If application is accepted, case is referred to URM partners for placement. States, national resettlement agencies, URM provider agencies, Unaccompanied Afghan minors are entering the U.S. as humanitarian parolees. Once referred to ORR, they are placed with care providers that have the appropriate cultural and linguistic experience. ORR is working to unite them with a relative or other sponsor. Those who cannot be reunited may be placed in foster care but would remain in ORR custody. Some UC may qualify for the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program which provides specialized placement with state-licensed foster families.

Unaccompanied Children and Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Programs

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND UNACCOMPANY REFUGEE MINORS PROGRAM

Unaccompanied Children (UC) and Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) ORR provides a safe environment to children who enter the United States without immigration status and without a parent or legal guardian to provide for them.

TEMPORARY PLACEMENT

UC enters U.S. and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody. CBP transfers custody of UC to Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

URM APPROVAL

After appropriate placement is found, child is approved by ORR to enter the URM program.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- Ensure access to English Language Learner (ELL) classes
- Provide cultural sensitivity training for teachers and administrators
- Designate time and space for children to worship
- Provide interpreters

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Notify health care providers, clinics
- Ensure children have access to medical care, including vaccines
- Provide interpreters

FOSTER CARE LICENSING

- Seek additional foster care family for the unaccompanied children
- Expedite licensing process
- Provide interpreters

SUPPORT AFGHAN COMMUNITIES

- Provide resources for community-led programs and opportunities
- Connect with places of worship and community organizations
- Provide interpreters

Interested in Fostering?

Learn which states have foster care programs for unaccompanied children at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/HowStatesCanHelpAfghanChildren

Two national resettlement agencies also assist with the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program through a network of foster care providers.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
http://fis.lirs.org/fostercare/

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
http://www.usccb.org/fostercare/

How States Can Help Afghan Children

APPLICATION

- Attorneys/case workers apply for URM program on behalf of UC
- ORR verifies eligibility, child’s needs, identity, and age

REFERRAL

- UC and URM programs coordinate and transfer child from UC to URM care.
- Child arrives to URM placement and state/local URM partners assume legal custody

STATES THAT OPERATE URM PROGRAMS:

- AZ
- CA
- CO
- DC
- FL
- MA
- MI
- MS
- ND
- NY
- PA
- TX
- UT
- VA
- WA

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