

AFGHAN RELIEF AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE EFFORTS

Fremont is home to one of the largest Afghan communities in the United States, and we support and stand by the Afghan community. We have compiled a list of resources to assist with visa information and legal services, how to contact your local congressman, foster care, benefits, and information on donating and volunteering in the refugee relief efforts.

IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE

Immigration attorneys may be able to assist with applying for the following visas and special programs:

Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)

Afghan nationals who worked directly for the U.S., or with the U.S. and/or its allies either as an interpreter or contractor for a minimum of one year, between October 7, 2001, and December 31, 2023, are eligible to apply for a [Special Immigrant Visa](#). Link to information on the SIV: <https://qrco.de/SIVinfo>



Priority 2 (P-2) Visas:

These are visas available for the following people:

- Afghans who do not meet the minimum time-in-service for a SIV but who work or worked as employees of contractors, locally-employed staff, interpreters/translators for the U.S. Government, United States Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A), International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), or Resolute Support;
- 1. Afghans who work or worked for a U.S. government-funded program or project in Afghanistan supported through a U.S. government grant or cooperative agreement;

- Afghans who are or were employed in Afghanistan by a U.S.-based media organization or non-governmental organization.

For more information about P-2 Visas, visit the U.S. State Department website at <https://qrco.de/p2visa>.



Humanitarian Parole:

For people who are not eligible for SIVs or for any other kind of visa, the United States does have an exceptional program called Humanitarian Parole. Humanitarian Parole is a temporary discretionary authorization to enter the United States that can be granted based on humanitarian or significant public benefit reasons. It requires both a financial sponsor in the U.S. and evidence of exceptional humanitarian need. The International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) has a guide explaining the basics of this process available here: <https://qrco.de/huparole>

Contact the California Department of Social Services Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB) when assisting Humanitarian Parolees. <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/afghan-arrival-response>

Refugee Programs Bureau
PO Box 944243, MS 9-6-646
Sacramento, CA 94244-2430
(916) 654-4356
RPB@dss.ca.gov



For free legal assistance for Afghans, please contact the organizations below:

- 1) Pars Equality Center: Matches Afghans in need to volunteers for immigration legal assistance, provides immigration legal services at their two Pars center, and holds a monthly pro bono clinic in Fremont, California at Afghan Coalition along with a myriad of pro bono legal events/clinics.

Please complete the Afghan Support intake form if you need help for an Afghan National that is **not** in the United States:

<https://parsequalitycenter.org/what-we-do/legal-services/afghan-support/>

For Afghan Nationals that are in the United States that have an immigration legal service need please email: afghansupport@parsequalitycenter.org

Visit our Afghan Support Project Resources page here for legal resources for Afghans (including a video on how to file humanitarian parole):

<https://parsequalitycenter.org/afghan-support-project/>

Pars Events are listed here: <https://parsequalitycenter.org/events/>



- 2) International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) - For inquiries from people who are overseas and outside Afghanistan: <https://qrco.de/irap>



- 3) Jubilee Immigration: Please call 415-813-1958. Limited capacity for SIV Visas, may be able to assist with Humanitarian Parole. Jubilee serves clients at or below the 250% Federal Poverty Level. Website: <https://jubileelegal.org/>



- 4) Immigration Institute of the Bay Area: <https://iibayarea.org/offices/fremont/>.
Fremont office phone number: 510-894-3639 and email: fremont@iibayarea.org.

FREMONT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Senator Padilla's offices:

San Francisco
Phone: (415) 981-9369

Downtown Los Angeles
Phone: (310) 231-4494

E-mail: afg-evac@padilla.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla's Office has set up a [dedicated webpage](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/afghanistan-evacuation-resources/) for resources and information for people looking to help someone get out of Afghanistan:
<https://www.padilla.senate.gov/afghanistan-evacuation-resources/>

To advocate for an immediate family member still currently in Afghanistan wishing to leave, please complete Senator Padilla's Afghan Evacuation Form. Please provide as much information as you can in order to identify family member(s)/individuals in Afghanistan that require evacuation support. Link to form:
<https://www.padilla.senate.gov/afghan-evacuation-form/>.



Congressman Eric Swalwell's 15th District Office

Phone: (510) 370-3322

E-mail: Ca15afghancases@mail.house.gov

If you have already filled out a Visa application, questions to follow up on an application status can be asked at this address: Ca15afghancases@mail.house.gov

Website: <https://swalwell.house.gov/resources>

To advocate for an immediate family member still currently in Afghanistan wishing to leave, please fill out [Rep. Swalwell-Afghan Assistance Request](#) form. Filling out this



form does not guarantee evacuation. If you already have completed this form, please do not do so again – Rep. Swalwell’s office will contact you if they receive any updates.

