



LIRS

URGENT NEEDS & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:
LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1939, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is the largest national faith-based nonprofit exclusively dedicated to serving immigrants and refugees. With over 80 years of service and advocacy, LIRS has helped over 500,000 migrants and refugees rebuild their lives in the U.S., including nearly 10,000 Afghan Allies since 2009.

THE AFGHAN CRISIS AND RESETTLEMENT

The U.S. Government is expected to evacuate up to **50,000 people** from Afghanistan before the August 31 withdrawal date, adding to the more than 82,000 individuals evacuated thus far. Given the urgency to evacuate Afghan allies from harm, most evacuees are arriving under **humanitarian parole**. Unlike refugees or Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients, they are not eligible for any services (Medicaid, employment matching, etc.) beyond an initial 90-day window of government support. Private resources will therefore prove fundamental to aiding our Afghan allies and help them rebuild their lives in the U.S.

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IMMEDIATE SUPPORT:

NEIGHBORS IN NEED - AFGHAN ALLIES

To provide for the immediate needs of individuals and families upon their arrival to the U.S. – including short-term housing, medical care, home furnishings, clothing, and other essentials – LIRS seeks financial support through our Neighbors in Need: Afghan Allies Emergency Response Fund. This is our organization's top focus and most urgent priority. We anticipate needing **at least \$4 million in additional funds** to meet the crucial needs of Afghan families and children.

In addition to direct contributions, LIRS is particularly interested in partnerships for **short-term housing and medical services**.

POST-90-DAY SUPPORT:

LIRS WELCOME CENTERS

LIRS is in the process of standing up several welcome centers in Baltimore, Portland, San Antonio, and Seattle (with, we hope, more locations to come). These centers will help to extend services to those excluded from ongoing government support (post-90 days) and respond to a gap that no other institution fills by offering protection-centered, trauma-informed, strengths-based case management to forced migrants, including asylum seekers, humanitarian parolees, survivors of human trafficking, and guardians of unaccompanied minors.

Services include:

- mental health screening and referral to mental health and psychosocial support,
- connection to community healthcare providers,
- legal services, including know your rights support and guidance to secure legal counsel; and,
- referral to community services such as food banks and faith communities; education services including school enrollment for children and access to adult education programming.

The Welcome Centers will also establish a **Direct Assistance Fund** for clients experiencing financial, food and/or housing insecurity.



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service

LONG-TERM INTEGRATION SUPPORT:

NEW AMERICAN CITIES (NAC) INITIATIVE

Through New American Cities, LIRS creates inclusive communities that welcome and celebrate the potential of refugees and migrants by creating partnerships with business and civic leaders in welcoming cities.

Under the traditional system, when refugees arrive in the U.S. (including those arriving as SIV recipients), they receive a few months of basic services, such as legal protection and job placement, designed to help them acclimate to a new country, new culture, and often a new language. These services are needed, but they are woefully inadequate. They do not sufficiently equip refugees to anticipate and navigate the systemic challenges to long-term economic and social inclusion that they will encounter in their new communities.

Through New American Cities, LIRS offers:

- Individualized focused and intensive career navigation services for refugees
- Connections to pathway builders, who forge relationships between refugees and employers, expose training opportunities, and aim to address systemic barriers to advancement
- Coalitions with local governments, businesses, civic stakeholders, and champions invested in the welcome of refugees and the positive impact they have on their local economies and communities

A promising LIRS pilot of the career pathways model demonstrated a significant impact on career advancement and participant wages; on average, wages increased from \$8.81 to \$14.27 per hour. Assuming full time hours, that is an average increase of over \$10,000 per year, per participant.

LIRS is seeking funding and employer partnerships to expand its New American Cities footprint, bringing these workforce empowerment services to more refugees in more cities across the country.

YOUR INVESTMENT:

LIRS WELCOMES YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT.

Contact **Andrew Steele, Vice President for Development & Outreach**, to make a gift or discuss giving options and/or engagement opportunities with LIRS. Asteele@lirs.org or 410-230-2748.