



Wisconsin's Role in Resettling Afghan Evacuees

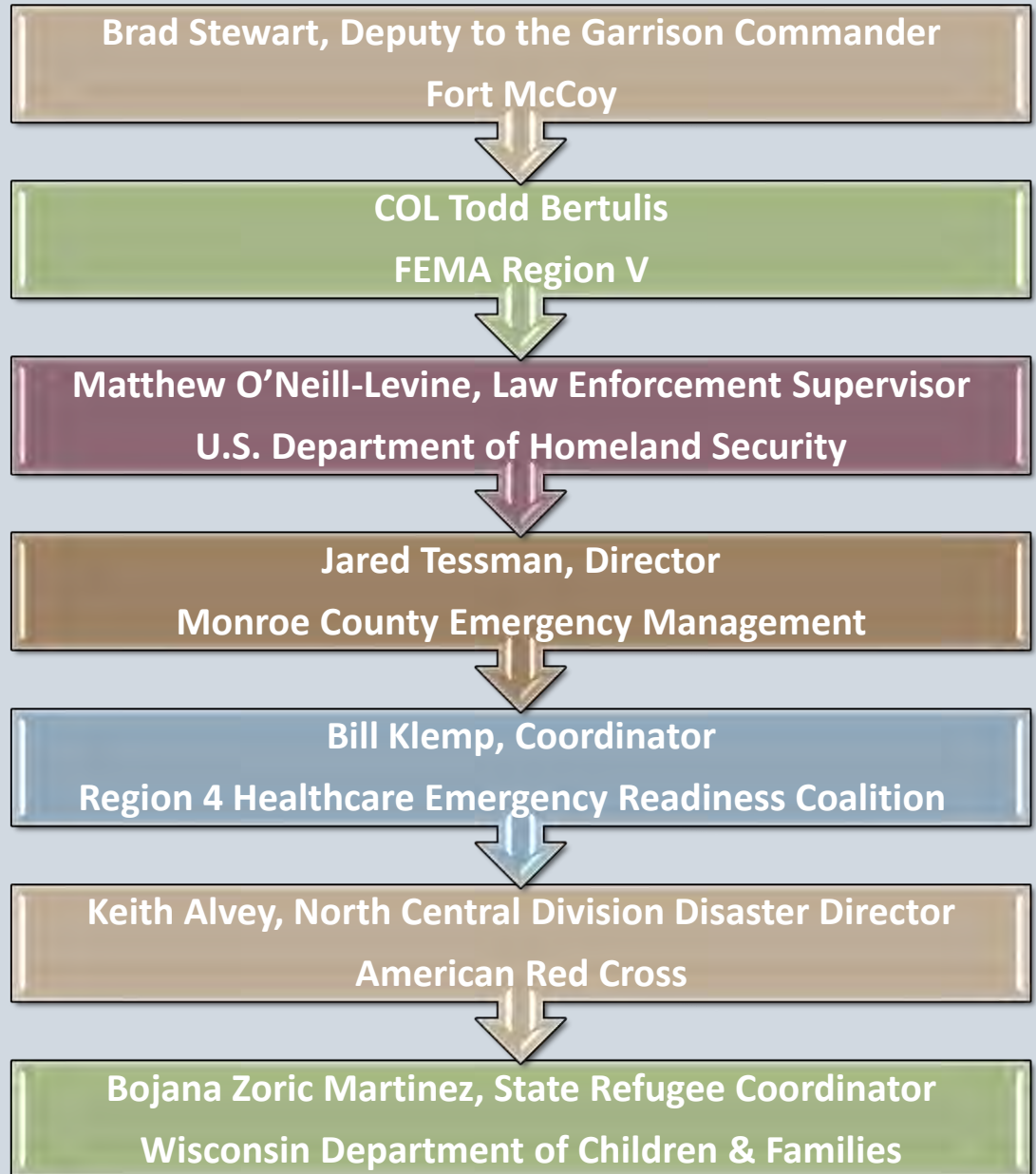
OPERATION ALLIES WELCOME



August 16, 2021

Airport at Kabul, Afghanistan

Speakers





Brad Stewart

Deputy to the
Garrison
Commander
Fort McCoy

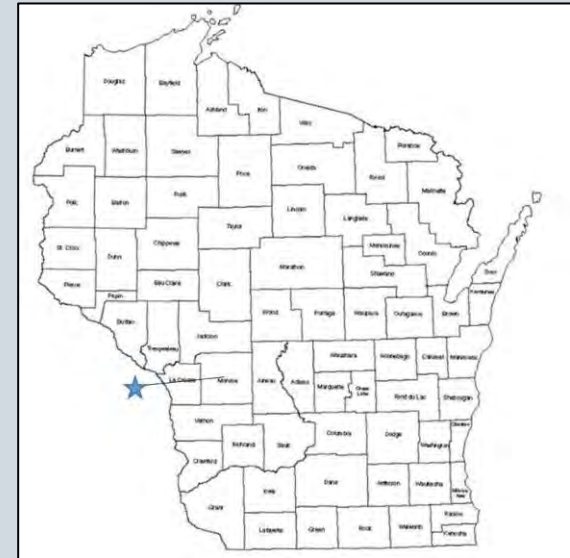
Fort McCoy

Background

- Fort McCoy (FMWI) only Federal Army installation in WI
- 60,000 acres (46,000 maneuver acres)
- Support all military branches as well as federal agencies, state, regional, county & beyond
- Economic impact: \$1.5 billion FY20

Mission

- Total Force Training Installation
 - Support Active and Reserve training
 - Transient training
 - Institutional training
 - Mobilization
 - Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) supports national defense strategy
 - MFGI ability allows FMWI to quickly & efficiently respond to Secretary of Defense's directive to temporarily house, sustain & support Afghan evacuees



Fort McCoy

Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)

- 1980 Mariel boatlift
 - Temporary processing center May-November for 14,000 Cuban refugees
- Designated a Base Support Installation (BSI) / Federal Staging Area (FSA)

Why Fort McCoy?

- Ability and capacity
- Quick response with infrastructure; simultaneously support training readiness and OAW mission



Supporting Resettlement Operations



Mission Complete





COL Todd Bertulis

Defense
Coordinating Officer
FEMA Region V



Matthew O'Neill-Levine

DHS Law Enforcement Liaison
Officer
and
Acting Deputy Federal
Coordinator

Operation Allies Welcome

Overview for Community Members

March 9, 2022 – Wisconsin Governor's Conference on
Emergency Management & Homeland Security



What is OAW?

- Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) is a historic whole-of-society effort to resettle our Afghan allies – a majority of whom worked on behalf of the United States or were family members of those who did – in communities across our country.
- This Operation is made possible by partnerships across numerous federal agencies; state and local governments; non-profit organizations, including faith-based and veterans' groups; the private sector; and local communities.
- With the support of these partners, more than 84,500 Afghan allies have arrived in the U.S., and of those, more than 76,000 Afghan allies have joined new communities across the country.