Link to form: <https://qrco.de/repswalwellform>



Congressman Ro Khanna’s 17th District Office:

Phone: (408) 436-2720

Website: <https://khanna.house.gov/services/help-with-a-federal-agency>

BENEFITS

Please contact the following agencies to assist Afghan refugees to sign up for public benefits:

- 1) Tiburcio Vasquez Union City Health Center
(510) 471-5907
<https://tvhc.org/>

- 2) Alameda County Social Services Agency Refugee Cash Assistance Program
<https://www.alamedacountysocialservices.org/our-services/Immigrants-and-Refugees/RCA>

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES INFORMATION

The East Bay has two refugee resettlement agencies -- Jewish Family and Community Services East Bay (JFCS EB) and International Rescue Committee Oakland (IRC Oakland). These agencies are contracted with the federal government to supply resettlement services to newcomers for the first initial 90 days after arrival.

Resettlement services include airport pick-up, securing temporary initial 90-day housing, making sure first meals are covered, providing orientation to newcomers, setting up



Social Security, enrolling in public benefits such as Medi-Cal and food stamps, setting up required medical appts, and ongoing case management.

International Rescue Committee: <https://www.rescue.org/country/afghanistan>

Jewish Family and Community Services East Bay: <https://jfcs-eastbay.org/urgent-afghan-evacuation/>

Volunteer:

If you are looking for opportunities to volunteer to assist with the resettlement effort:

JCFS East Bay Volunteers

Volunteers can assist case managers with tasks such as airport pickups, signing up refugees for their social services benefits, helping register children for school, providing ESL language support, and other related needs.

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3mGaFSC>

IRC Oakland Volunteers

For volunteer opportunities & donations, contact Cameron Siceloff, Volunteer & Donations Coordinator at Cameron.Siceloff@rescue.org.

Housing

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Oakland and the Burma Refugee Family Network (BRFN) are leading a Housing response team to identify and place newly arrived refugees in initial 90-day housing. Please contact them if you have rooms or housing available to house newly arrived refugees.

IRC Oakland: For housing inquiries in support of Afghan refugees contact Kit Stebbins, Resettlement Coordinator at Kit.Stebbins@rescue.org

Burma Refugee Family Network: For housing inquiries in support of Afghan refugees contact Jodi de La Pena, jodid@brfn.org , 510-519-7391.

East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum listserv

To receive more information about resettlement efforts, please subscribe to the East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum listserv by e-mailing East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum Coordinator, Sean Kirkpatrick, at sean.kirkpatrick2008@gmail.com.



FOSTER CARE:

The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement is the lead agency coordinating the care and placement of unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan. Inquiries regarding these youth may be e-mailed to UCProgram@acf.hhs.gov.

DONATE LOCALLY

For community members looking to donate locally, the following groups are collecting donations to assist refugees that are expected to arrive our area.

- [Fremont's Afghan Refugee Help Fund](#) will work with local Afghan partner organizations and refugee resettlement agencies to determine the priorities and needs of those new arrivals to our country. Funds will be used for housing, food, clothing, and other items or services to assist refugees expected to arrive in our area. Donate here: <https://www.fremont.gov/ARhelp>.
- The [International Rescue Committee of Northern California](#) (IRC) helps refugees who have been granted sanctuary in the Bay Area become self-sufficient. Contact Cameron Siceloff, Volunteer & Donations Coordinator at Cameron.Siceloff@rescue.org for furniture donations. Donate here: <https://bit.ly/3t3jya2>
- [Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay](#) (JFCS) has a Refugee Services team that welcomes new refugees in the East Bay and helps them with resources. Donate here: <https://jfcs-eastbay.org/urgent-afghan-evacuation/>

Please donate to the Amazon wish list that both JFCS East Bay and IRC have created for what the resettlement agencies need for families arriving soon:

International Rescue Committee:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/35QCULLGHCCCLK?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR3f0gfEGhCRbllK5NCPmbIJ5MFqMplATZGEEj5VtqWWvYNhxZgADXKISSE

Jewish Family and Community Services East Bay:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1CW3QPCLGZMBC/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist&pldnSite=1



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, SOCIAL SUPPORT, AND ADJUSTING TO THE U.S.

Please contact the following agencies to assist Afghan refugees as they adjust to living in the United States and as they seek to become independent and self-sufficient.

Mental Health/Counseling Services:

- 1) The **Afghan Coalition** offers counseling from a cultural perspective. Contact Dr. Masoud Ghafour, mental health specialist and prevention counselor, at masoud@afghancoalition.org. Dr. Ghafour speaks English, Dari/Farsi, and understands Pashto.

