

AFGHAN ASSISTANCE RESOURCE LIST

Compiled as of August 23, 2021

- Note that the Women's Diversity Initiative of Oklahoma (including its affiliates), are not affiliated with and do not have any legal or financial connection to the organizations/entities on this list.
- This is not an exhaustive list, and is offered only as a suggestion and work-in-progress, so please avail yourself to potential charities that suit your particular interest. Any person accessing this list should use discretion and diligence in identifying, researching and supporting any of the listed organizations/entities.
- While no guarantees can be made, please avoid inadvertently providing funds to unauthorized or fraudulent recipients. We urge you to ensure that the charity has a long-standing, positive track record. For example, you can check the ratings through a service such as Charity Navigator. Even so, as the current situation develops, some charities have become unstable or redirected their efforts.
- Donations may be made through Amazon.Smile and, in some cities, stays at AirBnb.

EMERGENCY AID — INTERNATIONAL

Central Asia Institute

“At this dark time, Central Asia Institute remains committed to doing all we can to continue our education programs. But for now, we’re shifting our immediate focus to the urgent needs of those who are most vulnerable. At present, we’re working with our local partners to assess the most immediate needs of the displaced, especially children, many of whom lack food, water, shelter, and healthcare.”

International Medical Corps, which has operated in Afghanistan since 1984, offers medical training and services in the country and is soliciting donations to its emergency relief fund.

International Committee of the Red Cross

The ICRC and its partner the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) are doing as much as they can to evacuate the wounded and transport the mortal remains of those killed as a result of the conflict. At the beginning of August, the ICRC indicated they had a team of 1,800 international and national staff who provide diverse humanitarian assistance across the country.

International Rescue Committee is aiming to raise \$10 million to “deliver lifesaving aid” in Afghanistan. Local chapters of the organization are also seeking volunteers to assist those who arrive through the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa in their search for employment and housing.

RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS — OKLAHOMA

CATHOLIC CHARITIES — OKC

Only 9 resettlement agencies exist in the U.S. and Catholic Charities in OKC is one of those. Note that while Afghan refugees are currently being resettled in other areas of the county, Oklahoma is not expecting an immediate influx of Afghan refugees (as of this writing). However, in anticipation of the potential need, Catholic Charities is preparing their resources to assist. Upon arrival, they may need volunteers to assist in the transition, especially refugees needing legal aid to process immigration documents.

As I understand it, the preference is to settle families in their own homes. It costs approximately

\$963 to resettle a family of 1, \$1,064 to resettle a family of 2, \$1,286 to resettle a family of 3, \$1,860 to resettle a family of 4, \$2,115 to resettle a family of 5, \$2,403 to resettle a family of 6.

From Mark Chan, Executive Director: “If people want to donate to Catholic Charities, we will use all monies given to purchase furniture and household items for refugees when they arrive. People can also donate furniture and household items directly to Catholic Charities. Beds along with sheets, comforters/blankets and pillows are especially needed. There are also volunteer opportunities to help with refugees as well.”

RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS — NATIONAL

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (“LIRS”)

Established in 1939, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (“LIRS”) has welcomed refugees. When our Afghan allies and their families arrive as “walk-ins,” they often have no money, nowhere to stay, and nothing to eat. Unfortunately, there is typically a 5-7 day gap between the families’ arrivals and the services they are eligible to receive through the United States resettlement program.

Donations to **Neighbors in Need: Afghan Allies** are intended to provide food, housing assistance, clothing, and other basic needs for our Afghan friends as they await the official services available to them.

LIRS also has a stand-by list for volunteers appearing on their website.

VETERANS & ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE PERSONNEL

Behavioral Health Resources in the Wake of the Afghanistan Withdrawal brought to you by the

OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD
Behavioral Health Team

MILITARY ONE SOURCE
Military One Source
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/or 800-342-9647>

Cohen Veteran Network
<https://www.cohenveteransnetwork.org/or 844-336-4226>

CBHIR: <https://ok.ng.mil/cbhir/405-250-8845>
(Includes Chaplain assistance)

The VA
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/bulletins/2ecff31>

For more information, contact LTC White at lindy.i.white.mil / (405)-228-5362

WOMEN — OKLAHOMA RESOURCES

The Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women

Established by Terry Neese, an Oklahoma City business leader, the IEEW established PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS® in an effort to provide economic development opportunities for Afghan women entrepreneurs, their immediate efforts were focused on assisting their alumni in leaving the country. They have provided legal and

logistical support for visas, flights and connections here in the U.S.

Having invested 15 years in educating and empowering Afghan women, they are assessing their current situation to develop a strategy for reaching more women virtually and will be sharing information as events unfold.

WOMEN — INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

VITAL VOICES — Emergency Fund for Women & Girls in Afghanistan

The Taliban have taken control of Afghanistan, and women and girls are increasingly under attack. Women are seeking emergency assistance as they are terrorized and fleeing for their lives. Their parent organization, Vital Voices, is in partnership with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN

Since 2002, Women for Women have operated in countries affected by conflict and war. Their website indicates that they have touched the lives of over 127,000 Afghan women and they recently established an emergency fund for Afghan women.