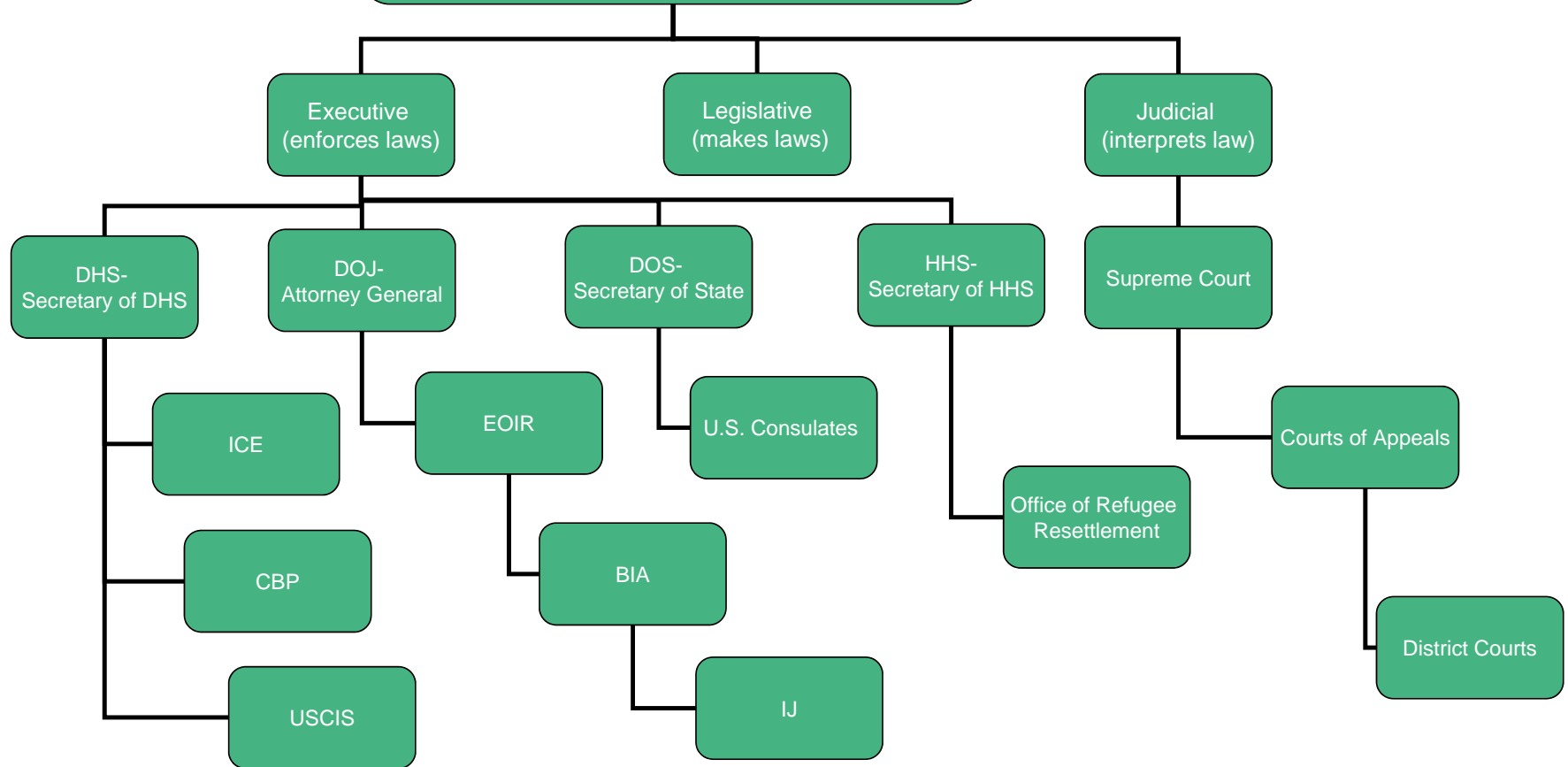


YOUTH IN NEED:

