



## **Sacramento FUEL Network Partners Respond to Crisis in Afghanistan**

The City of Sacramento and the Mayor's Office are closely following the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Our community stands ready to welcome refugees from the region. Our staff is working closely with knowledgeable community partners and CBOs to connect these individuals and families with much-needed services. Sacramento has always been home to a large number of Afghan refugees, and we will continue to be a safe haven for those fleeing war-torn countries and persecution.

Below are some statements from community leaders in Sacramento in support of the Afghan community:

**Mayor Darrell Steinberg** – “The situation in Afghanistan is absolutely heartbreaking. Afghan refugees already here and arriving in the weeks ahead need our support more than ever. Sacramento is a leading city not only in the United States but also globally in refugee resettlement. Unique to Sacramento is the large percentage of Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, who proudly served alongside US forces in Afghanistan. We owe it to them to do everything we can to get them and their families here safely. Our office will continue to work tirelessly with the five resettlement agencies and various partners to advocate for them and ensure we can provide the support they'll need when they arrive in Sacramento.”

**Councilmember Eric Guerra** - “Sacramento has been welcoming Afghan families and refugees for the last four years, if they chose to come to our city, we are ready to help these families transition during a very painful time in their lives,” Said City Councilmember Eric Guerra “this is the least we can do to show appreciation for their support of our U.S troops abroad.”

**Council on American-Islamic Relations** - “CAIR - Sacramento Valley / Central California is committed to continuing support for incoming Afghan refugees and all refugees through our Immigrant Rights' Center, which provides language accessible and culturally competent immigration and legal services free of charge, including asylum and special visas. We are also committed to leveraging our relationships with various stakeholders and allied organizations across the valley in order to ensure that families are able to integrate into society as smoothly and effectively as possible, without worry of their basic needs not being met.”

**International Rescue Committee** – “The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Sacramento stands by the Afghan families who are coming to our city during this difficult time. IRC Sacramento has resettled more than 6,300 Afghan SIVs since the program was established in 2008. Sacramento is one of the most welcoming in the nation, and we continue to be a preferred destination because of the city's vibrant Afghan community. Before the end of the year, the IRC Sacramento alone anticipates the arrival of more than 1,700 Afghan SIV evacuees.” – Lisa Welze, IRC Sacramento Senior Site Director

## Resources and Tools

The FUEL Network offers free legal consultations, legal representation, and mental health services to individuals and families living in Sacramento City. Sacramento residents can call **(916) 329-8669** to be connected with these services. Additionally, the following FUEL partners may offer resources and assistance, including refugee resettlement services, to those who are attempting to leave Afghanistan or have recently arrived in the United States:

**The Office of Congresswoman Matsui:** (916) 498-5600

**The Office of Congressman Ami Bera:** (916) 635-0505

**International Rescue Committee:** (916) 482-0120

**Lao Family Community Development:** (916) 393-7501

**Opening Doors:** (916) 492-2591

**Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services:** (916) 456-1980

**World Relief:** (916) 978-2650