



**CWS**

# Lunch and Learn

A series of educational webinars  
for community members

2021 Series

**Welcoming Afghans**





## **Church World Service**

is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

## GoToWebinar Housekeeping



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Raise Your Hand



Ask Questions



# Presenters for today:

**Katherine Rehberg**

Deputy Vice President, IRP+

**Kaitlyn Mullen**

Associate Director for Pre-Arrival Services

**Elissa Diaz**

Policy and Advocacy Manager, CWS

**Stacey Clack**

Director of Community Sponsorship and Engagement



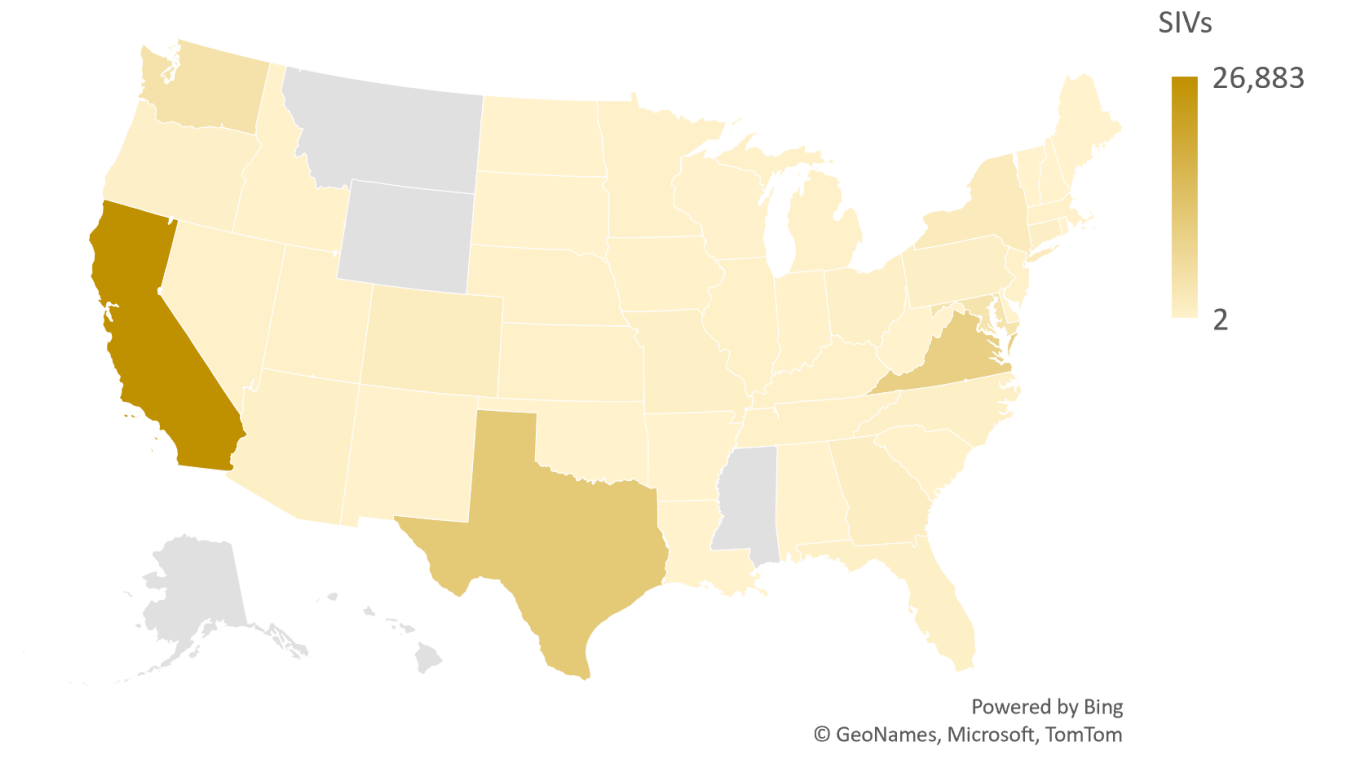
# Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Program

## **Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 –**

*Special immigrant program, which authorizes the issuance of Special Immigrant Visas to Afghan nationals who meet certain requirements and who were employed in Afghanistan by or on behalf of the U.S. government in Afghanistan, or in a capacity that required the applicant to serve as an interpreter or translator for U.S. military personnel.*

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# Evacuations

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- SIV evacuations began on July 30th, 2021
- CWS network has received 90 new SIV cases / 357 individuals since July 31st
- As of August 28th, the White House estimates that more than 117,000 individuals have been evacuated



# Additional Pathways to U.S.

- Priority 1 Program
  - Priority 2 Program
  - Humanitarian Parole
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# Advocacy Updates

