



Photo: IOM/Keith Dannemiller


# Seeking Safety: Regional Protection Options for Central Americans

May 24, 2022

En Búsqueda de Seguridad: Opciones de protección regional para personas de Centroamérica

24 de Mayo de 2022

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## ***Humanitarian Pathways for Central Americans: Assessing Opportunities for the Future***

Available in English at: <https://bit.ly/524centam>

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## Informe

### Vías humanitarias para personas centroamericanas: Evaluando oportunidades para el futuro

Español: <https://bit.ly/245centam>

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# Overview

- Program Description
- Scale
- Speed
- Safety
- Services

# Eligibility

## Qualifying Parent (QP)

- Age 18 or older
- Must be lawfully present in the United States with permanent resident status (aka a green card), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), parole, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), deferred action (non-DACA), Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), or withholding of removal

## Qualifying Child (QCH)

- Under age 21 & unmarried
- Biological, step, or legally adopted child of the QP
- National of and currently residing in El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras

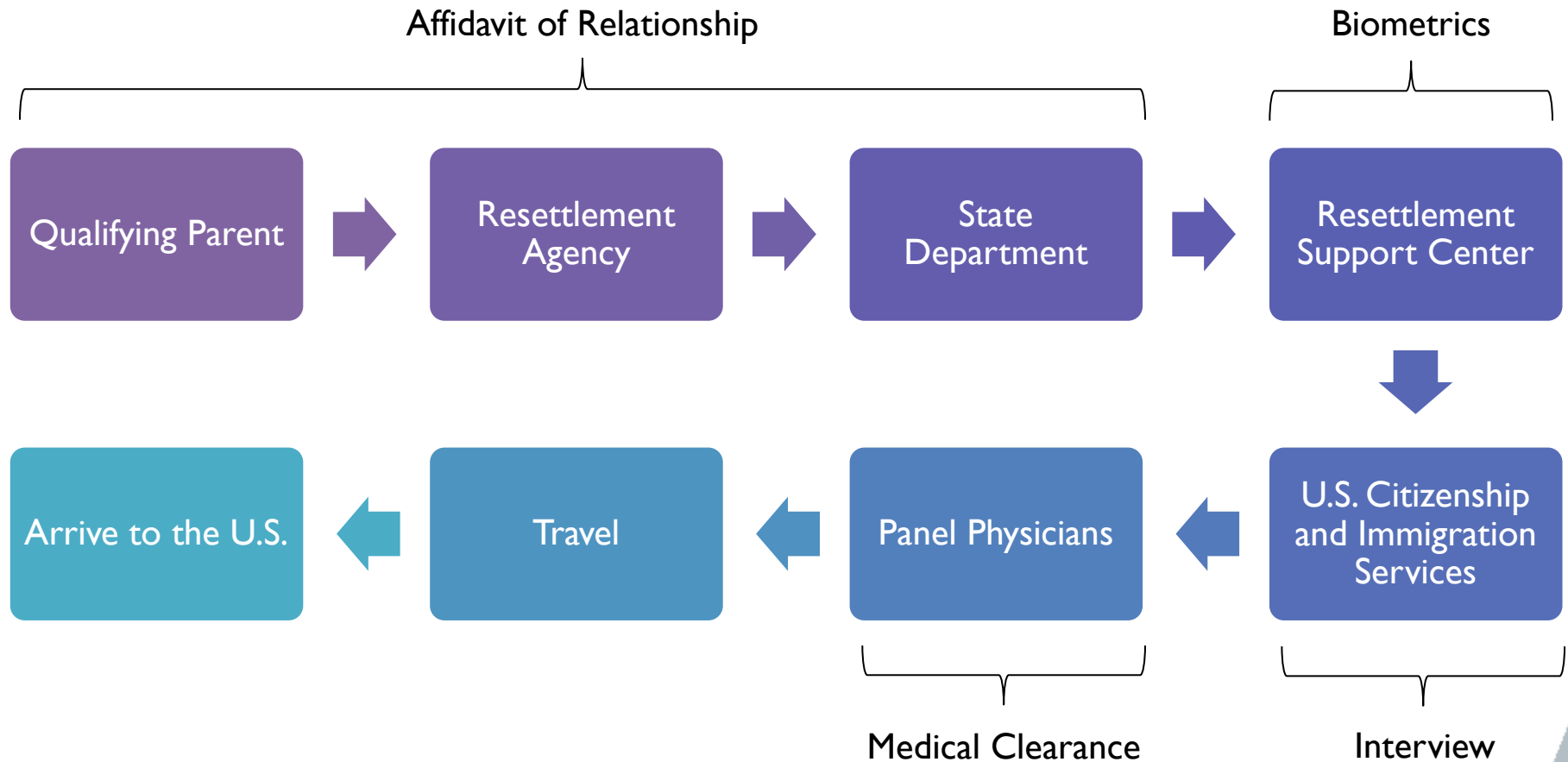
## Accompanying Adults (AA)

- Individuals in the QCH's household and economic unit who are the:
  - biological parent of the QCH;
  - legal parent of the QCH, if married to the child's QP; or
  - primary caregiver of the QCH, if 18 or older, with biological or marriage relationship to QP or biological, step, or adoptive relationship to QCH
- QP's children who age 21+ and/or married

