



How to Support Refugee Resettlement in Colorado

Take Action

[Tell U.S. policymakers Today: Assist Afghans Seeking Safety](#)

Today the U.S. government has a responsibility to assist Afghans wishing to leave the country, and to provide them asylum in the United States.

Support Colorado Organizations

The agencies we've listed below are currently taking donations and volunteers requests.

Make sure to check back regularly. Some agencies are also looking for volunteers, sponsors, and are offering cultural mentoring to educate individuals who are interested in working, advocating for, and supporting refugees and/or asylum seekers. More information can be found on the agencies' individual sites.

COLORADO REFUGEE SETTLEMENT AGENCIES:

- 1) [ECDC/African Community Center](#) (scroll down to the section Get Involved)
- 2) [International Rescue Committee](#) – Colorado office
- 3) [Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains](#)
- 4) In partnership with Rose Community Foundation and the Governor's Office, [The Colorado Afghan Evacuee Support Fund](#) was created. The fund works to ensure that Colorado is prepared to welcome Afghan evacuees and connect them with community resources.
- 5) More information regarding Refugee services can be found at the [Colorado Department of Human Services](#)

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Included are some articles, flyers, and videos to further educate yourself and your peers on the history of the current global refugee crisis

[The U.S. must invest in diplomacy in Afghanistan and grant asylum for those fleeing](#) AFSC blog (2021)

[Refugee 101 Videos](#) webinars from Colorado Refugee Connect

[Global forced migration and the entanglements of race, state power, capitalism and environmental change](#) by [Hossein Ayazi](#), graduate student and Haas Institute research assistant (2017)

[Capitalism and the global refugee crisis](#) by [Robert Stevens](#) (2015)



SERVICE PLAN OVERVIEW FROM ARRIVAL TO INTEGRATION [Click](#) for an overview from the Colorado Office of Economic Security on refugees' integration journey after arriving to the United States.



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COMMUNITY ACTION

Build connection and understanding in your community Invite someone from the Colorado Refugee Speakers

Bureau: The Colorado Refugee Speakers Bureau creates connection and understanding between refugees and the receiving community in order to build a more inclusive, vibrant, and cohesive Colorado. We do this through speaking and storytelling engagements of all types, from speaking with school, business, and faith communities to special events and conferences. Our values as a bureau drive all aspects of our work, from how we collaborate and learn to how we engage with the community. <https://www.corefugeeconnect.org/speakers/>

Sponsor Circles

This is a new immigration sponsorship tool set up by the White House. With Sponsor Circles, you and your friends, neighbors or faith communities can welcome incoming refugees/asylum seekers and provide them with the practical support they require to fully get themselves settled. Groups will assist these individuals in tasks such as seeking housing, connecting children to local schools, equipping them with initial income support, and assist in seeking employment for adults. If interested and wanting to learn more, there are upcoming webinars that are provided down below.

Steps and requirements to apply are [here](#)

Introduction and training information

Webinar 1 You can view the [recording](#) of the **Overview of Operation Allies Welcome** that described how and why new Afghan neighbors arrived to the US and the support they are receiving as they move into our communities.

Webinar 2 You can view and share the [recording](#) of the Webinar, **Introduction to Sponsor Circles**, focusing on sponsorship, an opportunity for groups to welcome newcomers and provide them with the practical support they need to get settled.

Webinar 3 [Registration](#) for December 15 12:00PM MT Part 3: Increasing Cultural Competency

Join us as we learn more about Afghan Culture and discuss how that can help us be more knowledgeable as we engage and connect with our new Afghan neighbors. We will hear from Cultural Competency Advisor to the Operation Allies Welcome as well as Huruneessa Fariad, an Afghan American who serves as Director of Outreach for Multi-Faith Neighbors Network and the All Dulles Muslim Society (ADAMS Center).

Workshops AFSC Colorado can offer to your school, faith community, organization or group. Many can be adjusted to a virtual setting – full listing [here](#)

AFSC Colorado DVD Library and discussion questions for films – full listing [here](#)





GLOSSARY:

Asylum: The Refugee Act established two paths to obtain refugee status—either from abroad as a resettled refugee or in the United States as an asylum seeker. A protection granted to foreign nationals already in the United States or arriving at the border who meet the international law definition of a “refugee”. The United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol define a refugee as a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country, and cannot obtain protection in that country, due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future “on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” Congress incorporated this definition into U.S. immigration law in the Refugee Act of 1980.

As a signatory to the 1967 Protocol, and through U.S. immigration law, the United States has legal obligations to provide protection to those who qualify as refugees. (reference [here](#))

Refugee: The United Nations 1951 Convention defined a refugee as a person who is unable or unwilling to return to their country, and cannot obtain protection in that country, due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future “on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion”. Refugees resettle to the US from abroad through the office of United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Humanitarian or Significant Public Benefit Parole: Some Refugees/asylum seekers are eligible to apply for parole if they have a compelling case of emergency humanitarian crisis and they find themselves in their countries of origin unable to leave; this allows them to temporarily enter the United States while awaiting other proceedings. More information can be found on the USCIS Website [here](#).

Special Immigrant Visas: There are five types of Special Immigrant Visas but with regards to Afghans the program is available to persons who worked with the U.S. Armed Forces or under Chief of Mission authority as a translator or interpreter or other professional in Afghanistan. This program, which offers visas to up to fifty persons a year, remains active. More info [here](#)