- Context: Given President Biden's August 31 deadline to complete withdrawal from the country, at-risk Afghans, including [hundreds of thousands](#) of Afghans who assisted the U.S. mission, U.S. citizens, and legal permanent residents will be left behind, prevented from accessing life-saving services. Urgent action is needed to **hold the administration accountable to ensure the U.S. establishes safe pathways out of Afghanistan and continue the urgent evacuation of Afghans in danger—including women and girls, religious and minority groups, people with disabilities, and others—for as long as it takes to get people to safety in the United States.**
- **Top Asks:**
  - Urgently evacuate all vulnerable Afghans who are in danger for as long as it takes to get people to safety in the United States.
  - It is equally imperative that the United States create safe pathways out of Afghanistan.
  - The United States should further expand and expedite life-saving [refugee protections](#), such as by increasing "Priority 1" referrals and expanding the "Priority 2" direct access program.
  - The administration must **create sustainable, long-term programmatic investments** to offer humanitarian protections within and outside Afghanistan as the conflict evolves.
- RCUSA Policy Asks: <https://bit.ly/AfghanPolicyAsks>



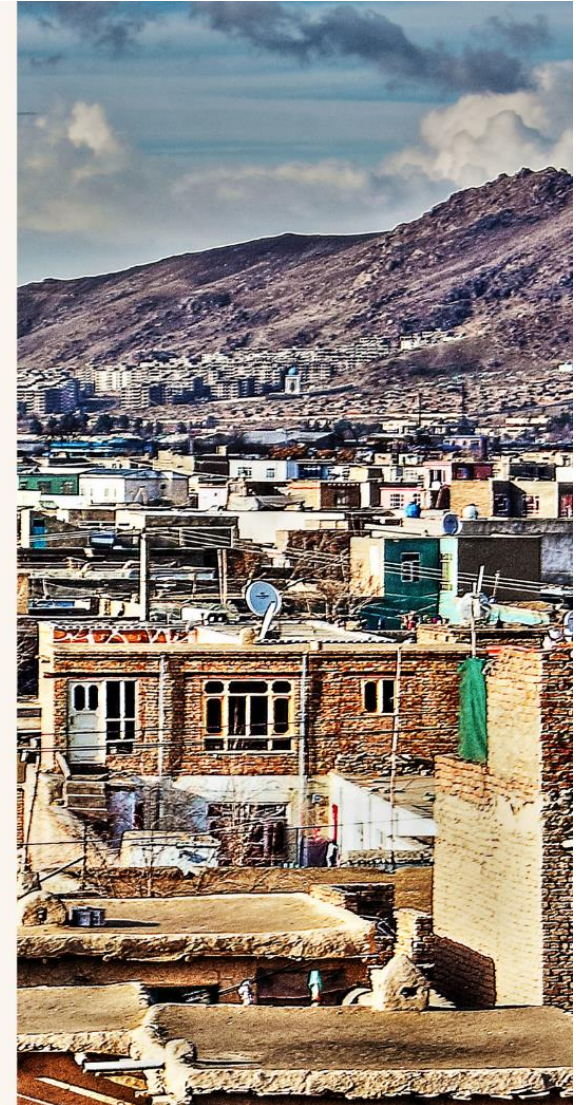
# How You Can Take Action Today

- CWS Action Alert: [Click here](#) to email your Members of Congress
- Top 5 Ways to Take Action: <https://bit.ly/AfghanAdvocacyTop5Actions>
- Social Media: [EOA Toolkit](#) and [RCUSA Graphics](#)
- For State & Local Legislators: <https://bit.ly/StateLocalAfghanToolkit>
- Additional Resources
  - Afghan Refugee FAQ: <https://bit.ly/AfghanFAQ>
  - RCUSA Afghanistan Web Page: <https://rcusa.org/afghanistan/>

## Biden: Protect all Afghans at risk

President Biden must follow through with his promise of putting humanitarian support first

**#AfghanRefugees**



# How Community Members Can Help

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- Housing
- Donate
- Community Sponsorship
- Advocate
- Subscribe and Learn



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# Housing

- **Housing** - We need housing for newly arriving Afghan SIVs. If you are a landlord and are willing to rent to one of our newly arriving families, please fill out the “[Sponsor a family arriving to your community](#)” and check the box labeled I am a landlord, and we will connect you to the local office nearest you.
- [CWS Welcome Home Campaign](#) – rally your friends and family through social media to raise rental assistance to provide a safe landing place for our Afghan friends.





