



**EVACUATE OUR ALLIES**

## Welcome Corps & Afghans

Last updated January 30, 2023

Please also visit the [Welcome Corps](https://welcomecorps.org) webpage (<https://welcomecorps.org>) for more information.

**Welcome Corps, launched in January 2023, does not currently apply to Afghans and it does not change who is eligible for relocation to and/or resettlement in the United States.**

Welcome Corps volunteers will support people **already approved** for admission to the US as a refugee as part of the US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). Generally, Afghans in the USRAP process have been referred through the P1 or P2 program; more information is available [in this infographic](#) and in [#AfghanEvac's P1/P2 information document](#).

Welcome Corps volunteers - people in the US - **do not select who they sponsor**; they are matched with refugees by the USRAP and Welcome Corps programs. Starting in mid-2023, volunteers **may** be able to select who they sponsor, but it has not been confirmed and will still be limited to choosing from amongst those who have **already been approved** for admission to the US as a refugee.

It is **possible** in the future that volunteers would be able to nominate people to be referred to USRAP, but there is no timeline for this and criteria for who can be nominated have not been finalized and/or communicated. Referred individuals would still need to go through USRAP processing, which takes a **minimum** of 12-18 months.

### FAQ

- Will refugees who come through Welcome Corps be eligible for refugee benefits?
  - *Yes. Refugees through the Welcome Corps will be eligible for ORR benefits. Their Private Sponsor Groups (PSG) will be required to provide services similar to those provided by resettlement agencies through the Reception & Placement (R&P) Program. More details are available [here](#).*
- Where will the refugees who come through the Welcome Corps come from?
  - *In its initial phase (early to mid-2023), we understand [many refugees will come from Sub-Saharan Africa](#); we do not have direct confirmation of when/how this program will expand.*
- How many people will this program serve?
  - *According to the [announcement of the program](#), the goal in the first year is "to mobilize at least 10,000 Americans to step forward as private sponsors and offer a welcoming hand to at least 5,000 refugees from around the world."*
- It sounds like a lot isn't changing. What is different?
  - *Welcome Corps is about enabling private individuals to directly participate in the resettlement process. The resettlement agencies have been overloaded with migrants needing assurance. Welcome Corps will relieve some of that burden, shorten the wait time for resettlement, and engage the public in welcoming new people into US Society.*