- As of February 19, all Afghan allies who have arrived through OAW have joined new communities across the country.

Who are our Afghan Allies?

- A majority of Afghans evacuated are eligible to apply for the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program because they took significant risks to support our military and civilian personnel in Afghanistan, were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government in Afghanistan or our coalition forces, or are a family member of someone who did.
- Many other evacuees are family members of American citizens or lawful permanent residents.
- Other evacuees include women leaders, human rights activists, humanitarian workers, journalists, or others who had careers that put them at risk.

Life at a safe haven











Additional Resources

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Operation Allies Welcome

- <https://www.dhs.gov/allieswelcome>

▪ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

- <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghans>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement

- [acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/afghan-assistance-resources](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/afghan-assistance-resources)

How you can help...

For volunteer opportunities through Team Rubicon:

- <https://teamrubiconusa.org/resettlement>

U.S. Department of State Resettlement Resources

- <https://www.wrapsnet.org/afghans-granted-humanitarian-parole/>

National Refuge Agency Contacts

- <https://www.wrapsnet.org/documents/FY%202021%20RP%20Contact%20List%20for%20Distribution.doc>



Jared Tessman

Emergency
Management
Coordinator

Monroe County



Monroe County Public Health

- Coordinated with local health departments and clinics to acquire 250 doses of MMR vaccine to cover vaccine administration to Afghan guests exposed to measles case.
- Provided needed needles and syringes for vaccine administration.
- Worked with State and Local providers to acquire specimen collection supplies and testing for communicable diseases of concern until supply chain and lab capacity was established.
- Coordinated and connected Ft. McCoy with pharmacies to acquire IVIG and IMIG for those exposed to measles and varicella that could not be vaccinated.
- Worked with State to establish treatment for TB cases and acquired medications through the State TB dispensary.



