

Important Information for NJ Sponsorship Circles on Afghans Resettling as part of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW)

OPERATION ALLIES WELCOME (OAW)

is the coordinated effort across the federal government to support and resettle vulnerable Afghans, including those who worked on behalf of the United States. This document is intended to be a resource to Sponsorship Circles in New Jersey supporting Afghan evacuees who are settling in NJ as part of OAW.

It is important to note that Sponsor Circles are encouraged to reach out to their State Refugee Health Coordinator to identify the nearest clinic conducting refugee health screenings, and to their State Refugee Coordinator to obtain information about the benefits and services available to Afghan newcomers in their state.

NJ Refugee Resettlement Program Contact Information:

Patrick Barry
State Refugee Coordinator
Patrick.Barry@dhs.nj.gov

Christi Mason
State Refugee Health Coordinator
Christi.Mason@dhs.nj.gov

WHAT BENEFITS ARE AFGHANS RESETTLING AS PART OF OAW ELIGIBLE FOR?

Afghans resettling as part of OAW may be eligible for federally funded benefits, such as cash assistance through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), health insurance through Medicaid, and food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). They may also be eligible for cash assistance, medical assistance, employment preparation, job placement, English language training, and other services offered through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Eligibility for government programs depends on a variety of factors, including income level and household composition. As a result, eligibility is often determined through an application process, which sponsors can help newcomers navigate.



Help and Support Available	Where to Apply or Get Assistance
Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) - Cash Assistance for individuals without dependent children	To enroll in the RCA program near you contact njor.info@rescue.org or call 917-561-3327 .
Food Assistance – NJSNAP	Apply online or through your local county board of social services, application and local offices list available online at njsnap.gov
Cash and Rental Assistance for families with children – TANF	Apply online www.mynjhelps.gov or through your local county board of social services
Health insurance coverage NJ FamilyCare (Medicaid)	Apply online at njfamilycare.org
Food and nutrition assistance for pregnant woman and children up to 5 – Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program	Apply through a local agency, find the list at www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic/participants/apply-wic/
Mental Health and Emotional Support	Call 1-866-202-4357 to talk to a trained professional
Legal Assistance	For a list of immigration attorneys near you, go to www.justice.gov/eoir/file/ProBonoNJ/download

Eligibility for public benefits (TANF, Medicaid, and SNAP) includes financial and other non-financial factors such as eligible immigration status. Immigration eligibility for those granted humanitarian parole remains while they have parole status and until the end of the parole term unless amended by law or if the individual gains other eligible immigration status. Please check eligibility requirements online.



OAW Afghan evacuees are required to receive a domestic medical screening (DMS) within their first 90 days in the state for more information please contact **Christi.Mason@dhs.nj.gov** State Refugee Health Coordinator.

For more information on Afghans resettling through OAW in New Jersey please visit the New Jersey Office of New Americans website <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njnewamericans/>

Or you can contact our Refugee Team at **NJRefugeeProgram@dhs.nj.gov**