

INFORMATION GUIDE

Resettlement of Afghan Allies in Tennessee

When will Afghans arrive

Resettlement agencies in Tennessee are prepared to welcome Afghans right now! A few cases are anticipated to arrive over the next couple of weeks and continue to arrive gradually over 6 months between now and the end of March. The Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) intends to not overwhelm cities and resettlement agencies with several arrivals at once.

Anticipated arrival numbers

415 Afghan arrivals are anticipated to resettle in Tennessee. A break down by city allots 350 in Nashville, 25 in Memphis, 20 in Knoxville, and 20 in Chattanooga. Resettlement agencies are responsible for receiving and serving arrivals. There are two resettlement agencies in Nashville and one in each other city.

Capacity assessments

Anticipated arrival numbers are reached on a city-by-city basis according to capacity assessments. Assessments include collaboration with each city's resettlement agency, mayor's office, public school system, police department, public health department, private medical providers, and other agencies providing services to refugees. Capacity involves a community's ability to welcome vulnerable individuals and families into a place they can call home.

Assistance available

All Afghan arrivals are now eligible for federal Office for Refugee Resettlement benefits through the Tennessee Office for Refugees. Humanitarian parolees will receive initial services through the Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) program for 30-90 days. APA is a mirror program of the Reception and Placement (R&P) program administered by PRM.

Efforts are under way locally and nationally to obtain private support for long-term assistance. Afghans apply for work authorization prior to arrival in Nashville. Just like every refugee who arrives in the United States, the expectation is for arrivals to obtain self-sufficiency through earned income.

Understanding "Humanitarian Parole"

Humanitarian parole refers to parole that is granted based on an urgent humanitarian need or significant public benefit. This permits certain Afghan nationals to come into the United States for a period of two years. Once granted humanitarian parole, Afghan nationals may be eligible to apply for immigration status through United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Some individuals granted humanitarian parole status include those who have contracted with the U.S. military or government but have not completed Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) processing before they had to flee their country. After the two-year period of humanitarian parole, Afghan nationals will apply for asylum if they are ineligible to adjust their immigration status due to a family relationship.