

# AFGHANISTAN REFUGEE SUPPORT

In the wake of the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan, thousands of Afghan nationals and their families find themselves in grave danger. These Afghans, who previously worked with the U.S. military, have applied for Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs), which will qualify them to be resettled in the United States. SIV recipients differ from other refugees because normally, refugees flee to a refugee camp where they must register as a refugee with a UNHCR office, and it usually takes years before they finally resettle in the U.S. or another country.

Several North Texas agencies are working with national refugee resettlement partners and the U.S. government to offer protection and resettlement opportunities to these displaced Afghan families. Reports suggest 30,000 Afghans may be resettled in the U.S. in the coming weeks, and many will be temporarily housed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, and then finally resettled in communities across Texas and the U.S.

---



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES DALLAS

Catholic Charities is currently serving several Afghan families who were recently resettled and expects more to arrive in the next 2-6 weeks, depending on how the processing of SIV holders is completed.

To support these incoming refugees, the greatest needs include:

- Rental/utility assistance- Government assistance is limited and short-lived for these families. Their work permits or immigration status might take longer because they were not fully processed overseas. This may require families to go through the current immigration process which is backlogged and will limit their employment opportunities.
- In-kind donations for apartment set up (bedrooms, living room, & kitchen) – a checklist of household goods (new or gently used) may be found on page 4.
- Volunteers to help mentor/transport to public offices, job search, etc. To see volunteer opportunities and enroll, visit [www.ccdallas.org/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/](http://www.ccdallas.org/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/).



## CENTER FOR SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

The Center for Survivors of Torture provides specialized mental health services that focus on trauma and grief. The center has worked with Afghan clients in the past and is well experienced and culturally competent with supporting mental health needs in their community.

About 200 refugees from Afghanistan will be resettled in Dallas within the next couple of weeks and The Center for Survivors of Torture is the main referral source for mental health services. The center anticipates providing tailored mental health services to Afghan adults and children and needs support for two more licensed clinicians to serve the influx of new refugees.

---



## DALLAS FURNITURE BANK

The Dallas Furniture Bank provides furniture, and most importantly, comfort to formerly homeless and low-income families. DFB is partnering with Catholic Charities' resettlement program and has provided furniture for four families from Afghanistan, two of whom were interpreters. DFB maintains relationships with families to make sure the furniture meets their needs.

The families from Afghanistan have an average of 6-8 individuals, and DFB provides furniture for the entire apartment. The organization works to help furnish according to family, cultural, and size needs. DFB anticipates furnishing many more apartments in the coming weeks. Their staff also assembles the entire apartment before the family moves in, as required by the federal resettlement program, so they must move very quickly once a family is referred to them. DFB needs support for their transportation and delivery team as well as for special furniture that they may need to purchase at reduced rates depending on the donation volume.



## INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE DALLAS

The IRC in Dallas has been resettling Special Immigrant Visas holders (SIVs) for the last 15 years and over the past few months, has welcomed more than 80 Afghan newcomers, with more on the way.

Ways to support IRC Dallas in helping Afghan refugees include:

- Donate to the IRC in Dallas' fund-These funds go toward securing housing, purchasing household items and food, transportation, medical needs, and meeting the other basic needs of our new Afghan neighbors and other new arrivals.
- Purchase items- including gift cards that provide immediate and flexible relief off the IRC in Dallas' Amazon Wishlist.
- Consider volunteering to work with incoming families- As needs arise over the next few months, volunteers will be a great asset to families. Learn more about becoming an IRC in Dallas volunteer by emailing VolunteerDallas@rescue.org.



## MOSAIC FAMILY SERVICES

For almost 30 years, Mosaic has served the needs of refugees from countless global conflicts. Mosaic Family Services is prepared to welcome Afghan refugees and those with Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) through their Refugee Social Adjustment Services and Citizenship Program when they arrive in North Texas. Mosaic works with other nonprofit and government organizations in North Texas to provide the highest quality of care to refugees.

To help Mosaic in supporting the needs of Afghan and other refugees:

- Donate - Mosaic anticipates that they will see an increase in Afghan refugees over the coming weeks and months, many of whom are SIV recipients. [Click here to make a gift.](#)
- Welcome Refugees - You can show your support to newly arriving Afghan refugees by writing welcome cards and letters of support. Refugee case managers will give the letters to their clients. Writing letters is a wonderful way to show newly arriving refugees that they are welcomed and supported by the community.



## REFUGEE SERVICES OF TEXAS

For more than four decades, Refugee Services of Texas has resettled refugees, asylees, and SIVs fleeing life-threatening situations, from the days of Vietnam to the present situation in Afghanistan. Refugee Services of Texas is closely monitoring the situation in Afghanistan and is working with national resettlement partners, elected representatives, and the military to process and resettle as many people as possible.

Currently, Refugee Services of Texas is preparing to settle 324 Afghans in the next few weeks across Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and Austin. Financial support will be used to provide housing, services, and support to resettled families in Texas.

---

## HOUSEHOLD NEEDS FOR REFUGEES

**The following is a list of suggested items that can be donated to support agencies in setting up housing for incoming refugees.**

- Mattresses appropriate for age and gender composition of family
- Box springs
- Bed frames
- Set of drawers, shelves, etc. for clothing storage
- Kitchen table - one per family
- Kitchen chair - one per person
- Couch or equivalent seating
- Lamp - one per room
- Place setting of tableware (fork, knife, spoon) per person
- Place setting of dishes (plate, bowl, cup) per person
- Pots & pans: sauce pans, frying pans, baking dish
- Mixing/Serving bowls
- Kitchen utensils: spatula, wooden spoon, knives, serving utensils, etc.
- Can opener
- Baby items as needed
- Towels - one per person
- Sheets and blankets - one set per bed
- Pillow and pillow cases
- Alarm clock (cell phone alarms are acceptable)
- Paper, pens and/or pencils
- Light bulbs
- Dish soap
- Bathroom/kitchen cleanser
- Sponges or cleaning rags and/or paper towels
- Laundry detergent
- Waste baskets - two per households
- Mop and/or broom
- Trash bags
- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Body soap (bar or body wash)
- Toothbrushes - one per person
- Toothpaste
- Personal hygiene items: deodorant, shaving supplies, nail clippers, feminine hygiene products, combs/brushes, etc.
- Culturally appropriate, ready-to-eat food
- One day's worth of additional food supplies and staples including baby food as needed
- Appropriate seasonal clothing for work, school and everyday use for each family member
- Diapers for young children (approx. 3 ½ years or younger)
- Footwear for each family member