B2I & IMMIGRANT
INDIVIDUALS
ABANDONED,
ABUSED, &/OR
NEGLECTED AS
CHILDREN



U.S. Immigration System



WHY

CHILDREN

FLEE





SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE

- 1990: Established by Immigration and Nationality Act as relief for immigrant foster care children
- 1991: Amended to include a path to citizenship for more stabilization & safety
- 1994: Amended to include children declared dependent on the court or placed in state custody
- 1998: Amended to give more federal authority over juvenile court findings for SIJS and to narrow eligibility to those dependent on the court because of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
- 2005: Amended by Violence Against Women Act to prevent further exposing child to abuse
- 2008: Amended by Trafficking Victim Protection Reauthorization Act to promote healing,

Special Immigrant Juvenile: Humanitarian Relief for Children

REQUIREMENTS

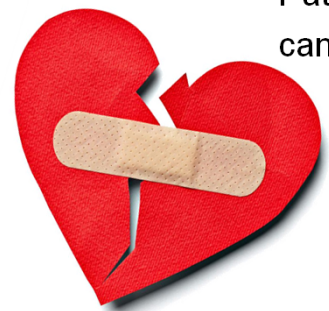
- Under 21 years old (must get the order before age 19 in Nebraska)
- Unmarried
- Present in the United States
- Subject of a state Court Order finding the following before the child reaches the age of majority:
 - Have been abused, abandoned and/or neglected by one or both parents
 - Reunification with one or both parents not viable
 - Return to country of last habitual residence not in best interest



Special Immigrant Juvenile: Humanitarian Relief for Children

BENEFITS

- Protection from removal
- Stability
- Access to more resources
- Eligibility to apply for lawful permanent residency
- Path to citizenship (for child alone, cannot sponsor parents)





SIJS & B2I ELIGIBILITY



- Special Immigrant Juveniles can meet B2I eligibility requirements
- Our senators provided immigrant-specific resources for B2I program participants who are immigrants. Section 5(3)(h) provides for services to “Obtain the necessary state court findings and then apply for special immigrant juvenile status...or apply for other immigration relief that the young adult may be eligible for”

PROBLEMS ACCESSING B 2 I

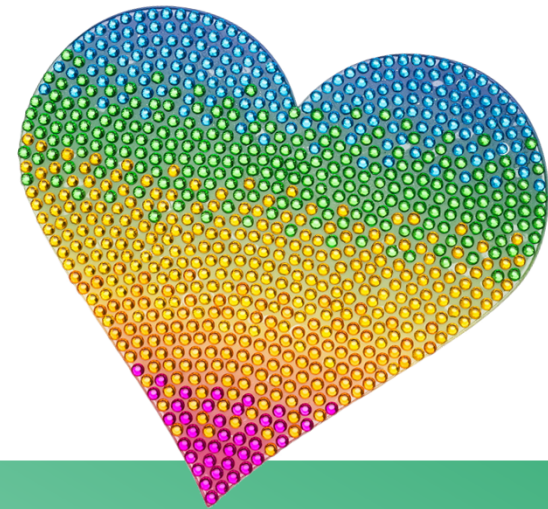


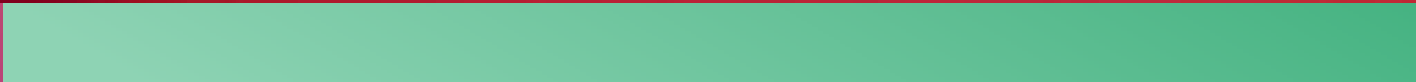
- N.R.S. 4-108 narrowly limits “public benefits” to lawfully present immigrants
- N.R.S. 4-111 establishes verification of lawful presence under the term “qualified alien,” which narrowly fails to capture all lawfully present immigrants, including SIJS.
- Under PRWORA, states may extend benefits to immigrants otherwise disqualified under federal law, but states must use explicit language in their laws to provide for their inclusion in eligibility.



THE SOLUTION

- Add explicit language to include ALL children in need who qualify for B2I, regardless of immigration status, just as B2I anticipated.
- Educate program facilitators about B2I's inclusion of immigrant-youth





THANKS FOR YOUR
DEDICATION AND
COMPASSION FOR ALL
VULNERABLE
NEBRASKAN YOUTH!