- 2) **City of Fremont Human Services Department, Aging and Family Services**

The City of Fremont Human Services Department, Aging and Family Services offers counseling and emotional support for elders. They have staff who speak Dari, Farsi and are also of Afghan descent. Please call the Senior Infoline at 510-574-2041 to be referred to one of these staff members.

<https://www.fremont.gov/219/Counseling-and-Emotional-Support>

- 3) **Hume Center**

39420 Liberty Street, Suite 252
Fremont CA 94538
(510) 745-9151

The Hume Center provides mental health outreach and prevention services for the Afghan Community and linkage to other resources within the Afghan community. The center does not have an Afghan provider but does have an Iranian outreach worker who can speak Farsi (Dari).

Contact: Preet Kaur Sabharwal, PsyD, at psabharwal@humecenter.org. She is the Community Program Manager—South Asian Community Health Promotion Services Program

- 4) **Multi-lingual Counseling Center**

39675 Cedar Blvd.
Newark, CA 94560
(510) 451-0661

The Multi-lingual Counseling Center offers services in Farsi (Dari).



- 5) The **Muslim American Society Social Services Foundation (MAS-SSF)** offers peer mental health and social support services in five languages: English, Dari/Farsi, Pashto, Arabic, and Urdu.

Support Services in-person, on the phone, and over the internet include:

- A completely confidential and HIPAA-compliant peer mental health service that gives you the ability to interact with a dedicated peer specialist from virtually anywhere.
- Call **916 486-8626**, Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm
- Email MAS-SSF at counseling@mas-ssf.org

Social Support and Adjusting to Living in the U.S.:

- 1) The **Afghan Coalition**

39155 Liberty Street D-460 Fremont, CA, 94538

(510) 745-1680

Email: afghanwellness@afghancoalition.org

Services include counseling/mental health support, translation services, domestic violence education and prevention, social support and home visits for isolated individuals, youth tutoring, English literacy classes, Zoom platform training, small business (microenterprise) training, job hunting support, community events and connections, and providing clothes, home appliances, and school supplies.

Afghan Health Leadership Consortium and Email List

If you are a provider who would like to join quarterly trainings on providing culturally sensitive care to Afghans and other refugee groups, please join the Afghan Health Leadership Consortium email list and meetings. Contact the Facilitator, Dr. Valerie Smith, at valeriejs2@gmail.com.

- 2) **Afghan Elderly Association**

3300 Capitol Ave, Building B, Fremont, CA 94538

(510) 574-2059 or (510) 574-2075

<https://www.afghanelderlyassociation.org/index.html>

Services include a weekly healthy aging program, a health promotion program, and community linkages to an array of government and social support services.

- 3) **East Bay Agency for Children – Fremont Healthy Start/Welcome Center**



Fremont Healthy Start/Welcome Center provides the following services: application assistance for Medi-Cal, food stamps, CalWorks, Social Security, in-home Support Services, etc., case management, emergency food and clothing, information and referrals for child support, childcare, housing, mental health services, etc., assistance with school enrollment, translation and interpretation services.

Welcome Center

39155 Liberty Street, Building ABCD lobby

Open 8:00-4:30, Monday-Friday

(510) 574-2141

For Pashto, contact 510-410-3421

For Farsi, contact 510-410-4272

<https://www.ebac.org/services/family-fremont.asp>

MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES

1) Bay Area Community Health

40910 Fremont Blvd.

Fremont, CA 94538

(510) 770-8040

<https://bach.health/>

2) Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center

(510) 471-5880

<https://tvhc.org/>

Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center is a clinic that provides primary care for people of all ages and various health services to all immigrants including Afghan families from Union City to San Leandro. Please check the website for the various locations.

Services include health coverage, Cal Fresh, vaccinations, primary care services, mental health services, dental care services, OBGYN, etc. The center provides free Health Promotores training in English, and newcomers are encouraged to attend since it will help them to know resources available in the community.

For more information, please contact Carolina Arroyo-Solveson at carolinasolveson@tvhc.org or (510) 219-5255.

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE



1) Upwardly Global

Upwardly Global helps internationally trained immigrant and refugee professionals to restart their careers in the United States. They have helped more than 7,500 immigrants and refugees find full-time, professional work in their fields. Afghan evacuees whose status is pending processing can benefit their job search training while they wait—please review the [eligibility checklist](#) and then complete the [online intake form](#).

Link to eligibility checklist: <https://qrco.de/upwardchecklist>



Link to online intake form: <https://www.upwardlyglobal.org/programs/application-apply-now/>