Monroe County Public Health (continued)

- Provided scales for use in the Pediatric clinic.
- Provided car seats and cribs if needed before discharge from the hospital.
- Provided MMR and Hep A vaccine to contracted staff post exposure.
- Participated in calls with HCP, State and Federal partners to coordinate support for OAW.



Monroe County Child Support

- Starting 10/25/21, the Monroe County Child Support Agency started receiving referrals on some of the babies born to the Afghan Guests at Fort McCoy
- The referrals were received as the children were signed up for Badgercare benefits. Information that was entered was not complete so that resulted in a case being opened for child support to either establish paternity or a support obligation.
- Monroe County ended up getting a total of 27 cases
- None of the cases should have been referred to the Child Support Agency as all of the babies were marital children born to an intact family (mom and dad together).
- It took Child Support from 10/27/21 to 1/19/22, to get the information which allowed us to close all of the files.



Monroe County Human Services

- Child Protective Services- 7 Abuse and Neglect reports—Developed MOU with Ft. McCoy concerning CPS reports and follow-up
- Youth Justice Services—3 reports
- Provide Behavioral Health Crisis Services and follow-up for 2 Chapter 51 Detention situations

Monroe County Sheriff and Emergency Management

- Rumor Control
 - Local/National
- Jurisdiction issues
 - SWAT/Crowd Control
 - Exclusive Federal
- Top-down resource requests





Local Economy

- Loss of Room Tax due to no federal tax on hotel rooms
 - Impact to direct operating expenses
- Increase in restaurant and other local revenue
- Not just Monroe County



Monroe County Communications Center

- Received between 50-100, 911 calls from Ft. McCoy almost everyday
- Most calls were hang ups once dispatch called
- Some calls were real emergencies
- The calls that were real emergencies were problematic due to the language barrier
- Dispatchers downloaded apps on cell phones to translate



Monroe County Landfill

Loss of Total Air Space

- 7113.00 y3
- 150+ loads of mattress pads and pillows (10,000+)

Loss of Airspace Revenue

- \$101,173
- Due to items not compacting

The additional air space, used added into the already tight window would put the landfill at about 2 months of time lost. This might end up making the landfill full before they can get the expansion built.



Loren (Bill) Klemp

Coordinator

Healthcare Emergency
Readiness Coalition,
Region 4

How Health Care Was Set Up For Guests On & Off Post

Task Force Med – Medical Screening of Guests on Post

Kellogg/Brown/Root (KBR) – Medical Care for Guests on Post

Bell Ambulance – EMS Support on/off Post

Coordination with Hospitals

- 5 Hospitals Initially, 9 in the end

Activate HCC EOC (WWIROC)

Establish Battle Rhythm

Press the Issues When Needed

Open Dialogue between Everyone

Western Wisconsin Healthcare



Emergency Readiness Coalition

Initial Challenges

Guests had no routine vaccinations, COVID vaccinations, or medical records/SSN's

Correct Names and Birth Dates were not known, Language barrier

Not enough Interpreters

Contracts with Insurance Underwriter prior seeing patients

Number of Guests Coming To FMC

- 33,000, 15,000, 10,000 (13,200)

