

Catholic Charities of Idaho's Afghan Placement Assistance Program

Catholic Charities of Idaho (CCI), in conjunction with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) are partnering with the Department of State to assist with resettlement efforts in Eastern Idaho, specifically Pocatello, for a small number of Afghan individuals, 25 to begin with, which represents approximately 9 housing units, and 14 cases.

CCI's Afghan Placement Assistance (APA) program is an intensive case management effort that recognizes "It takes a village." Our Afghan newcomers are arriving quickly and CCI is seeking assistance from all who would like to welcome and support them. 7 individuals have already been welcomed into the Pocatello community and an additional 18 are expected between now and the end of January 2022.

Ways to get involved

Non-Direct Service Work:

- Coordination and collection of welcome boxes
- Coordination and collection of food boxes
- Coordination and collection household supplies
- Coordination and collection of transportation (bus passes, bikes, cars)
- Coordination and assistance of potential long-term housing (1-year rentals)

Direct-Service Work

- Set up of house before client arrivals (AIRBNB) (stock food, assess safety, ensure smoke detectors/fire extinguishers, check off house safety list).
- Set up of long-term housing (stock all furniture and household items)
- Assist CCI staff in picking up new arrivals at the airport
- Assist in exploring the community
- Assist in trips to the grocery store and learning to shop
- Assist in transportation to medical appointments
- Assist in enrollment in school
- Assist in enrollment in benefits
- Assist in language learning skills (stopping by and having conversations in English) Education and support in learning US culture/norms/laws
- Parenting support
- Job readiness and employment skills
- Life skills etc.

All volunteers who are interested in working directly with newcomers will receive valuable training so that everyone is prepared to work with those arriving from Afghanistan. Additionally, CCI volunteers and staff work in pairs to ensure the safety of clients and volunteers.

How can someone get involved in non-direct service work?

Contact Wendy Lahmon at Catholic Charities of Idaho at 208-350-7490 (subject to change as we recruit a donation coordinator.)

How can someone get involved in direct-service work?

Step One: Complete the volunteer application via the link below

https://ccidaho.formstack.com/forms/volunteer_registration_form

Step Two: Complete the background check application via the link below

https://ccidaho.formstack.com/forms/criminal_background_check

Step Three: Provide CCI with two references via the link below

https://ccidaho.formstack.com/forms/volunteer_reference_form

Once CCI has received all three of these completed forms, you will be contacted to schedule an interest interview and for CCI to share more information about the program. If it is determined at this time that direct service work is a good fit for you, CCI will schedule you for group training and to meet our team.

In the event that you would be interested in assisting with transportation, there is an additional training requirement on safe driving, proof of current driver's license, and proof of insurance in the amount of 100,000/300,00 or 300,000 CSL.

Thank you for your dedication and support and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.