

news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Page 1 of 1

Afghan Parolees Settle Into The City Of Tulsa With The Help Of YWCA Tulsa

Tulsa, Okla. – YWCA Tulsa, is preparing to offer **employment support, Interpretation and Translation Services, English classes** to Afghan families and as they arrive in the City of Tulsa through the Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) program.

YWCA Tulsa CEO Julie Davis says she’s looking forward to co-creating a welcoming Tulsa as we support the arrival of the hundreds of families from Afghanistan.

"Our goal is to support the families from Afghanistan by integrating them into our Tulsa community, and connecting them to resources to become financially stable and support their families," Davis said. "Thanks to the passage of the Continuing Resolution through Congress on Oct 1st, Afghan humanitarian parolees will be able to access refugee benefits, but they will not be considered full refugees."

As the Refugee Support Services provider for the Eastern half of Oklahoma, YWCA Tulsa will be offering the following services to Afghan arrivals to provide them with financial independence and stability:

Employment Support

- Match clients with employment opportunities in the community.
- Prepare clients for the US work place and assist with job applications, building resumes, and preparing for job interviews.
- Partner with employers for group hiring events and orientations
- Provide employers with cultural training and support to welcome new employees.

Interpretation and Translation

- Dari and Pashto capacity interpretation and translations services.

English Classes

- English classes designed for Afghan arrivals.
- Coordinate with Community Partners teaching ESL to identify capacity outside of YWCA and offer resources and support as needed.
- Engage in opportunities to support Afghan youth in public schools.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is a statewide resettlement provider in Oklahoma. They are working closely with Charities of Eastern Oklahoma to welcome more than 800 individuals in the Tulsa area. Additionally, B’nai Emunah Synagogue will begin providing resettlement services in the Tulsa area this year. They plan to receive 50 Afghan arrivals.

The YWCA Tulsa is also preparing a workshop called Creating a Welcoming Tulsa for Tulsa Area United Way(TAUW) partners and interested organizations. Molly Bryant, YWCA Tulsa Case Management Manager, and Huda Abdulhameed, YWCA Tulsa Interpretation and Translation Manager and refugee from Iraq will discuss how to best prepare to serve the incoming Afghan arrivals and the general experience of refugees. The discussion will also include how to get connected with various organizations in Tulsa providing support on **Tuesday, October 26th, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

“Our team is honored to be able to work with these incredible new members of our community,” Bryant said. “The Afghan families that we’ve met have shown us such kindness and generosity. They left behind their lives, friends, and often many close family members to find safety and happiness. We’re excited to be a part of their journey and look forward to welcoming many more newcomers.”

Contact Julie Davis (918.810.4778) or email her at juliedavis@ywcatusa.org. You can also contact Tatianna Hemphill (themphill@ywcatusa.org) to schedule interviews.

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