



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR NEW AMERICANS

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The Governor's Office for New Americans and Governor Steve Sisolak Reiterate their Commitment to Welcoming Refugees to Nevada

Las Vegas, NV – Today, the Governor's Office for New Americans (ONA) and Governor Steve Sisolak reiterated their commitment to welcoming refugees and Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIV) to Nevada as the situation continues to unfold in Afghanistan.

Nevada is proud of our long-standing tradition of resettling refugees and other refugee-eligible populations such as SIVs. Individuals and families who have fled their countries and made Nevada their home have continuously showed us their unceasing courage and remarkable determination to build a brighter future in our state.

"We must not forget that Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders are those who assisted our U.S. military operations and worked side-by-side with our American services members, including some of the many Nevada Veterans who proudly served overseas. Nevada has always been, and will continue to be a welcoming state for all, and we stand ready to play our part in resettlement efforts," **said Governor Steve Sisolak**. "Now more than ever, I reiterate the State's commitment to welcoming Afghan refugees and Special Immigrant Visa holders who are fearing for their lives and safety amidst the situation underway in Afghanistan. Additionally, to the men and women of Nevada who served in our nation's Armed Forces in Afghanistan over the past 20 years, your State thanks you and your families for your sacrifice, courage and commitment."

In the State of Nevada, our refugee resettlement process is administered and overseen by non-profit organizations. Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN) serves as the Refugee Resettlement Office for the State. In addition to CCSN, we have two additional local refugee resettlement offices - ECDC African Community Center in Las Vegas and Northern Nevada International Center (NNIC) in Reno.

"The Governor's Office for New Americans will continue to work with our refugee resettlement agencies as we remain committed in our support in welcoming all new refugees and SIVs into the State. They undoubtedly enrich and strengthen the fabric of Nevada. Their cultural and

economic contributions make our State infinitely better,” said **Charina de Asis, Director of the Governor’s Office for New Americans.**

Nevada’s refugee resettlement offices have been preparing for an increase of new arrivals based on President Biden’s possible increase of the annual refugee admissions cap to 125,000 in fiscal year 2022.

"Our hearts go out to those who are affected by what is happening in Afghanistan and we pray for a safe outcome for all,” said **Deacon Tom Roberts, CEO, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada.** "We remain devoted to our mission to assist those who have been tragically displaced from their home countries as they seek refuge in the United States. Presently, we are prepared to continue serving SIVs and refugees however possible, so they may start a new healthy and happy life here in Nevada."

The Governor’s Office for New Americans is collaborating closely with our refugee resettlement agencies to ensure that our office and our state agencies are ready to assist as needed. However, as of now, the State nor our refugee resettlement office have been informed by the federal government of any new expected arrivals from Afghanistan.

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