



Read about Muhammad’s journey to Minnesota [here](#)

Operation Allies Welcome Minnesota: Progress Update

Thank you for supporting Operation Allies Welcome Minnesota, a coordinated strategy to ensure the successful resettlement of Afghan nationals. This public/private partnership is providing safe short-term housing for new Afghan arrivals, legal assistance to help secure permanent immigration status, and connections to ongoing services to aid their transition into our communities.

Your support is already helping our Afghan allies! Here are a few highlights:

- To date, 135 Afghan evacuees have arrived in Minnesota. More families arrive each week. The U.S. Department of State projects at least 670 additional Afghans will be resettled in MN.
- 53% of arrivals to date are children.
- 69 of these newcomers have benefited from transitional housing at area hotels funded by Operation Allies Welcome. While at the hotels, families also receive three meals a day and begin working with resettlement case managers to transition to permanent homes.
- Operation Allies Welcome has raised over \$1,500,000 towards our goal of \$6 million.

By the Numbers

<i>Minimum Anticipated arrivals to Minnesota (individuals)</i>	805
<i>Number of Individuals who have arrived in Minnesota</i>	135
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Number of Families:</i> 	35
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Number of children under 18</i> 	70
<i>Number of Afghan arrivals receiving transitional housing to date</i>	20 families (69 individuals)
<i>Number that has moved to permanent housing</i>	7 families

Operation Allies Welcome Coordinated Response

OAW is a public/private partnership between the Minnesota Department of Human Services, multiple refugee and immigrant-serving organizations, and generous donors. This effort includes:

- **Coordinated airport receptions** including on-site health assessments at the airport using medical services volunteers. MSP airport has provided a private space for all arrivals and coordinates with airlines for each arrival.

- **Transitional lodging and basic needs at coordinated hotel location.** Hotel rooms are prepared for each arrival based on family size and composition. On site provisions include:
 - Three meals/day plus all day snacks
 - Access to a donated clothing “shop”
 - Tea and other hospitality basics for guest rooms
 - Activities for all children
 - Baby items
 - Weekly visits from the “shoe bus”

- **On-site services include:** An array of social services is also being provided at the transitional housing hotel, including:
 - Individual legal services appointments
 - Cultural orientation classes
 - Tenant rights/responsibilities workshops
 - Meetings with resettlement case managers
 - Enrollment in health care
 - Enrollment in county assistance/benefits
 - On-site health services, including vision and mental health appointments
 - Employment services
 - Permanent housing search.

Paid staff are on site 12 hours a day. Volunteers also provide site supports during the days and weekends.

- **Partners in OAW coordinated services include:**

The Minnesota Department of Human Services helps coordinate a leadership team of state agencies, other governmental organizations, and nonprofits to ensure that OAW continues to meet the needs of Afghan newcomers. Key partners in this work include:

- Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans
- ZACAH
- Hennepin County
- Hotel Chain (name and location kept confidential for safety of new arrivals)
- Advocates for Human Rights
- Good in the Hood
- Afghan Cultural Society
- Feeding our Futures
- Tasho
- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Al Maa'uun
- Local resettlement agencies:
 - Arrive Ministries
 - Minnesota Council of Churches
 - International Institute of Minnesota
 - Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
 - Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota

Fundraising Update

OAW is grateful to have the Minnesota Council on Foundations and GiveMN as partners in our effort to raise \$6 million to fund this array of critical services.

Amount contributed by foundations, corporations, and individuals to date:
\$1,500,528.

How to Give

- Give MN: [Operation Allies Welcome in Minnesota | GiveMN](#)
- Minnesota Council on Foundations
Coordinated Fund: Susie Brown,
President, Sbrown@MCF.org
- The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans has created a website page with information for Minnesotans who want to donate or get involved.
 - <https://mn.gov/capm/afghanevacuees/>

News Coverage

- <https://sahanjournal.com/immigration/afghan-refugee-resettlement-minnesota/>
- <https://www.npr.org/2021/10/07/1044043549/afghan-refugees-resettlement-preparing>
- <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2021/09/16/more-than-300-afghan-refugees-expected-to-be-resettled-in-minnesota-in-coming-weeks/>
- <https://www.startribune.com/bloomington-family-helps-newer-afghan-arrivals-as-they-build-life-in-u-s/600096244/>
- <https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2021/09/09/welcoming-refugees-as-new-neighbors-in-minnesota>

Learn More

- Local: www.mn.gov/dhs/afghan-evacuees
- Federal: <https://www.dhs.gov/allieswelcome>