

Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)

Since its inception in 1975, MRS has helped more than 30,000 refugees, who are defined by the United Nations as individuals fleeing their country of origin because of a “well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” Catholic Charities serves individuals in need within 21 counties in Northern Virginia. With offices in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Manassas, Sterling, Woodbridge, and Fredericksburg, MRS meets refugees where they live and provides comprehensive services through the 9 distinct programs described below:

Reception and Placement Program: This program provides initial support for new arrivals including securing housing, reception at the airport, school enrollment, health screenings, and cultural and community orientation.

Afghan Placement and Assistance Program: Emergency support for Afghan evacuees arriving in the U.S. through Operation Allies Welcome. APA program provides basic needs support for Afghans during their first 30-90 days in the U.S.

Matching Grant Program: The goal of this program is early self-sufficiency through employment. With supportive services and some limited financial assistance, this program requires CCDA to match government funding with cash and in-kind support to promote and support families to be able to pay their own expenses and avoid dependence on public assistance.

Refugee Support Services Employment Program: Employment services for refugees and eligible populations for up to five years of being in the United States by supporting employable clients with job and language training, employment coaching, short term training, as well as referrals to other supportive services.

Virginia Refugee Student Achievement Project: School aged refugee children receive support with school services, tutoring, navigating the American school system, and supplies for successful learning. Teachers and school administrators receive training and specific orientation on how to work effectively with refugee students and parents.

Mentoring Youth in Virginia: Older refugee youth (15-24 years old) receive one-on-one mentoring as well as opportunities for civic education and engagement. Goal setting and preparation for higher education are promoted and facilitated through this program.

Refugee Health Education and Outreach: Assisting refugees with navigating U.S. health system and providing timely education for clients is the goal of this program. Training and orientation for medical providers is also available to assist with understanding the unique needs of this population.

Services for Older Refugees: Refugees who are 60 years and above are eligible for additional supportive services to reduce isolation, promote naturalization and meet specific health needs to thrive.

Preferred Communities: Refugees with significant vulnerabilities receive intensive case management through the PC program to support their adjustment and attainment of self-sufficiency in the U.S.

CONTACT

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