Number of Pregnancies

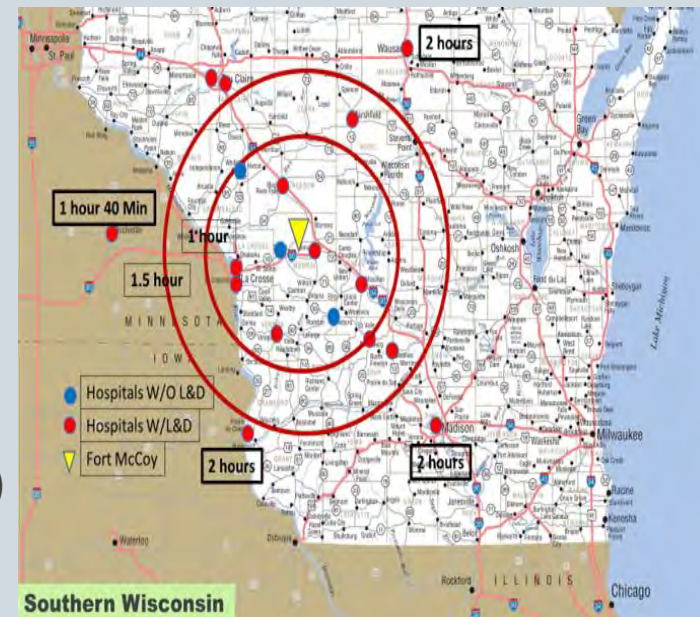
- Initial Report of 400+

Alerting Hospitals of Incoming Patients

Language & Customs

- 3 (Main) Dialects: Pashto, Dari, Uzbek

High Hospital Patient Census (Throughout the mission)



Successes: Pre-Planning/Response

Provided TF MED & KBR Clinic regional capabilities and overlay products to assist with decision making

Coordination Calls 3 Days A Week:

- POC's for DoS, Point Comfort, DHS/HLS, CDC, KBR Clinic, TF MED, All Hospitals supporting FMC, WI DHS, County PH, Bell Amb., WHA, HCC MA, Office of Refugee Resettlement

Regular Site Visits to FMC by Multiple Supporting Agencies; HCC, County PH, WI DHS

eICS for Action Items & SA; Resource Requests

Face-To-Face Meeting with TF MED

Providing resources and support to the Guests, TF MED and support staff on post

HERC Region 4 was heavily involved



Keith Alvey

Division Disaster Executive

American Red Cross



ARC Call to Action

- The American Red Cross was requested by DOD to provide support to temporarily care for evacuees being sheltered at military sites in the US. The Red Cross also welcomed refugees and provided support at Dulles and Philadelphia airports.
- Red Cross volunteers and our partners addressed basic human needs following a difficult journey from Afghanistan, providing comfort and supplies including hygiene kits, blankets, baby care items, emotional and spiritual support and other necessities. They also helped with the provision of items like prescription medications, eyeglasses, and critical medical equipment, like canes and wheelchairs, which were left behind in the rush to evacuate.
- The Red Cross Role varied by location



Where We Worked

CONUS (Continental US)

- Ft. Bliss (Texas)
- Ft. McCoy (Wisconsin)
- Holloman AFB (New Mexico)
- Camp Atterbury (Indiana)
- Ft. Pickett (Virginia)
- Marine Corps Base Quantico (Virginia)
- Dulles Airport (Virginia)
- Ft. Dix (New Jersey)

OCONUS (Outside Continental US)

- Manama, Bahrain
- Camp Buehring, Kuwait
- Ramstein, Germany
- Sigonella, Italy
- Rota, Spain



Partners

- Team Rubicon
- Veterans Groups
- The USO
- The Veterans Administration
- United Way
- Catholic Charities
- Islamic Relief
- Goodwill Industries
- Local Communities



Challenges

- Diaper and Formula
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Language
- Culture
- Housing for Volunteers/Staff
- Resource Scarcity
- In-Kind Donations Management
- Clothing
- Weather/climate
- Defining Roles
- Access to Secure Areas/Credentialing



Infant and Child Care:
1,491,037 Items
(ie: diapers, formula)



Hygiene and Blankets:
97,934 Items
(ie: shampoo, toothpaste)



PPE and Medical:
13,499 Items
(ie: masks, wheelchairs)



Disaster Workers:
163 workers for **25,050** hours
(staff and volunteers)



Food and Water:
28,328 Items
(ie: snacks, water bottles)



Clothing:
10,244 Items
(ie: shirts, shoes)



Miscellaneous:
10,284 Items
(ie: Korans, phone chargers)



Baby Bottles	1488
Diapers	487,492
Formula, Bottles	40,582
Formula, Cans	5411
Infant Kits	61
Pacifiers	145
Pedialyte	914
Baby Wipes	959,400
Pack & Plays	681
Strollers	250
Car Seats	24



Blankets	26,000
Comfort Kits	28,320
Clothing	6,602
Shoes	3,324
Socks	318
Feminine Pads	14,742
Detergent	18,428
Clean Up Kits	200
Phone Chargers	284
Ponchos	10,000