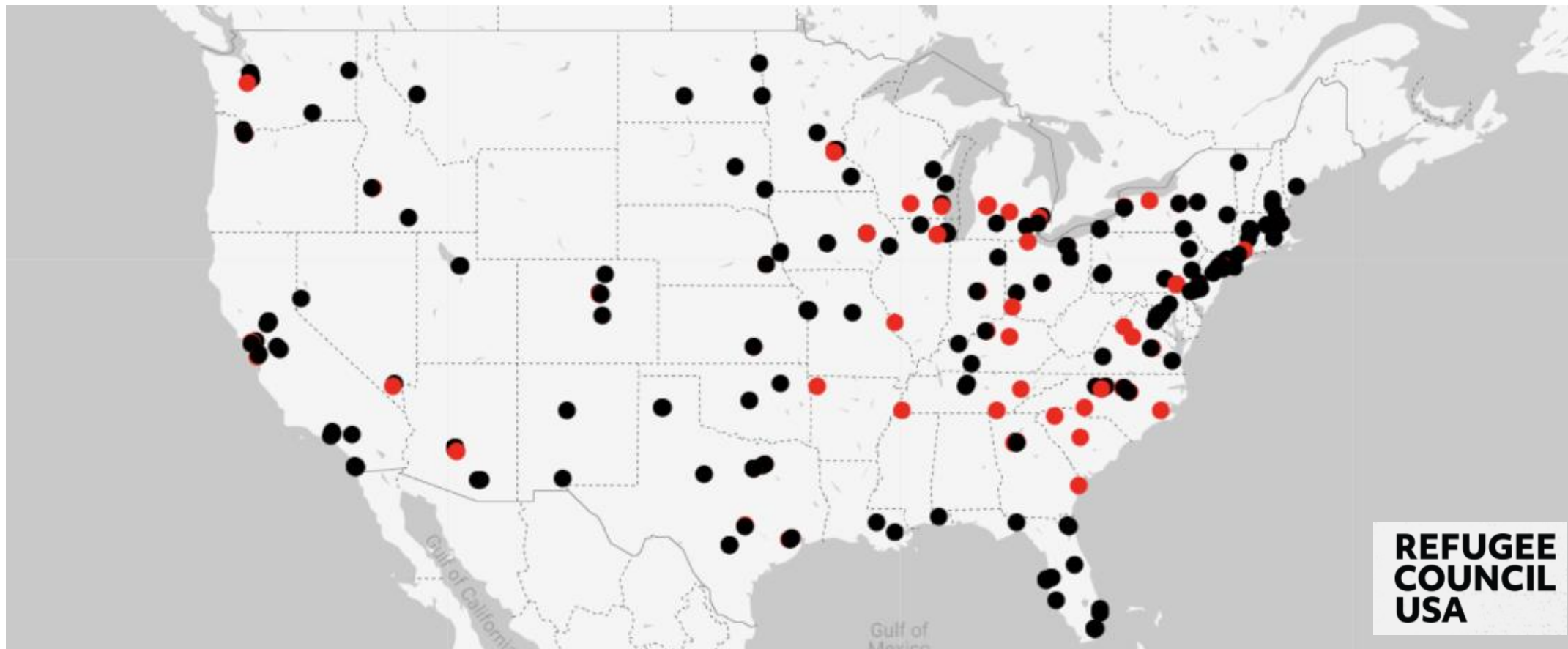
# Donate

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- Give financially to assist Afghan SIVS as they resettle to their new communities. Please make financial gifts at [this link](#).



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# Community Sponsorship

- Fill out the [“Sponsor a family arriving to your community”](#) form on our CWS webpage and we can assist you in finding local opportunities to support
- Find the [resettlement office](#) nearest you here
- Visit [this map from RCUSA](#) to find volunteer opportunities at the Resettlement office nearest you.
- If you don’t have an office within 100 miles of your location, we will follow up later this week with an email about opportunities from our partners at USCCB

# Advocate

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- CWS's [new action alert](#) urging the administration to protect Afghans seeking safety and protection.
- Also, sign up for our CWS action [alerts](#) to stay up to date on how you can use your voice to support newcomers.



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# Subscribe & Learn

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- Visit our [CWS NEW Learn Page](#)
- For monthly action alerts, updates on Afghan SIVs, refugees, and migrants subscribe to our monthly [Immigration and Refugee Community Engagement Newsletter](#).





# Additional Resources for Community Members

- Download our [Community Sponsorship Manual](#) for more detailed information about what community sponsorship looks like in practice.
- Collection of resources for Afghans seeking assistance, and addition actions individuals, organizations, and elected officials can take to support vulnerable Afghans visit [RCUSA's Afghanistan page](#)







# Thank you for joining us!

If you have further questions, please don't  
hesitate to reach out to us at

[refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org](mailto:refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org)