



INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
COMMITTEE

Refugee Resettlement: Afghanistan & Beyond

Alice Games, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer
Olivia Whiteley, Western States Advocacy Officer

Today's Discussion

- Operation Allies Welcome
- Federal Policy Updates and Needs
- State & Local Support

Operation Allies Welcome

Operation Allies Refuge

The airlift of Afghans who are at particular risk of persecution by the Taliban due to their affiliation with the U.S. mission or for other reasons

Operation Allies Welcome

- **60,000 evacuated Afghans** in the U.S. at eight government facilities
- More than 10,000 completing processing overseas



OPERATION ALLIES WELCOME

DHS.gov/AlliesWelcome

- **Screening and Vetting** prior to U.S. arrival
- **Arrival** in the United States
- **Processing** at U.S. Military Facilities
 - COVID-19 and TB Testing
 - MMR, Polio, Chickenpox, and COVID-19 Vaccinations (first dose)
 - Applying for Workforce Authorization and Essential Health Coverage
- **Integration Support** at Final Destination
 - Afghan Assistance and Placement Program (APA)
 - Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Services

Processing

- Registration
- Medical checks
- Security vetting
- Legal counseling
- Family reunification
- Donations distribution
- Cultural orientation
- English lessons
- Recreation and childcare



**B
e
n
e
f
i
t
s**

Reception and Placement (R&P) or Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA)

- Airport Pick-Up
- Home & Transportation Orientation
- School Enrollment
- Connections to other essential services and benefits

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Services

- Case Management
- Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)
- Employment Services

Other Public Benefits

- SNAP
- TANF
- SSI
- Permission to Work

Security Vetting

The **screening and vetting process** involves biometric and biographic screenings conducted by intelligence, law enforcement, and counterterrorism professionals from the Departments of Homeland Security and Defense, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Counterterrorism Center, and other agencies in the intelligence community.

Deployment & Base Operations

- Welcome & Housing Assignment
- Intake
- Biometrics
- Medical Screening
- Assurance
- IOM Counseling & Travel Booked
- Departure

Federal Policy Updates

- FY22 Continuing Resolution
 - **Supplemental emergency funding** for Operation Allies Welcome
 - Authorization of **resettlement services** for Afghan evacuees

Next Steps

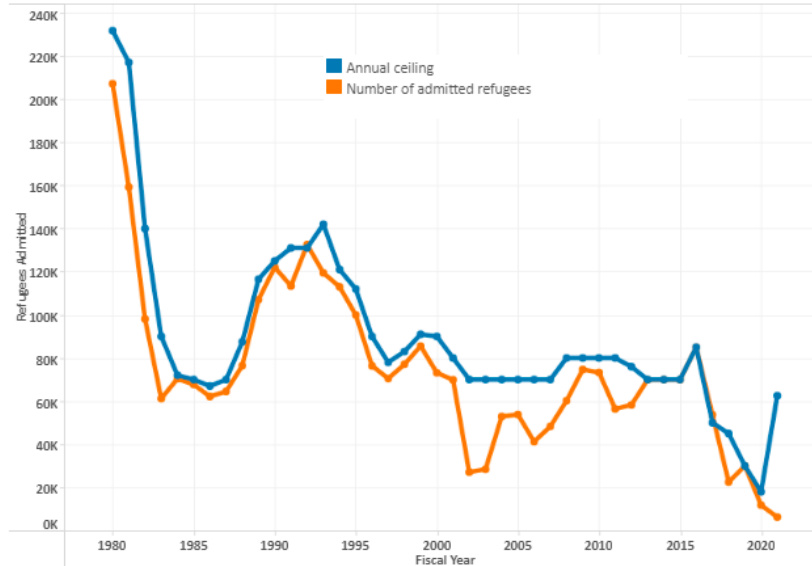
- An **Afghan Adjustment Act**: legislation to ensure Afghan evacuees can adjust to Lawful Permanent Resident status
- **Legal services** for evacuees

Protection for those Left Behind

- **Categorical humanitarian parole program**
- Increased **refugee resettlement** processing from the region

FY22 Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions

U.S. Refugee Admissions & Refugee Resettlement Ceilings, FY 1980-2021 (thru July 2021)



Migration Policy Institute (MPI) Data Hub
<http://migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub>

Opportunities for Community Sponsorship

- **Private Sponsorship Pilot Program**
- **Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans**



State Needs & Support

- **Affordable Housing**
 - Support: Use of ERA1 and ERA2 funds
- **Health Resources**
 - Support: Funding for interpretation and translation; partnerships with public transportation agencies
- **Staffing**
 - Support: Additional state funding, extended case management funding (TANF)

