
Afghan Evacuee Community Roundtable

December 6, 2022
10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Reminder to not share the location of the housed transitional site.**Guiding Principles:**

1. Uplift the individuals and families coming to Minnesota as the expert of their own needs, and prioritize their concerns.
2. Celebrate the resilience, strength, and expertise of community voices.
3. Actively work against the influences of systemic inequity and elevate the voices of those who have been historically marginalized.
4. Maintain a spirit of joy and fellowship in our work as a tool of healing and transformation.

Urgent Needs:

- This will be the last community roundtable that's convened by State Government.
- Looking back, we've had 65 meetings so far, once a every week. On average, at 45 participants, that's more than 3,000 hours of commitment to come together and invest in coordinating resources of this common goal and that is very inspiring. This call started back in September of 2021 with state and private entities coming together. Resources were changing and there was a need to seek for more ways to share information out. In September also, it has transitioned to the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans since then and before that, former Assistant Commissioner Hajimumin took this over under a different meeting name.
- Looking forward, this meeting will be transitioning to a community lead meeting.
- In the previous meeting, there was a question about people moving in from other places and new arrivals, this will happen in different ways from than the emergency response, and it will be a bit more normalized and a traditional resettlement process.
- MCC – New arrivals will be coming through the regular resettlement ways.
- Welcoming 90 days of services (short time period), housing, furnishing, social security cards, enrolled in school, public assistance programs, connecting with health resources, and cultural orientations.
- Now, people will be coming with a permanent status and not humanitarian parole will not have to go through an asylum process.
- Resettlement now will not have a hotel setup, but now will have housing provided almost as soon as people arrive so they don't have to spend time in the hotel and that extra transition.
- This allows us to do more pre planning and setting up medical appointments for those who need it.
- We are looking at people receiving initial funds but 90% of that goes to housing because our goal is housing stability during the first 90 days and it's a quicker timeline. It's a deficit compared to the emergency resettlement process.
- Employment is prioritized for new arrivals.
- Connecting people to their communities, if there's way to best facilitate this with our clients, we will connect with ACS.

- I can't think of any change to MG enrollment. Families may elect to enroll in MG during their first month in the country. The program is open to those arriving with refugee and SIV status (among others).
- We try to give contacts of local communities that best matches their background and review this with them before we close their case.
- The GovDelivery will also be helpful with this as well.

Community Organization Updates:

WISE

- WISE is looking to partner with Dari and Pashto speakers as we seek to support Afghan girls in our Girls Getting Ahead in Leadership (GGAL) after school program. Please reach out to Zamzam Dini at zamzam@womenofwise.org to discuss this further. <https://www.womenofwise.org/>
- HOME | Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment
- WISE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves immigrant and refugee women and girls in education and leadership development.

ACS

- We have talked to Anjuli about taking over this meeting as a community. Hoping to schedule 10:00am meetings still and have folks come in and bring issues and have it be a different format and less formal. –
- Specific needs will be talked about and open to family who are sponsoring folks, as this is a great way to continue the meeting with a slightly more informal format.
- Topic: Afghan Community Roundtable
- Time: Dec 13, 2022 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
- Every 7 weeks on Tue, until Nov 21, 2023, 8 occurrence(s)
- Dec 13, 2022 10:00 AM
- Jan 31, 2023 10:00 AM
- Mar 21, 2023 10:00 AM
- May 9, 2023 10:00 AM
- Jun 27, 2023 10:00 AM
- Aug 15, 2023 10:00 AM
- Oct 3, 2023 10:00 AM
- Nov 21, 2023 10:00 AM
- Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
- Weekly:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZlucuhrj4tE9JK11cvkPanluf7VOKOL2hi/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGurT4oE9SQtxCBRpwwAA4_4a_PziCVaj_p3t060ADZYUgL4H_dEZYRQO_f8
- Join Zoom Meeting
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86352905796>
- Meeting ID: 863 5290 5796
- One tap mobile
- +13017158592,,86352905796# US (Washington DC)
- +13052241968,,86352905796# US
- Meeting ID: 863 5290 5796
- Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kEXocODAA>
- We are slammed – We are seeing a lot of folks who are being told by the community to lie on their paperwork even after we have told them to not lie.

- Everything is tracked and this information can be pulled up and we don't know how else to share this. We have to find a way to get people to listen to this and take it seriously otherwise it will affect their asylum cases.
- Today is the first day of our tutoring and we have a lot of volunteers. This is only for highschoolers.
- Women's mental health is kicking off this Sunday, there will be lunch and only space for 60 women. Children under age 2 are welcome and girls 16 years or older are welcome. We plan to introduce the program and discuss what the community wants to see happen.

Advocates for Human Rights

- Reiterating false information and can be fraud against the government and will have permanent damages to your asylum interviews and green card and citizen interviews. Years in the future and even when you travel, it can come up at the boarder and can exclude you from entering the country again. This can follow someone for the rest of their lives so it's very important not to lie on your paperwork. –
- Please be honest and transparent on your documents so that way you don't have to try and remember anything in the future. Income is tracked and there's lots of ways the government can know that is related to your social security numbers.
- If someone knows something intentionally, bring it up and try to get it fixed immediately.
- We are continuing to plan into the new year for additional placements for asylum cases.
- Currently have less than 40 cases to place, which is a small amount compared to when we first started.
- If you are unsure if the family you are helping is connected to the best organizations to serve them with legal information, connect with me and I can help you figure that out.

DEED

- Biggest problem in the community is people getting notices to pay back the money that they were given. Those with language barriers and don't understand the rules are coming to us and we are trying to help explain to them that this will hunt them down and they need to know that this is wrong. A lot of them don't even know what they're doing wrong so we have to teach them and educate them. Educate them that they can lose their benefits and lose their housing.
- People who don't have permits are driving when they have a car and that is not okay so talk to the community and talk to them about the consequences if they got into an accident and don't have insurance.

Minneapolis Public Schools

- It's not good if some people are lying on their documents. I have 3 families have this problem and they said they didn't lie but they just don't know how to report it to the county. This means someone who is helping them is telling them to lie because their education level is very low. The families still need a lot of support. Please support families and don't blame them.
- Some families have questions on how to fill out their paperwork and this may cause a delay in submitting their paperwork. We are telling them to please report on their income changes to the county as soon as possible.

SCRS

- The main issue is that they have received many letters from counties, but they don't know how to file. because no case worker has contacted or teach them how to fix and file or report.

Afghan Community of Minnesota

- Misrepresentation happens all over, but new arrivals don't understand how to report it. We will attend meetings every month and we will invite all Afghan people and any organizations who have programs to update and participate. Afghan community will share their needs with us and we will help find solutions for them. Our next meeting is still being worked on.
- In the last meeting, we asked people about their asylum cases and no issues were presented, but we will continue these meetings.
- We have contact information on organizations and we will share our information as well as the agenda.

CAPI

- In January, we are planning a Housing Stability Workshop for clients and it will be open to the broader Afghan community as an educational workshop.
- This meeting will be reporting income for households as well.
- Our subsidies are through ZACAH and we are going through them very quickly so we are working on that this week, otherwise, no major updates.

Alight

- We found a great space for the sewing social's group for 30 women through next year.
- Will continue to promote our events on our WhatsApp group so reach out if you would like to be added to that.