Wheelchairs	34
Ped. Wheelchairs	12
Surgical Masks	7700
N-95 Masks	5600
Medical Gowns	150



Volunteers	163
Volunteer Hours	25,050+





Takeaways

- Develop Routines – Play is essential
- Prepare for more than you need
- Kindness is a universal language

The American Red Cross Current Activities

- Continue to work in communities as part of resettlement groups to ensure smooth transition of Afghan families across the country
- Created Resources for life in the US:
 - **Preparedness Resources Available for Afghan Families.** Preparedness resources in Dari and Pashto for Afghan families who recently evacuated to the United States

Be Red Cross Ready

Prepare to you can protect.

Version 1, Published January 1, 2022, English, Color

Preparedness Essentials

Disasters disrupt our lives. Some disasters, like floods and home fires, can occur anywhere. Other disasters, like wildfires and hurricanes, are more common in certain areas. Climate change is causing more frequent and extreme weather events. This increases our risk of death, injury, property loss, and disruption. But we can take action to prepare. Prepare now to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your home.

Be Prepared

- Know what hazards, like tornadoes or floods, are likely to happen in your community.
- Have plans in place so that you and your loved ones know how to respond.
- Have a way to monitor emergency conditions in your area.
- Have emergency supplies, like food, water and medicine, so that you can meet your basic needs.

Understand Your Risks

Some hazards, such as floods and home fires, can happen anywhere. Others, including earthquakes and hurricanes, are more common in certain areas. Reach out to your state or local office of emergency management agency to learn more about your local risks.

Plan to Stay Connected

- In a disaster, it is important to stay connected and informed.
- Sign up for free emergency alerts from your local government.
- Have a backup battery or a way to charge your cell phone.
- Have a battery-powered radio.
- Plan to monitor weather conditions near you.

Learn Emergency Skills

- Prepare now so that you have critical skills and can meet your basic needs.
- Learn first aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power, gas and water. Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power.

Gather Emergency Supplies

- Organize supplies into a Go-kit and a stay-at-home kit.
- Go-kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-home kit: at least two weeks of supplies. Medication and pharmaceuticals might be needed.
- Have a 2-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.

Gather Emergency Supplies

- Keep personal, financial, and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up).
 - Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.
 - Customize your kits to meet your household's needs and the season.
- Basic supplies include:
- Water: 1 gallon per person, per day
 - Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items
 - Can opener

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Home Fire Safety Checklist

SOUND THE ALARM
Save a Life

Cooking Safety

- "Keep an eye on what you fry." Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or using an open flame.

Fireplaces, Space Heaters, Baseboards, etc.

- "3 feet from the heat." Furniture, curtains, dish towels and anything that could catch fire are at least 3 feet from any type of heat source.

Smoking Safety

- Never smoke in bed.

Electrical and Appliance Safety

- Large and small appliances are plugged directly into wall outlets.

Children Playing

- Matches and lighters are locked away.

Smoke Alarms

- Make sure you have working smoke alarms. Different types of smoke alarms, ionization and photoelectric, detect fire in different ways. Experts recommend having both types in your home.
- Change smoke alarm batteries every year unless it has a long-life battery.
- Replace smoke alarms every ten years.
- A combination of working smoke alarms and fire sprinklers decreases the risk of dying in a home fire.

Home Fire Escape Plan

At least twice a year, use your home fire escape plan to practice your 2-minute drill with all family members. Practice makes perfect! Each fire drill, mark down your escape time. Practice your 2-minute drill.

Make sure everyone can escape in 2 minutes

Drill 1

Drill 2

Sources: Vision 20/20, NFPA, USFA
197601-16 1/19

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Home Fire Escape Plan

SOUND THE ALARM
Save a Life

Use the graph to draw your home's floor plan and plot your home fire escape routes.

