

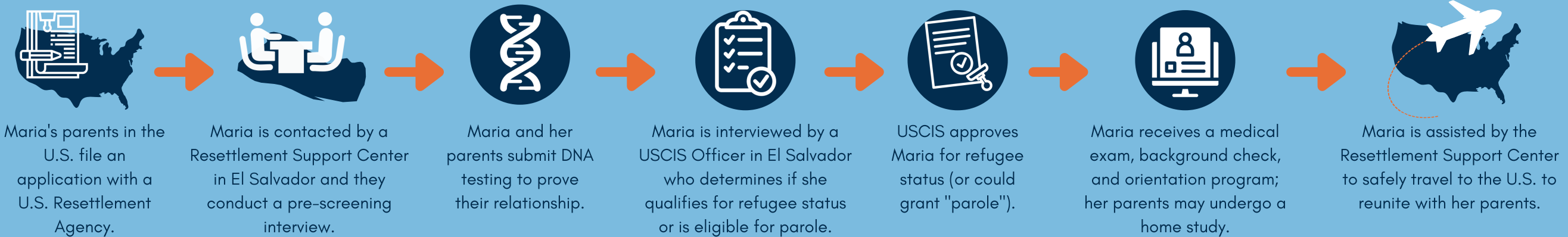
The Central American Minors (CAM) program helped prevent the need for children in danger to embark on a perilous migration journey to reunite with their parents in the United States. CAM was established in 2014 to allow children in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras the opportunity to be considered for refugee resettlement in the United States. Children who were not eligible for refugee status were considered for immigration “parole” giving them permission to enter the United States temporarily and the ability to travel there safely. The program helped three thousand children arrive safely in the United States and reunite with their parents, but it was abruptly terminated by the Trump administration in 2017. President Biden has pledged to restart the program as part of a comprehensive strategy to address child migration, save children from dangerous migration journeys, and allow families to reunite in the United States.

## Who did the CAM program help?

The CAM program served children like **Maria** who lived with her grandmother in El Salvador when she experienced persecution and sexual assault by a gang member. Maria’s parents lived in the United States with lawful status through TPS (Temporary Protected Status) but before CAM there were no legal channels to bring their daughter to the United States. Maria’s parents feared for their daughter’s life but did not want Maria to make the dangerous journey on her own and did not trust a smuggler to keep Maria safe. The CAM program provided a safe, legal way for Maria to reunite with her parents and seek protection in the United States.



## How did the CAM program work?



## How can President Biden ensure that a new CAM program is successful?

- Fund outreach and assistance programs so families know about the process. *NGOs can help Maria and her parents better understand the refugee requirements.*
- Provide legal assistance for children throughout the process, including during their interviews. *A lawyer can help children like Maria tell their stories and ensure a fair process.*
- Expand eligibility to include children with any trusted adult relative in the United States who can safely care for them, regardless of their immigration status. *Children like Maria should be able to safely reunify with an aunt or grandparent, for example.*
- Expedite the process so that qualifying children can gain safety as quickly as possible. *Previously, children like Maria waited up to a year for decisions to be made, which is too long to wait in a dangerous situation.*
- Provide accommodations for children in immediate danger. *If Maria is in danger in her town, she should be relocated to a safe place to await the decision.*
- Improve accessibility for vulnerable and rural populations. *The program needs increased resources to reach children in rural villages, children with disabilities, and children who do not speak Spanish.*