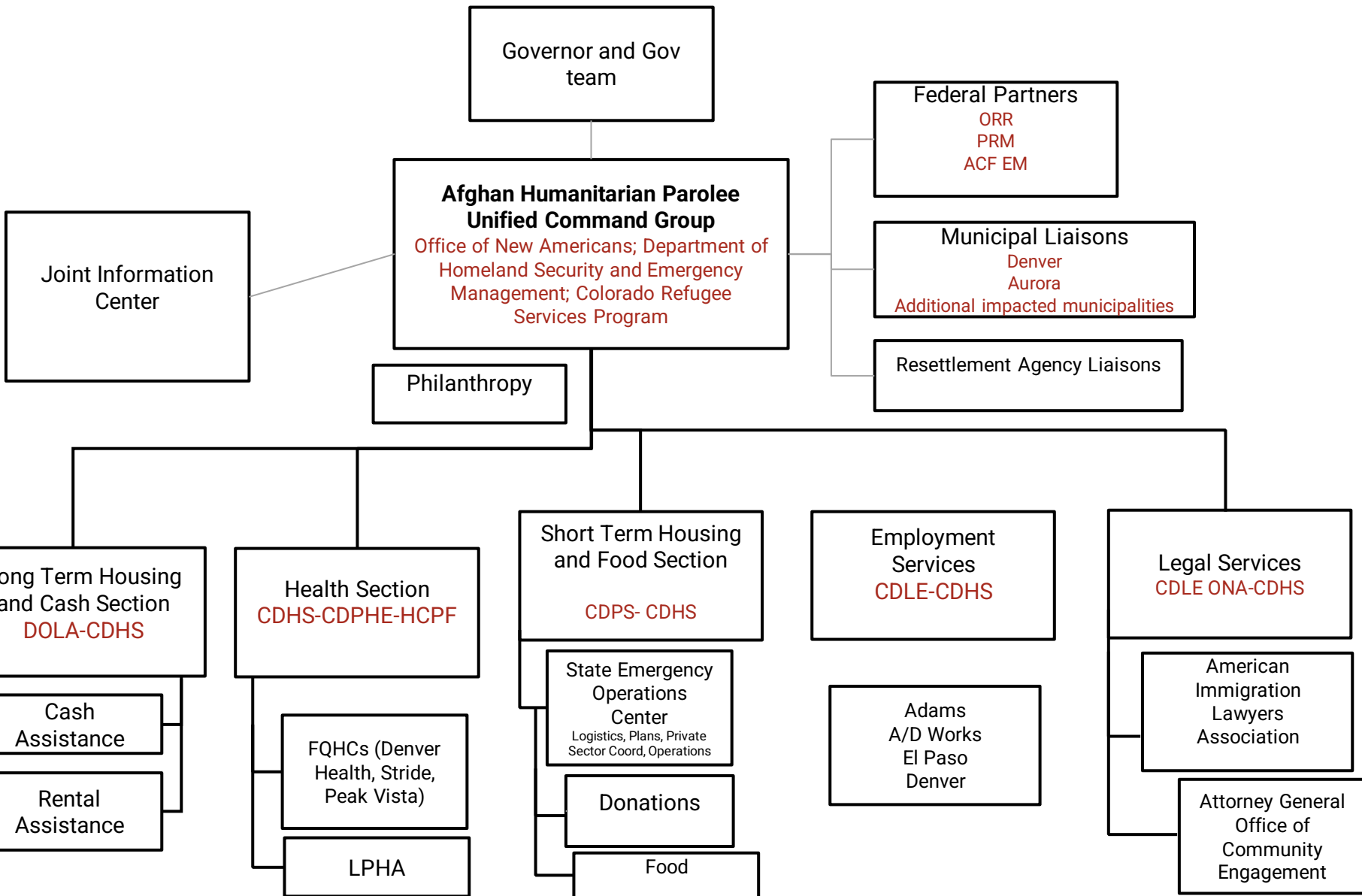
State Needs & Support

- **Educational Resources**
 - Support: Enrollment accommodations; interpretation and translation resources
- **Employment Services**
 - Support: Additional resources for job training programs; skills surveys; occupational licensing reform
- **Legal Services**
 - Support: Additional resources; community relations partnerships; streamlined referrals



Colorado Afghan Support and Response Unified Command Group

Mission: In support of the refugee resettlement agencies and the federal government, our goal is to find **housing, health, food, and cash supports** to assist with newcomer stability. We specifically seek resources for Afghan **humanitarian parolees**, but understand that some barriers, such as a health screening and housing, will be the same for all immigration statuses given relatively higher arrivals in the next few months.



Utah Afghan Community Fund

Purpose: The Afghan Community Fund was established as a public-private partnership to address refugee resource gaps that were identified through an in-depth analysis conducted by the fund's committee members. This funding will provide for special needs for women and children, legal support, healthcare, education, and more.

Advisory Committee: Zion's Bank, RYSE Media, Utah Muslim Civic League, Catholic Community Services, The International Rescue Committee, World Trade Center Utah, Refugee Services Office

Save the Date!

States Lay the Foundation: Refugee & Immigrant Workforce Inclusion

December 17th



Contact

- **Alice Games**, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer,
alice.games@rescue.org
- **Olivia Whiteley**, Western States Advocacy Officer,
olivia.whiteley@rescue.org