

Afghan Resettlement Program



A Call to Action for Service Clubs

The United States has evacuated close to 100,000 Afghans at risk of violence and persecution, many because of their service to the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. Governor Jack Markell, White House Coordinator for Operation Allies Welcome, has requested civic organizations join the national effort to resettle these Afghan allies in communities across the United States. Lions Clubs International has accepted this invitation and has invited other service club organizations to join forces with us.

Afghan Placement and Assistance Program (APA)

The APA is an emergency program in response to U.S. evacuation efforts in Afghanistan. Through the APA program, eligible Afghans are entitled to receive support relocating from their temporary living situations on U.S. military bases to local communities. To quickly expand capacity to meet the current need for large-scale placement of these individuals, the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration within the Department of State has enabled national resettlement agencies to partner with civic organizations.

The Role of Lions Clubs International

LCI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Church World Service (CWS), one of nine national resettlement agencies. LCI will serve as an Institutional Sponsor. In this role, LCI will recruit and train local Lions clubs to welcome an Afghan individual or family into their community. LCI will also provide ongoing support and oversight to the clubs during the initial placement period. LCI will be responsible for ensuring clubs maintain appropriate case files, and for financial and outcome reporting.

The Role of Lions Clubs

Individual Lions Clubs in the United States will have the opportunity to participate as Local Sponsor Groups. Participating clubs will provide their new neighbors with reception services, housing available for at least 6-12 months post-placement, basic household items and furnishings, adequate food supplies, and seasonally appropriate clothing. They will assist with school enrollment for school-age children, transportation support, and provide a cultural orientation. They will also assist with enrollment in English language training, employment services, health services, and public benefits. They will also provide financial assistance with basic living expenses during the 90-day co-sponsorship period.

Program Funding

The APA provides a fixed per capita grant of US\$2,275 for each Afghan individual welcomed by a Local Co-Sponsor Group. Local Co-Sponsor Groups are encouraged, but not required, to raise an additional US\$2,000 for each individual they welcome. These funds provide for the immediate needs of the individuals and families, including the goods and services outlined above. Additional funding is available through an LCI grant.

To Participate or Learn More

We invite you to reach out Afghan.Resettlement@lionsclubs.org if your club would like to participate, or would like to learn more.

Additional information can be found at Welcome.us and cwsglobal.org.