

ECDC's Multicultural Community Center - Brattleboro Resettlement Programs Overview



Presentation to community stakeholders

October 14, 2021

New developments

- ECDC has been approved to resettle Afghan evacuees across its network through the Department of State's new Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) program.
- While still waiting for its FY22 proposal to be approved, ECDC was given authorization to begin resettling refugees in Brattleboro through an FY21 cost extension.
- ECDC's MCC-Brattleboro Director has officially started work.



Two different resettlement programs

1. **Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA)** program – serves individuals who were evacuated from Afghanistan to escape imminent harm after the Taliban takeover and entered the U.S. on humanitarian parole
2. **Reception and Placement (R&P)** program – serves individuals from around the world who have been legally determined to be a refugee and gone through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program process resulting in resettlement to the U.S.





Housing

Transportation



Health care

What services are provided to refugees upon arrival and how can the community help?



Employment

Community connections



Education

Goal = help refugees achieve economic self-sufficiency through employment and linkages to service providers as soon as possible

Reception and Placement Core Services

ECDC is contractually obligated to provide the following, at specific time intervals post-arrival, not exceeding to 30-90 days, and ensure services are documented:

- Decent, safe, and sanitary housing
- A predetermined list of furniture and household items that need to be in good condition and functional
- Food and a food allowance
- Appropriate seasonal clothing
- Appropriate amount of pocket money
- Assistance in applying for cash and medical assistance and social security cards
- Assistance in accessing health screenings and appropriate health services
- Assistance with enrollment in English language programs, employment services, and other services
- Assistance with school enrollment for children
- Learning about transportation in compliance with local motor safe laws
- Transportation to job interviews and job training
- Assistance with filing necessary paperwork, as required
- Cultural orientation (topics include role of RA, public assistance, U.S. laws, culture, safety, etc.)



Differences between the 2 programs

Afghan Placement and Assistance

- Rapid placement as individuals are coming from Safe Havens within the U.S.
- Individuals will need legal assistance to adjust their status and obtain legal permanent residence
- Without a legislative change, individuals are not eligible for federal benefits offered to refugees until their status is adjusted
- Program period = Nov. 1, 21-Sep. 30, 22

Reception & Placement

- Typically 2-3 weeks prior notice before arrival
- Individuals come from around the world
- Enrollment in federal benefits programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, TANF is done in first 30 days
- Offered to Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIV) as well as refugees
- Program period = continuous, but dependent upon annual agreement



What happens next?

October

- Hire additional staff (case manager & co-sponsorship coordinator)
- Organize public education events
- Hold co-sponsorship information sessions
- Formalize and train co-sponsorship groups
- Prepare logistics for first families
- Reach out to community partners to identify and develop areas of partnerships

November-December

- Welcome first families (estimate 10 individuals)
- Hold regular stakeholder meetings to solve problems and prepare to scale up



January-October: scale up resettlement (up to 75

individuals)

Community Support

- In-Kind (Time, volunteering, making your homes available, transportation etc)
- Material support (we will need household items, seasonal and work clothing etc for refugees). Right now we do not have space to keep them so we recommend financial donations.
- Financial support (we need funds for legal support, case management and general office support)
- To donate go to : <https://www.ecdcus.org/> click on get involved, make your donation but make sure to scroll down and click the box **ECDC MCC, Brattleboro.**

It's a BIG job and we can't do it alone!

“To meet the challenges of restoring and expanding USRAP, the United States must innovate, including by effectively employing technology and capitalizing on community and private sponsorship of refugees, while continuing to partner with resettlement agencies for reception and placement.”

-President Biden

in Executive Order to Rebuild and Enhance programs to resettle refugees signed February 2021



Questions??

Thank you for your support!
Together we can make Brattleboro an
inclusive and welcoming community
for newcomers.

Contact us:

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