



AFGHAN REFUGEE UPDATE

City of Appleton | March 2022

BACKGROUND INFO

Afghan newcomers arrived from 6 military bases including Fort McCoy.

There is a push at the Federal level to change the immigration laws regarding humanitarian parole that would allow Afghan evacuees to apply for permanent resident status one year after being paroled into the country.

Adults that meet eligibility criteria can obtain authorization to work. “Employable adults” cannot begin working until they receive Employment Authorization Documentation and Social Security Number, which are usually supplied before they leave the military base. Many Afghans are finding work within a month after arrival.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

A total of 188 refugees have settled in the Fox Valley; 180 Afghan arrivals and 8 other arrivals (Congolese and Pakistan).

127 OF THE 188 ARE IN APPLETON AND MENASHA



Arrivals range from single adults and couples to extended families as large as 8.

Just over 1000 Afghans are expected to resettle in Wisconsin by the end of Spring 2022. (WI Dept. Of child and Family Services)

Statewide 350-400 Afghans are expected to be “employable adults”. (WI Dept. Of child and Family Services)

CITY DEPARTMENTS DIRECTLY SERVING REFUGESSES

APPLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Sgt. Carrie Peters
Refugee Community Liaison

- Trains refugees on utilization of police services and basic laws/norms.
- Briefs officers on refugee community population and provides regular updates.

APPLETON CITY HALL



Karen Harkness
Director of Community and
Economic Development



Timber Smith
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Coordinator

- Share information with business community and partnering organizations.
- Provide educational information to the public regarding refugee community.

APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Adriana McCleer Community
Partnerships Supervisor



Norma Oliveras
Outreach Specialist

- Provide library tours and introduction to library services to refugees.
- Work with the Even Start program, where some Afghan parents have already enrolled.

VALLEY TRANSIT



Sarah Schneider
Mobility Manager



Stephanie Lenz
Travel Training Specialist

- Train refugee families on how to use public transit.
- Already worked with 13 refugee families; 9 more families scheduled for training.
- Provide transit training to Good Neighbor Teams who will work with refugees on how to use bus system.
- VT is already seeing success in training programs, with refugees taking the bus to/from **FVTC where they are learning English.**

LOCAL REFUGEE NETWORK AND TASK FORCE

WORLD RELIEF FOX VALLEY

World Relief Fox Valley has noticed four primary sources of anxiety with Afghan newcomers as they resettle in the Fox Valley:

1. Uncertain pathway to lawful permanent residence
2. Finances and desire to support families back in Afghanistan
3. Health and desire to be seen by a provider for health issues
4. Transportation and desire to begin driving as soon as possible

Language/ literacy as well as cultural differences are the greatest barriers, along with the adjustment to cold weather. Contact: James Rashid (jrashid@wr.org)

GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAMS

A Good Neighbor Team is a small group of people from a local church that partners with World Relief to welcome and walk alongside a newly arrived refugee family. The goal is for each refugee who arrives in the U.S. to feel the warm welcome of his/her local community. Good Neighbor Teams assist World Relief to expedite the refugee process by getting families settled in their new homes, find employment, secure household needs, make medical appointment, enroll in school, etc. The work of these volunteers help facilitate long-term, reciprocal relationships with the refugee community.

- Prepare for Arrival
- Resettlement & Adjustment
- Friendship
- Financial Support

RESOURCES

POST JOBS: Use this portal to post work opportunities; select "Employment"

www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/refugee/resources

DONATE: Donate to arriving Afghan refugees; Team Rubicon is accepting donations at

www.teamrubiconusa.org Contact: kevin.ryan@teamrubiconusa.org

LEARN: Overview of the Refugee Resettlement Process

www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/refugee/pdf/refugee-process-short.pdf