

Afghan Resettlement Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SPONSOR TO AN AFGHAN FAMILY?

Sponsorship is a unique ministry opportunity to show the love of Christ in practical ways to an Afghan family. Sponsors must commit to welcoming and walking alongside these new neighbors for a minimum of 90 days during a time of major transition in their lives. The church sponsor must create a plan to actively support the integration of the family into the local community. This plan should include:

- Securing safe and affordable housing.
- Providing basic necessities, including furniture, hygiene items, and household items.
- Providing income support for the first 90 days.
- Connecting the family to legal assistance for immigration purposes.
- Supporting the family in accessing government benefits such as food and medical assistance.
- Providing cultural and community orientation
- Providing English language support.
- Helping to enroll the children in school.
- Providing job search advice and support.

IS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE?

The U.S. Government will provide a one-time cash payment of \$2,275 per person to be used to help an Afghan family settle into their new community.

ARE THESE AFGHAN FAMILIES LEGALLY IN THE UNITED STATES?

The families are currently residing at military bases within the United States where they have been screened and have begun receiving basic services.

DO THEY SPEAK ENGLISH?

Each family is unique. In some instances, one or more members of the family may speak some English. However, it is important to be prepared to welcome a family that does not speak English. You will need to identify local resources in your community to assist with communicating with the family in a way they will understand.

CAN MY CHURCH SPONSOR MULTIPLE FAMILIES?

Yes! Your church can sponsor multiple families. A benefit of this is that Afghan families will not only have the support of your church, but also of fellow Afghans who are experiencing the same transition.

ARE AFGHAN REFUGEES ELIGIBLE TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES?

Yes! Prior to leaving the military bases, Afghan newcomers will be assisted in applying for the Employment Authorization Document (EAD), which authorizes them to work in the United States. As a sponsor, you can support them in finding a job.