

Sponsoring an incoming Afghan family is a 1 year financial commitment. The families will receive work permits when they arrive and they will also qualify for many government refugee resettlement benefits. This means that they will mainly need financial assistance for the first couple of months until they are able to get jobs and start supporting themselves, however you will technically be responsible for 1 year of financial support. The families will be eligible for cash assistance, medicaid, employment preparation, job placement, English language training, and other services offered through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Medicaid.

Expectations of sponsors:

- 1) The family will need to be received at the airport and given a place to stay when they first arrive.
- 2) Assistance with navigating government bureaucracy to get signed up for Medicaid, other government benefits, a drivers license, getting their kids enrolled in school etc. They will need transportation to/from these places.
- 3) They will need housing assistance (either in someone's home or in an apartment that the sponsor pays for) until they are able to get jobs and pay their own rent. They will need help furnishing their apartments and with food in the beginning.

Sponsors can be anywhere in the US, though it is best to settle the families in places with existing Afghan communities and job opportunities.

Who can sponsor:

- 1) Any individual or family with the financial means
- 2) A mosque or nonprofit organization
- 3) If the financial burden is too great for one family, they can get together with other families and jointly sponsor one Afghan family.

Helpful Link:

<https://immigrationforum.org/article/explainer-humanitarian-parole-and-the-afghan-evacuation/>
<https://www.chhs.ca.gov/blog/2021/09/03/chhs-departments-support-afghan-arrivals/>

If you are interested in sponsoring a family please contact Fawad Shaiq at fshaiq@gmail.com