



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr

ORR-Funded Program: Services to Afghan Survivors Impacted by Combat

Dear Colleague Letter 23-17

February 22, 2023

Dear Colleague:

The Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, and Additional Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (ASA) provided the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) with specific appropriations to provide benefits and services to the citizens or nationals of Afghanistan delineated in ORR [Policy Letter \(PL\) 22-01](#), *Afghan Humanitarian Parolees and Unaccompanied Afghan Minors Eligible for ORR Benefits and Services; ASA-Eligible Afghan Populations*.

This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) announces the release and award of a one-time competitive grant to twenty-four recipients to implement the Services to Afghan Survivors Impacted by Combat (SASIC) program. This program is designed to help eligible Afghans overcome severe, pervasive, and long-lasting combat-related trauma and facilitate their achievement of sustained physical, social, emotional, and economic goals and well-being. Under this award, SASIC grant recipients will provide, directly and/or through referrals to partners or affiliates, ASA-eligible Afghan survivors impacted by combat access to and engagement with effective, holistic, strengths-based, and trauma-informed services, including medical, psychological, and social work services in various resettlement locations across the United States. Through this grant program, ORR will also fund the establishment of a national network of culturally responsive providers specialized in meeting the needs of Afghan arrivals for such services.

Services will be available from February 16, 2023, through February 15, 2026. Programming under the grant includes:

1. **Direct Core Services:** Recipients will provide core services for ASA-eligible adult, adolescent, and pediatric clients, allowing options for telehealth and remote delivery, especially in locations where Afghan diaspora groups have not traditionally resettled. This is to provide medical, psychological, and social work services, to address the physical, psychological, and social effects of combat upon survivors and their families.

2. Organizational Capacity Development: Recipients will engage in activities designed to increase organizational and local capacity and to ensure the sustainability of services to survivors.

3. Community Engagement and Education: Recipients will conduct community engagement and education activities to facilitate identification of Afghan survivors impacted by combat, as well as to strengthen awareness of their needs and ways in which community members and service providers can assist with their healing.

All components will incorporate considerations of gender as well as developmentally appropriate services for ASA-eligible pediatric and adolescent Afghan populations.

For a list of SASIC grantees, please see the chart below. If you have any questions about this DCL, please contact DRH Refugee Mental Health Team Lead Tabassum Siraj at Tabassum.Siraj@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Tota
Director, Refugee Programs
Office of Refugee Resettlement

SASIC Grantee		
The International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Phoenix	AZ
Jewish Family & Children's Services of Southern Arizona	Tucson	AZ
The International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Sacramento	CA
Center for Immigrants and Immigration Services	Denver	CO
AsylumWorks	Washington	DC
Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services	Clearwater	FL
Lutheran Services Florida, Inc.	Tampa	FL
Heartland Alliance International	Chicago	IL
University of Louisville Research Foundation, Inc.	Louisville	KY
Lowell Community Health Center	Lowell	MA
The Center for Victims of Torture	Clarkston	GA
The Center for Victims of Torture	St. Paul	MN
Bilingual International Assistant Services	St. Louis	MO
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Raleigh	NC
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska	Omaha	NE
Church World Service, Inc.	Elizabeth	NJ
Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse	Syracuse	NY
Asian Services in Action Inc.	Akron	OH
Catholic Charities Corporation	Cleveland	OH
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants	Erie	PA
Bethany Christian Services of Western Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh	PA
Center for Survivors of Torture	Austin	TX
Virginia Department of Social Services	Richmond	VA
The International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Seattle	WA