



**WORKFORCE
SERVICES**
REFUGEE SERVICES

Salt Lake Salt Lake County Council

Update on Afghan Arrivals to Utah

October 5, 2021

What We Know

- As of September 24, 55,000 Afghans have been evacuated to U.S. military bases. These are people who worked closely with the U.S. military, NGOs and media, as well as their close family members.
 - An additional 15,000 evacuees are currently at U.S. military bases overseas en route to the U.S.
- Utah expects to resettle 765 Afghans, the majority of whom are humanitarian parolees. These are people who do not have a Special Immigrant Visa, but were granted humanitarian parole into the U.S. due to their vulnerabilities. They will be eligible to work and to apply for asylum (currently a two-year process), but will not be fast tracked for Green Cards.
 - These Afghan arrivals are in addition to the 1,200 refugees that will be coming to Utah from around the world during the coming year.

What Happens Next

- By October 1, 10,000 evacuees will have completed all medical requirements for their humanitarian parole status at the military bases, including a measles vaccine, and will be eligible for connection to resettlement.
- By October 15, everybody on bases will be medically cleared and will be eligible for resettlement; this is when we can be expected to see arrivals.
- A continuing resolution was passed by Congress and signed by the President on October 1, including funding to grant humanitarian parolees refugee benefits. They will be eligible for refugee benefits to cover basic needs, medical, food and housing for several months.

How to Help

- We are grateful for the support of Governor Spencer J. Cox and the generous outpouring from community members interested in helping. The Governor directed his Refugee Advisory Board to create working groups to address community, housing and basic needs for Afghan arrivals.
- To assist with current needs, including housing, and ongoing refugee resettlement, please support Utah's resettlement agencies:

- **International Rescue Committee (IRC):**
<https://www.rescue.org/announcement/how-help-our-afghan-neighbors-utah>
Contact IRC at saltlakecity@rescue.org or 801-328-1091.
- **Catholic Community Services (CCS):**
<https://ccsutah.org/news/item/262-how-y>
Contact CCS at abatar@ccsutah.org or 801-977-9119.
- The Utah Afghan Community Fund, sponsored by the Zions Bank Foundation, World Trade Center Utah and the Salt Lake Chamber, was created to ensure that Utah is prepared to welcome Afghans to the state and connect them with necessary community resources. The Fund will provide an opportunity for community groups and individuals to contribute monetarily to meet the needs of Afghan resettlement.
- More information is at <https://jobs.utah.gov/refugee>.