



CWS

Lunch and Learn

A series of educational webinars
for community members

Welcoming Afghans: October Program
Update

A man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a black jacket, carries a young child on his back. The child is wearing a light blue sweater, red pants, and small boots. The man is holding the child's hands. In the foreground, a young boy in a blue sweater is walking towards the camera, holding the man's hand. In the background, a woman wearing a blue headscarf and a patterned jacket is walking, carrying a child in a blue carrier. Other people are visible in the background, some looking towards the camera. The scene is outdoors, with a clear blue sky and some buildings in the distance.

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

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Raise Your Hand



Ask Questions



Presenters

Ashley Allibhoy, Associate Director, Afghan Placement and Assistance Program

Stacey Clack, Director for Community Sponsorship and Engagement

Hamidullah Hamidy, Lead Caseworker/Housing Coordinator- Opening Doors



Photo Credit: New York Times

State of Play: Afghan Allies and Friends

- Operation Allies Welcome
- Afghan Placement and Assistance Program
- Afghan Adjustment Act
- FY 2022 Continuing Resolution

Afghan Assistance Placement and Assistance Program

Most Afghan nationals will be paroled into the United States through the APA Program

- 30 to 90-day service period
- Resettlement Agencies will provide basic Core Services
 - Airport Reception
 - Safe Housing
 - Adequate Food Supplies
 - Seasonal Clothing
 - School Enrollment
 - Cultural Orientation
 - Legal Services, as available
 - Assistance Enrolling in English Language Training
 - Assistance Enrolling in Public Benefits, as eligible
 - Assistance accessing healthcare services, as eligible
 - Limited Financial Services



Welcoming Afghans Throughout the CWS Network

- Allocated and Assured
 - 1079 Individuals/450 cases
- Traveled or Ready for Departure
 - 118 Individuals/38 cases



Housing/Donate

- Connect with your local office
 - “[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](#)
- Give financially to your local office or give to CWS at [this link](#).



Local Community Sponsorship

- To connect with your local office [“Sponsor a family arriving to your community”](#) form and we can assist you in finding local opportunities to support



NEW! APA Community Partners

CWS is preparing to launch an Expanded Community Sponsorship Program for Afghan Arrivals

- CWS National Structure
- Associate Director for Community Sponsorship for the APA program
 - 2 CWS Community Sponsorship Associates
- Can partner with community members who are located anywhere in the U.S. that is outside of the 100-mile radius of our CWS affiliate offices
- Website to send interested community members too: <https://cwsglobal.org/take-action/community-sponsorship/welcoming-afghans/>



Photo: Joshua Roberts/Getty Images

What is the Afghan Placement and Assistance Program?

The Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) Program was put into motion in late August by the State Department and launched on September 1st. Most Afghan nationals will be paroled into the United States through the APA program. This program will offer temporary legal status in the United States and expedited work authorization. Individuals will be

Roles of CWS

- Engage APA Community Partners using a *co-sponsorship model*
 - an established community group which has accepted in a written agreement with CWS responsibility to provide, or ensure the provision of, reception and placement services in a locality to certain clients.
- Each APA Community Partner will be matched with a CWS Community Sponsorship Associate.
 - provide training, onboarding and ongoing weekly coaching
 - maintain the case file based on these communications and securely transmitted documents
 - conduct a virtual home visit prior to arrival to assess housing conditions
 - Manage direct assistance funds
 - In urgent situations, the affiliate or CWS RP staff will travel to the site to provide support.





Role of APA Community Partners

Community sponsors will assume full responsibility for implementing APA program services and meeting the material needs of Afghan arrivals for the first 30-90 days after arrival, including Reception services

- Decent, safe and sanitary housing
 - Household items and furniture
 - Culturally appropriate, ready-to-eat meal upon arrival
 - Adequate food supplies
 - Seasonally appropriate clothing
 - Home visits
 - School enrollment for children
 - Selective Service registration, as applicable
 - Transportation support
 - Cultural Orientation
 - Assistance enrolling in English Language Training
 - Assistance enrolling in employment services, as appropriate and eligible
 - Assistance accessing health services, as possible
 - Assistance enrolling in public benefits, as eligible
 - Limited financial assistance
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Interested APA Community Partners