Tips for creating your home fire escape plan and practicing your 2-minute drill:

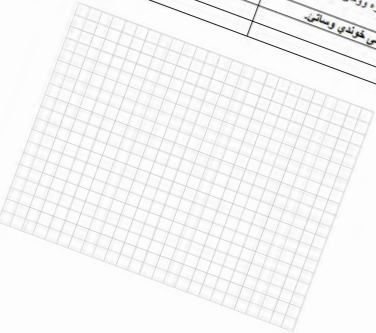
- Everyone in your household should know two ways to escape from each room in your home.
- Smoke is dangerous. Get low and go!
- Decide where to meet once you get outside:

- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets or things.
- If a fire starts, you may have less than two minutes to get to safety. So time your fire drills and find out what your escape time is.

If a fire starts in your home, get out to safety, then dial 911.

You can keep your family safe with 2 simple steps.

- Practice your 2-minute drill.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly.



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په کورگی د اور لیکیدو نه د تښتې پلان

اړوم و غږوئ
ژوند و ژغورئ

د خپل کور د پور پلان رسموئ او اړوم و غږوئ.
اور نه د تښتې لارې رسموئ او غږوئ.

د خپل کور د اور نه د تښتې پلان جوړولو لاره اړوموئ او د خپل کور د اور نه د تښتې پلان جوړولو لاره اړوموئ.

- ستاسې کورګی هرڅوک باید ستاسې په کور کې د هرې خونې څخه د تښتې لاره یوه لارې پېژنئ.
- لوګی خطرناک دی. ښکته شئ او خړیا.
- پرېکړه وکړئ چې څه بهر شئ نو چېرته سره یوځای شئ.

- بهر ته ورځئ او نور اوسې، بېرته هېڅکله هم د ځلکو، ژړیدو یا شیانو لپاره مه ورځئ.
- که چېرې اور ولګي، نو تاسې د خونديتوب لپاره مسکن د نوموړې لارې نه کم وخت واری. نو د خپل تمرین وخت قید کړئ او معلوم کړئ: تاسې څومره وخت کې تښتئ؟

که ستاسې کور کې اور ولګي، د ځان خونديتوب لپاره وروځئ بیا 911 ته تېلپون وکړئ.

تاسې کولی شئ د 2 ساده لسمولو سره خپله کورنۍ خوندي وساتئ، خپل د اور اړومونه په مېشتیا کې پور اړوموئ.



Bojana Zorić Martinez

Wisconsin State Refugee
Coordinator

Department of Children
and Families

Bureau of Refugee Programs



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

The Bureau of Refugee Programs (BRP), housed in the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, receives grants from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and funds local statewide organizations to provide critical services to refugees.

BRP ensures provision and coordination of services that help refugees achieve economic self-sufficiency and social adjustment upon their arrival to the U.S. In addition, BRP collaborates with local organizations to provide services to refugees in various areas of the state of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Refugee Resettlement Agencies (RAs)

LOCAL RA AFFILIATE

- ❖ International Institute of Wisconsin
- ❖ Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan
- ❖ World Relief Fox Valley
- ❖ Jewish Social Services
- ❖ Multicultural Community Center
- ❖ Catholic Charities of Green Bay

PARENT RA (NATIONAL ORG)

- ❖ U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
- ❖ Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)
- ❖ World Relief
- ❖ Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
- ❖ Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)
- ❖ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

OAW

Role of the State Refugee Coordinator:

- Federal, national and local POC
- Local partner donation coordination
- Complex medical cases
- Resettlement

After Taliban took over Afghanistan and the US Government engaged in the rescue mission of Afghan Allies, the Department of Defense provided temporary housing facilities for SIV applicants and other vulnerable Afghans at eight installations also known as Safe Havens:

- ❖ Camp Atterbury, Indiana
- ❖ Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey
- ❖ Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico
- ❖ Fort Bliss, Texas
- ❖ Fort Pickett, Virginia
- ❖ Fort Lee, Virginia
- ❖ Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia
- ❖ **Fort McCoy, Wisconsin**

While in Safe Havens, Afghans had access to a range of services, including medical care and mental health services. During this step in the process, Afghan nationals were able to apply for work authorization with USCIS personnel and are connected to resettlement services.

Afghan Placement and Assistance Program

Resettlement and integration

Through APA, Afghan nationals are placed in communities across the country to begin rebuilding their lives. APA is administered by local RAs.

Alternative resettlement models:

- Community partnerships
- Sponsorship circles
- Institutional partnerships
(Samaritan's Purse, Islamic Relief,
Lions Club International)

Learn about DCF Bureau of Refugee Programs

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/refugee>

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Questions?

