



International
Institute of
New England

Afghan Evacuee Resettlement

December 7, 2021

Mission

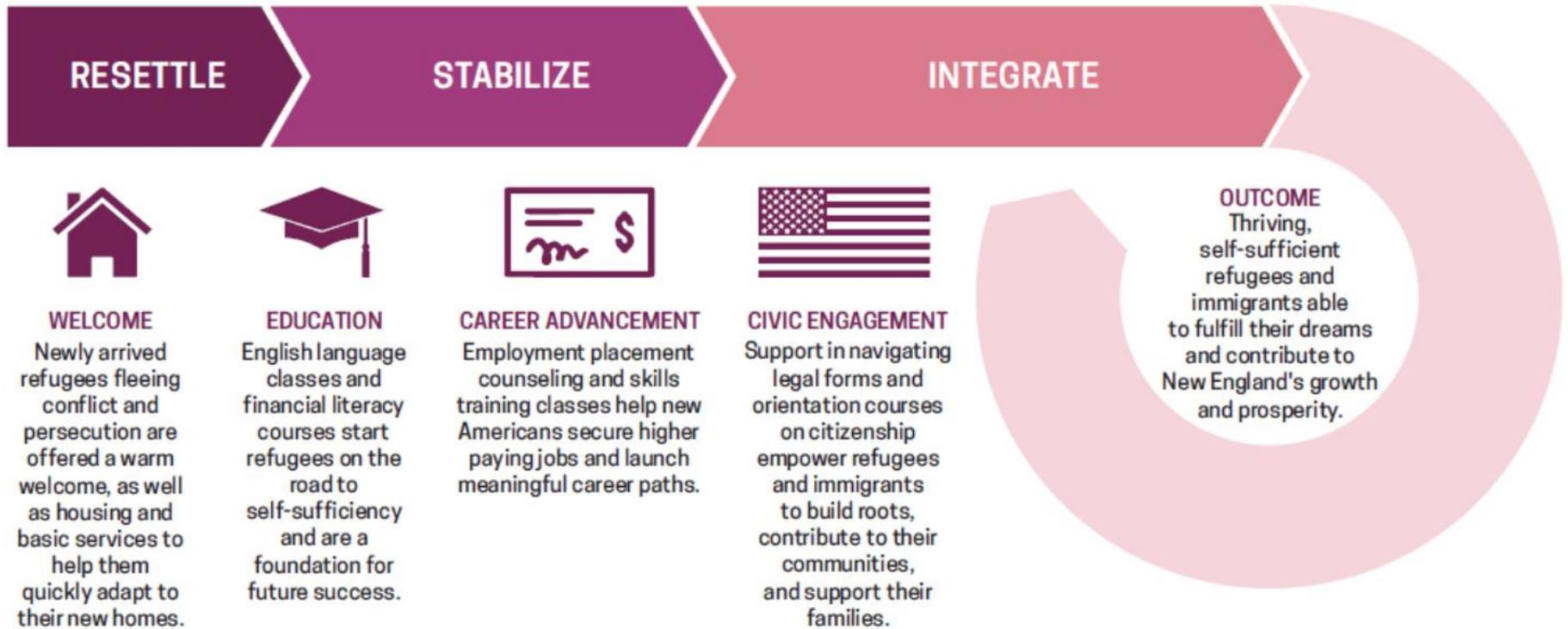


IIR creates opportunities for refugees and immigrants to succeed through resettlement, education, career advancement, and pathways to citizenship.





