

Afghan evacuees in Colorado

International Rescue Committee in Denver



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Which Afghans were evacuated?

- Individuals who served with the U.S. government and U.S. contractors serving the U.S. mission in Afghanistan.
- Individuals who worked in supportive roles for coalition forces in Afghanistan.
 - Journalists, women's rights activists, and more.
- American citizens and individuals with LPR
- Other vulnerable individuals

Processing

- Individuals were airlifted out of Afghanistan and processed in a third country before traveling to the U.S.
 - Security and vetting (DOD, USDHS, FBI, NCTC, IC partners)
 - Biometric and background checks
- After arriving in the U.S., individuals are processed at a Department of State site near Dulles Airport and prepared for onward travel and processing at one of eight military installations.
 - Vaccinations/medical screenings
 - Immigration services
 - Processing to their final destination

Afghan evacuees in Colorado

- Colorado is estimated to receive **3% of evacuees**, or approximately **1,000 - 2,000** individuals (through spring 2022)
- Afghan evacuees will arrive with one of the following statuses
 - Refugee/Special Immigrant Visa recipient
 - Humanitarian parolee
 - SQ/SI parolee
- All evacuees are tested for COVID-19 upon arrival in the U.S. Quarantine protocols are in place for anyone testing positive. Vaccines are provided at military bases and required to gain humanitarian parole status
- Resettlement agencies are preparing for increased arrivals
 - Staffing, community partnerships, housing contacts, volunteers, donations, state unified response

Afghan evacuees in Colorado cont.

- Many arriving individuals have a U.S. tie in Colorado
- Placements likely to be in Denver, Aurora, Thornton, Northglenn and Colorado Springs
- State Unified Command Group
 - Governor's office
 - RAs
 - CRSP
 - OEM
 - Stakeholders

Needs

- Immediate needs
 - Short-term housing and cash assistance options, including the use of hotels and rental assistance
 - Immediate support for physical and mental health resources
 - Food assistance options for individuals ineligible for other services like SNAP
 - Staffing for resettlement agencies to meet the needs of new arrivals.
 - Immigration legal services
- Longer term needs
 - Long-term housing
 - Clothing
 - Employment
 - Transportation

Federal updates

- FY22 continuing resolution passage
 - Afghans who entered the U.S. with humanitarian parole are authorized to receive refugee resettlement benefits
 - Afghan parolees eligible for driver's license or ID card
 - Expedited consideration of Afghan parolees' asylum applications
 - Supplemental emergency funding for the evacuation, processing, and reception of at-risk Afghans
 - Increase in refugee cash assistance

Continued federal advocacy priorities

- Bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act (AAA)
- Creation of a designated humanitarian parole program to guide and expedite the review of parole petitions for at-risk Afghans
- Reform of the Afghan P-2 program
- Waive all fees associated with adjustment of status and funding to RAs for immigration legal services

Resettlement Services



Case management

- Pre-arrival logistics
- Airport pick-up
- Housing
- School enrollment
- Public benefits
- Initial budgeting
- Home checks
- Social Security



Health

- Health screenings and immunizations
- Community health resources
- WIC
- Physical/mental health Ongoing care
- Health insurance literacy
- Medical case management



Economic Empowerment

- Job placement
- Job readiness training
- Employment mentors
- Cultural orientation
- Matching Grant
- English language acquisition assistance
- Financial literacy and financial coaching
- Credit building loans

Other integration support



- Family stabilization services
- Psychosocial support programs
- Youth programs
- Family mentor program
- Skill building
- Digital literacy resources
- Transportation navigation
- Survivors of torture services
- Family reunification
- Immigration legal services



Thank you

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