



Service and Support for Afghan Arrivals

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Agenda

- Slide 3 - Refugee Resettlement in Oregon
- Slide 4 - ODHS State Refugee Program Overview
- Slide 6 - Federal Response to Afghan Arrivals
- Slide 7 - Afghan Arrivals in Oregon
- Slide 8 - Emergency Management Unit Response
- Slide 9 - Refugee Resettlement Infrastructure
- Slide 10 - Q&A
- Slide 11 - Appendix

Oregon Refugee Resettlement Landscape

- The Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) works with Resettlement Agencies (RAs) on initial placement through the Reception and Placement (R&P) program
 - Up to 90 days of services which include:
 - Picking up the refugees at the airport
 - Finding them a place to live
 - Helping to furnish their home with basic necessities
- Oregon has grown from three RAs to five
- The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) works through the states to provide additional supports

ODHS State Refugee Program

- ODHS' Refugee Program provides financial and medical assistance, employment-related services and limited acculturation services to refugees and other eligible individuals through ORR and other state and federal funds
- ODHS contracts with RAs and local refugee organizations to provide additional services to individuals with immigration statuses approved by ORR for services
- State Refugee Coordinator – designated by the Governor or State legislative authority to ensure coordination of public and private resources in refugee resettlement

ODHS Refugee Program Services

- **Cash Assistance**
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Refugee Cash Assistance (REFC)
- **Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance (REFM)**
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**
- **Subsidized Child Care**
- **Other Services**
 - Employment Services and Training
 - Oregon Refugee Children Assistance Services
 - Refugee Senior Services
 - Refugee Youth Mentoring Projects
 - Extended Case Management

Federal Response to Afghan Arrivals

- Due to the evacuation of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, tens of thousands of Afghans are expected to resettle in the U.S.
- Arrivals will include refugees, Special Immigrant Visa holders, and parolees
- The Federal Bureau of PRM was tasked to create the Afghan Placement and Assistance Program (APA). The APA is to mirror the current R&P Program.
- ORR expanded service eligibility for Afghan Humanitarian Parolees and certain parolee spouses and children.

Afghan Arrivals in Oregon

Since September, ODHS' Refugee Program has convened weekly Afghan response meetings with RAs, Afghan community leaders, community partners, and other government agencies (state, county, and city) to help coordinate resources and services for Afghan arrivals.

Oregon began receiving Afghan arrivals in October.

Emergency Management Unit Response

- Under Oregon's emergency management plan, ODHS supports local efforts in mass care in an emergency
- ODHS was assigned to provide mass care services (shelter in the form of hotel rooms and meals) for Afghan arrivals resettling in Oregon
- Additionally, we will provide culturally and linguistically capable Shelter Liaisons who are a conduit between those in shelter and the hotel
- Sheltering primarily in Clackamas, Lane, Marion, Multnomah, and Washington counties. Potential to extend down I-5 corridor and the Bend/Redmond area.
- On Nov. 10, shelter was provided to 47 Afghan arrivals in 17 rooms throughout seven hotels

Expanding Refugee Resettlement Infrastructure

Refugee resettlement activities declined during the previous administration due to lower annual determinations which in turn prompted a drawback of resources. The Biden Administration has since increased the refugee cap, but funding and capacity remain major issues.

Ongoing Challenges

- Additional funding for increased caseload
- Long term housing capacity
- Resources and services for those who are initially ineligible for ORR programs



The seal of the State of Oregon is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread at the top, a ship on the left, a plow on the right, and a sun rising over a landscape in the center. The words "STATE OF OREGON" are written around the top inner edge, and "1859" is at the bottom. A banner at the bottom of the seal reads "THE UNION".

Thank You

Appendix

The ODHS Refugee Program serves individuals with the following immigration statuses (though eligibility for benefits varies):

Immigration Status	Description
Amerasian	Noncitizen born to U.S. citizen father in Vietnam after Jan. 1, 1962, and before Jan. 1, 1976. Spouses, children, and parents or guardians may accompany the noncitizen to the United States.
Asylee	An alien in the United States or at a port of entry who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear thereof must be based on religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Appendix Continued

Immigration Status	Description
Cuban/Haitian Entrant	Status accorded 1) Cubans who entered illegally or were paroled into the United States between April 15, 1980, and October 10, 1980, and 2) Haitians who entered illegally or were paroled into the country before January 1, 1981. Cubans and Haitians meeting these criteria who have continuously resided in the United States since before January 1, 1982, and who were known to Immigration before that date, may adjust to permanent residence under a provision of the Immigration Control and Reform Act of 1986.
Iraqi/Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holder	Interpreter or translator of Iraqi or Afghan nationality who has worked directly with the U.S. armed forces or under Chief of Mission authority, and who has experienced ongoing serious threats as a consequence of this employment.

Appendix Continued

Immigration Status	Description
Parolee	A person who is permitted to enter and stay in the U.S. without a visa for urgent humanitarian reasons.
Refugee	Generally, any person outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on the person's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.
Victim of Human Trafficking (International)	Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) those who have been trafficked into the US, and who have subsequently received certification from the Office of Refugee Resettlement.