Theory of Change



IINE Sites and Specialized Services



Sites in Boston and Lowell, MA and Manchester, NH

Serves over 3,000 a year

Signature programming:

Refugee Resettlement
Case Management, ESOL and
Employment

- Specialized Services to Victims of Human Trafficking
- Specialized family reunification services to Unaccompanied Minors
- Specialized Youth Programming
- Immigration Legal Services



Afghan Resettlement: Context

- In August 2021, tens of thousands of Afghans were evacuated from Kabul to Europe and Gulf States
- **70,000** are currently living on eight domestic military bases
- Ultimately, up to 95,000 people will come to the U.S.
- On the bases, evacuees receive:
 - Temporary shelter
 - Food
 - Medical screening and basic care (including Covid vaccinations)
 - Employment Authorization application support
 - Referral to a resettlement agency
- As of now, 90% are assigned to resettlement agencies around the country.



Afghan Resettlement and IINE

- IINE has resettled nearly 350 Afghans since 2014, mostly in Lowell
- Lowell has the largest community of Afghan refugees in New England. Afghans resettled by IINE up until today have been both **refugees** and **Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)** holders
- IINE is preparing to welcome at least **500 Afghan evacuees in MA and NH**
- **Most will be categorized as Afghan Humanitarian Parolees**, a temporary status





Resettlement of Afghan Evacuees

IINE will provide:

- Temporary to permanent housing
- Case management services in Dari and Pashto
- Food, clothing, and basic needs
- Public and private cash assistance
- Healthcare and insurance enrollment
- School enrollment
- Cultural and Work Readiness Orientation
- Wrap-around support from volunteer teams



Challenge in Meeting the Needs of Afghan Evacuees



90-day Reception & Placement period

- Available to refugees, SIVs, and Humanitarian Parolees
- Includes airport pick up, furnished housing, food, case management, application to public benefits, referral to ESOL and employment
- Significant Resource Gap:
 - Each arrival gets a one-time federal payment of \$1,225, and the receiving agency receives \$1,050 per arrival
 - For a family of four, this is a one-time payment of \$4,900 in communities where the average cost for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,800 per month. Families need to pay first month and last month's rent to secure an apartment, in addition to meeting basic needs.
- We estimate a gap of \$550 per evacuee per month

There is never enough public funding for **any** arrival

IINE supplements this with private donations and in-kind contributions

Going Deeper: Meeting the Needs of Afghan Evacuees



- Half of all evacuees in the U.S. are children 18 and under
- Many pregnant women and newborns
- Many Afghan women not literate in any language



Many evacuees may be optimistic about their future but deeply concerned about family and community still in Afghanistan

Immediate and long-term mental health conditions due to:

- Evacuees feared Taliban kidnapping, torture and assassination
- Displacement
- Separation of families
- Poverty
- Militarization
- Invasion
- Evacuation



Advocacy for Afghans

- **FY 2022 Continuing Resolution (HR5305)** to fund the federal government through December 3, 2021 also signed the **WELCOMED ACT on 09/30/2021** into law. This ACT grants Afghan parolees full public benefits and directs federal agencies to expedite asylum applications for Afghans
- Advocating for federal **Afghan Adjustment Act** that would allow Afghan Humanitarian Parolees to adjust status and apply for lawful permanent residency
- IINE is advocating for **state funds** to provide direct cash assistance for housing and funding for immigration legal services to Afghan parolees arriving in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and New Hampshire

Volunteer and Community Support for Afghan Resettlement



INE will provide an **Afghan Cultural Orientation** and ongoing support for all volunteers.

Volunteers will form teams, with one designated leader. Activities include:

Short-term: Welcome Teams (activity-based support)

- Airport pick-up
- Sorting and packing home-goods
- Apartment setup
- Group meals (at hotel)
- Activities for kids (at hotels)

Longer-Term: Family Support Teams (family-based support)

- Hosting "Welcome Dinners"
- Homestay host
- ESOL tutoring
- "Welcome Teams" to provide ongoing support beyond initial resettlement period

What else you can do

- Sign up for our newsletter to stay informed: iine.org/subscribe
- Volunteer: iine.org/volunteer
- Donate: <https://iine.org/donate-goods/> (extensive lists of needed items by site available)
- Donate: <https://iine.org/web22/>



We welcomed
our first Afghan
family on
Thursday,
October 13!

