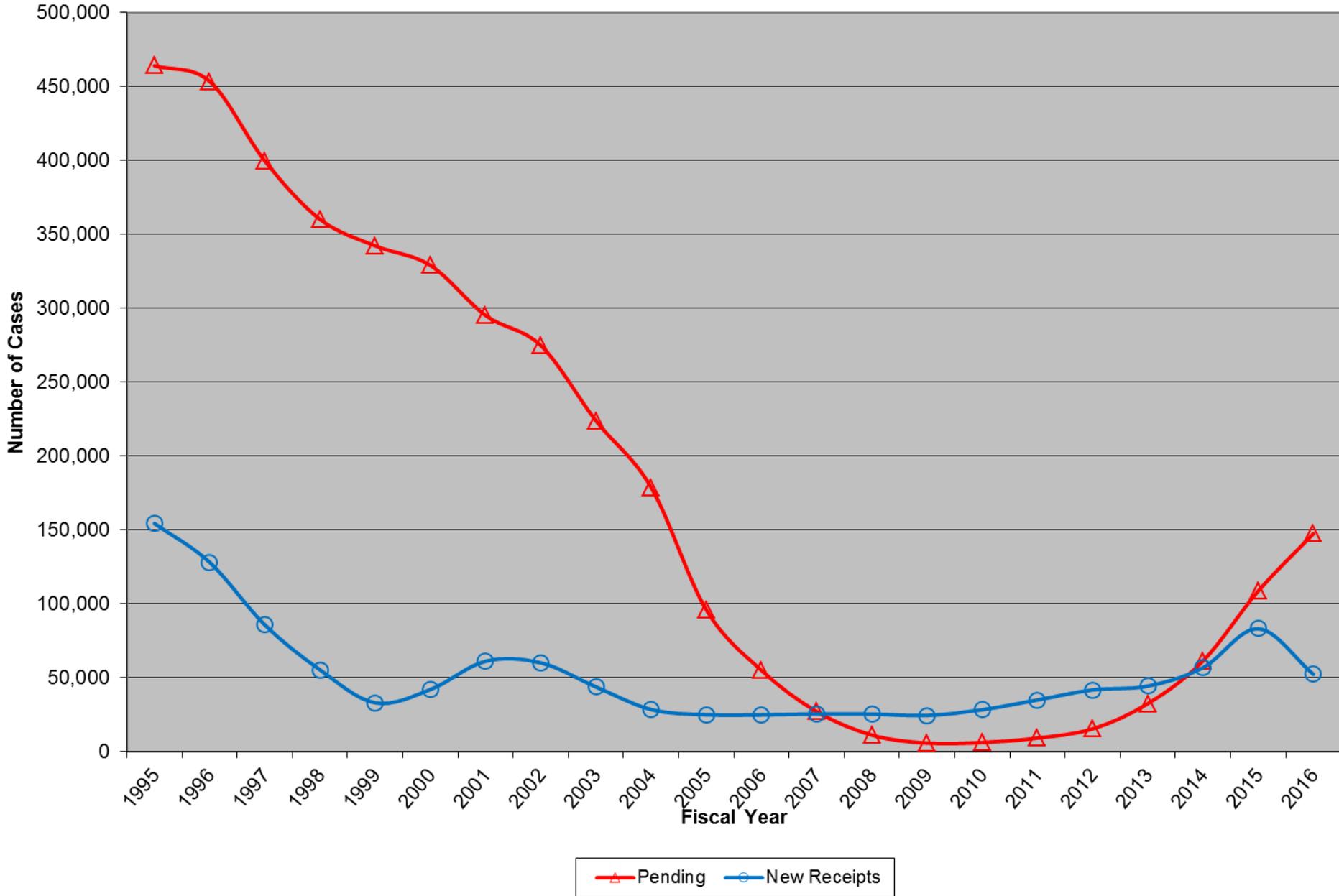


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and Immigration
Services

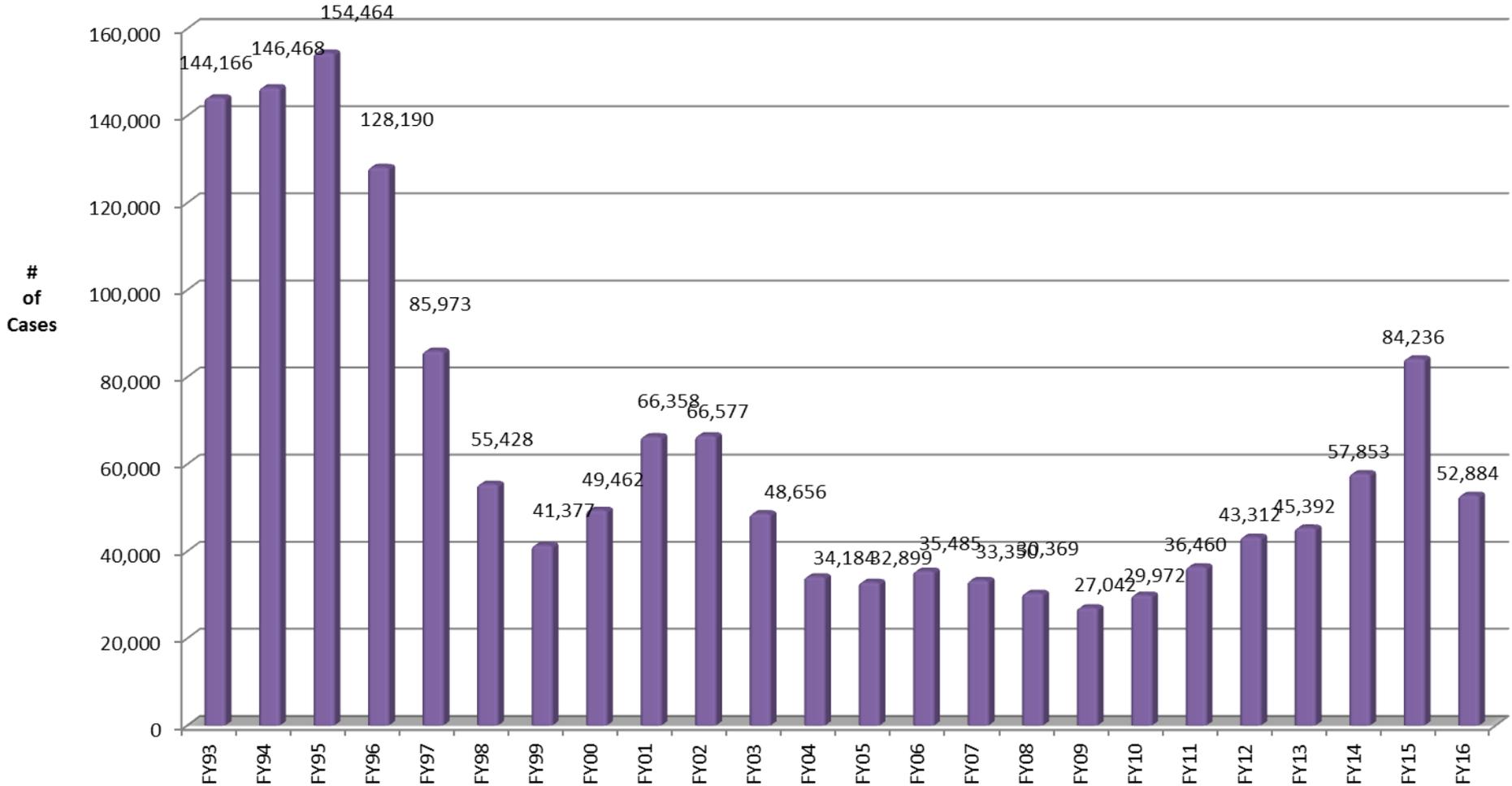
Types of Asylum Decisions

- **Grant of Asylum**
- **Recommended Approval**
 - The applicant is eligible for asylum, but USCIS has not received the results of required security checks.
- **Referral to an Immigration Court**
 - USCIS is unable to approve the asylum application, and the applicant does not have valid legal status in the U.S.
 - Applicant enters the “defensive” asylum process.
- **Notice of Intent to Deny**
 - The applicant has valid legal status in the U.S. but is found ineligible for asylum.
 - Sixteen days to respond by submitting a rebuttal or new evidence to address the reasons for ineligibility.
- **Final Denial**
 - An applicant who received a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID) will be sent a Final Denial letter if the applicant failed to submit a rebuttal or new evidence within 16 days or if the applicant submitted a rebuttal or new evidence but the new information failed to overcome the grounds for denial as stated in the NOID.

Historical Receipts of New Asylum Filings and Pending Asylum Workload - All Offices



Asylum Receipts and Reopens - All Offices



New Asylum Applications Filed – Top 10 Nationalities (FY16)

#	Nationality
1	China
2	Mexico
3	Venezuela
4	Guatemala
5	El Salvador
6	Honduras
7	Ecuador
8	India
9	Haiti
10	Ukraine

New Asylum Applications Granted - Top 10 Nationalities (FY16)

#	Nationality
1	El Salvador
2	China
3	Guatemala
4	Honduras
5	Mexico
6	Syria
7	Egypt
8	Iraq
9	Eritrea
10	Iran

Questions?



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