- Must have secured a safe, sanitary, affordable apartment or house
- Must have identified a Dari or Pashto interpreter
- Collect good quality furnishings and household supplies to preserve limited available funding to pay for housing costs
- Must have a plan to cover costs for 6-12 months if the family is not able to earn (Groups should have at least \$2,000 available to support long-term wellbeing for the family.)
- 10-40 hours per week of support during first weeks
- Weekly coaching sessions with a CWS Community Sponsorship Associate
- Group members must pass a CWS background check including criminal and credit checks
- Group must complete CWS' *APA Community Partner Training*
- All members of the group must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or receive a medical or religious exemption as per CWS' *COVID Vaccination Policy*.
- Group must agree to core CWS policies including Code of Conduct including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, Anti-Human Trafficking Policy, Child Safeguarding Policy, Policy on Gender Equality, Racial Equity Platform, Accountability to Affected Populations Framework and Security Policies.

Cultural Considerations

- Afghan culture is less strict with time than American culture. Afghans may be late for/not ready in time for an appointment. Conversation is more important than time. If you are scheduled for a one hour meeting and still are engaged in the topic at one hour, it would be rude to cut off due to time. If you must leave by a certain time, set the expectation up front.
- If space allows, in the Afghan home, the family will have two separate sitting spaces, one for men and one for women. Even sometimes the family is willing to sacrifice a bedroom, to do so.
- Many Afghan households are used to sitting on the ground or sleeping on the ground. They may select not to have beds or couches, in favor of traditional cushions. The same with dining tables. Many Afghan families eat using a vinyl mat on the floor.
- It is considerate to remove your shoes when entering a home.

Cultural Considerations

- **NEW Afghan Cultural Considerations handout**



Afghan Cultural Considerations

CWS staff, volunteers, and community partners are asked to be considerate of Afghan culture and customs as they work to welcome new arrivals to their community. It is important to acknowledge that integration requires neither the newcomer nor the welcoming community to give up their history, culture, or identity but to respect one another.

This resource provides some general information about Afghan culture. It is necessary to acknowledge that any cultural overview must be taken with an understanding of the diversity of customs, beliefs, attitudes, and practices which reside within any nationality group. Do not take cultural backgrounders as truth for the individual you are welcoming, rather, look to the individual or family to provide you with an understanding of their preferences as they transition to your community.

[USA Hello provides a backgrounder designed](#) for educators of Afghan students in the United States.

Take-Aways


- Afghans are diverse in political orientation, religion, ethnicity, social class, and attitude toward modernization.
- There are 19 different ethnic groups in Afghanistan.
- Family is of great importance.

[The Cultural Atlas provides cultural background](#) which highlights core concepts, greetings, dos and don'ts, etiquette, and other topics of importance. Their [Do's and Don'ts section](#) is filled with good take-aways to consider some common considerations when welcoming Afghans. Cultural Atlas is an Australian agency, and you will notice some considerations specific to Australia, however, the information is applicable for our communities within the United States as well.

Take-Aways

- Be sensitive of the experiences and trauma of arriving Afghans. Do not push an individual to share their story or information about their journey to the United States.
- Unless it is invited as okay- handshakes and forms of greeting which touch people of other genders should be avoided. Greetings where opposite genders touch are typically reserved for close family or friends.
- When speaking of the people group use the term 'Afghan.' 'Afghani' refers to the currency and not the Afghan people. Similarly, do not use 'Arab' or 'Middle Eastern' in that Afghanistan is in South Central Asia and none of the local ethnicities are Arab.

[Learn more about how CWS is partnering with communities across the country to welcome Afghan arrivals!](#)

A group of four children are smiling and posing for a photo in a refugee camp. In the foreground, a girl with dark curly hair and a red and pink shirt is on the left, a boy in a white turtleneck is in the center, and a younger child in a grey shirt and a black baseball cap with a white logo is on the right. Behind them, another girl with dark curly hair and a yellow and white shirt is smiling. The background shows a vast, flat, sandy area with several large, tan-colored tents and a distant hillside covered with many small, simple buildings under a clear blue sky.

Thank you for joining us!

If you have further questions, please don't
hesitate to reach out to us at
refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org