Lunch and Learn
A series of educational webinars for community members

Welcoming Afghans: October Program Update
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

- Automatically Muted
- 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
State of Play: Afghan Allies and Friends

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

Photo Credit: New York Times
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/
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

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.
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.
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
Thank you for joining us!

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