



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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To: Division of Extension employees
From: Office of Access, Inclusion, and Compliance (OAIC)

Re: Afghan refugees in Wisconsin

Over the past few weeks, colleagues have reached out to OAIC with questions related to the temporary resettlement of Afghan refugees in the U.S. and more specifically, in Wisconsin. Some colleagues, including those working in coordination with community partners, have inquired about how Extension may be able to help. The following memo is intended to share information our office has gathered from multiple media sources.

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) [Bureau of Refugee Programs](#), along with local refugee resettlement organizations, offers several suggestions: Advocate, Connect, Donate, Fundraise, and Volunteer. See the DCF "[Refugee Resettlement: How You Can Help](#)" resource for additional information.

Here are some FAQs that OAIC has fielded on the topic:

Q. Who are the Afghans coming to the U.S.?

A. Some are part of Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) programs established by Congress for at-risk Afghans who served as interpreters or translators for the U.S. military or otherwise helped the U.S. government, its contractors or NATO. Others qualify for protection as refugees fleeing persecution. All have undergone extensive security screenings before entering the U.S. or are currently undergoing security screenings as a part of the resettlement process.

Q. Where will the Afghans arriving at Fort McCoy resettle?

A. Fort McCoy (Monroe County) is one of a handful of domestic military installations providing temporary housing, medical, and logistical support for the evacuees. Resettlement agencies will help refugees transition to communities around the country – locations where they may have family members, employment opportunities, etc.

Q. How can I stay up to date on local resettlement agency needs?

A. Wisconsin has four resettlement agencies with experience resettling SIV recipients and refugees from around the world. Visit their websites or social media for updates on how you can help them or their partner agencies prepare for and support Afghan refugees:

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1. [International Institute of Wisconsin](#)
2. [Jewish Social Services of Madison](#)
3. [Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan](#)
4. [World Relief Fox Valley](#)

Q. What are other ways to help?

A. Many local groups and community organizations are fundraising and collecting donations. For example, the Ho-Chunk Nation is collecting clothing, toiletries, and school supplies from across the state. Complete this [Google form](#) to arrange a pickup in your area. In addition to this example, colleagues are welcome to explore other efforts that may be happening at local, regional, and state levels.

Q. Does Extension currently have specific efforts to support Afghan refugees in Wisconsin?

A. Refugee resettlement agencies will be focusing on meeting refugees' immediate basic needs. At this time, you can support refugees by sharing information and resources such as those suggested above.