## Derivatives

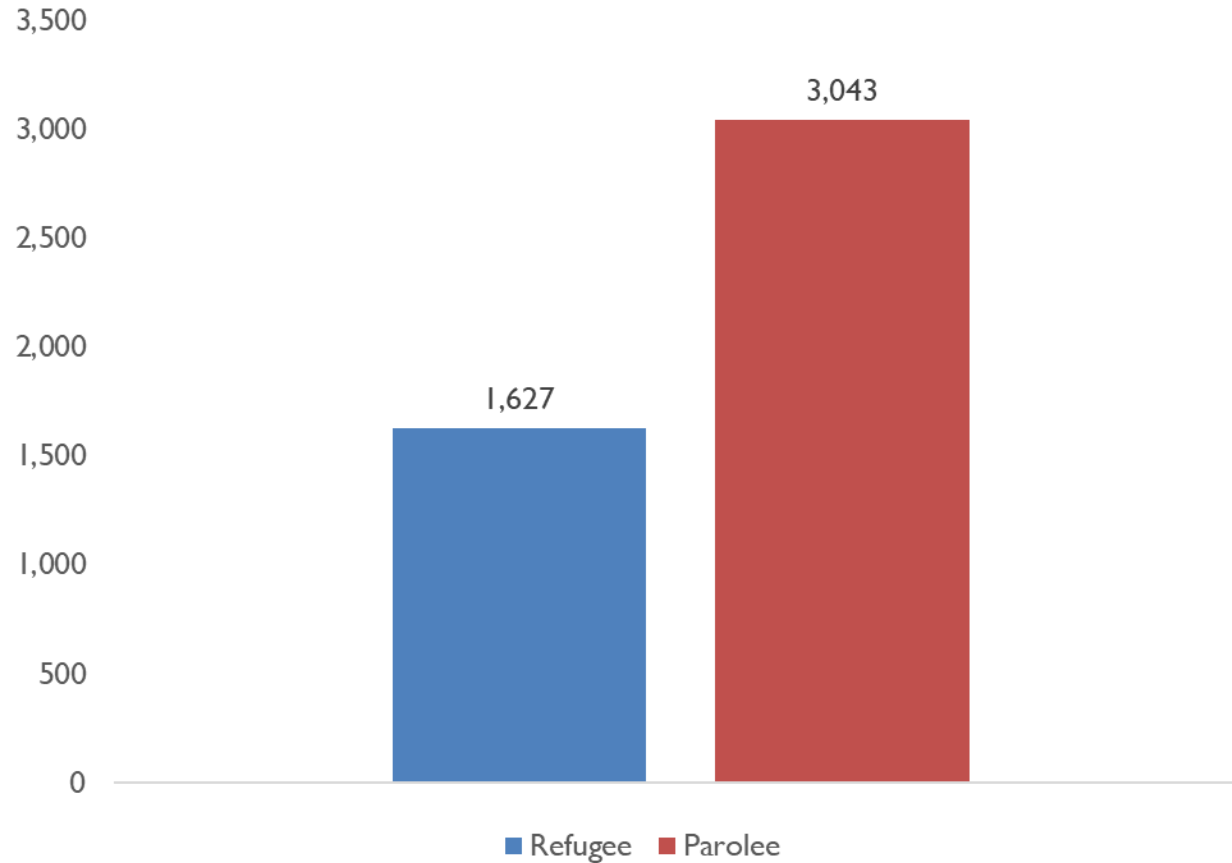
- Unmarried children under 21 of the QCH or AA
- Legal spouse of AA

# Process



# Scale

## CAM Program Arrivals: 2014 - 2022



Source: Mark Greenberg, Stephanie Heredia, Kira Monin, Celia Reynolds, and Essey Workie. 2021. [Relaunching the Central America Minors Program: Opportunities to Enhance Child Safety and Family Reunification](#). Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute; S.A. v Trump (Defendant's Twelfth Quarterly Report, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, March 31, 2022), 10.



# Speed

## Challenges

- Application Assistance
- Case Processing

## Opportunities

- New grant
- IOM contract renewed

## Recommendations

- Identify bottlenecks
- Localize appointments
- Reduce or minimize fees

# Safety

## Challenges

- In-country processing
- Multiple trips to capital

## Opportunities

- Expedited processing
- Best interest assessments

## Recommendations

- Conduct safety screenings
- Strengthen shelter capacity
- Explore bi- or multi-lateral agreements

# Services

## Challenges

- Limited benefits and services
- No post-release services

## Opportunities

- Afghan & Ukrainian parolees
- Case management to navigate benefits and services

## Recommendations

- Determine legal authority to fund
- Explain available benefits and services



# For More Information

Essey Workie  
Director, Human Services Initiative  
Migration Policy Institute  
[eworkie@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:eworkie@migrationpolicy.org)  
(202) 266-1939

For additional information and to receive updates: [www.migrationpolicy.org/signup](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/signup)

T: (202) 266-1919

F: (202) 266-1940

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  - Prensa del evento: Michelle Mittelstadt  
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