



## State Senator Kayse Jama

Senate District 24 (D-East Portland)

Native land of Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes that made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers

### FACTSHEET

December 12, 2021

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## A Funding Package to Welcome 1,200 Afghan Arrivals in Oregon

*Released in Response to the Special Legislative Session to Welcome Afghan Families.*

### A. WORKGROUP PROCESS

The offices of Senator Kayse Jama (SD-24) and Representative Khanh Pham (HD-46) have convened a multi-agency workgroup to conduct an assessment of federal support and develop a process for elevating recommendations for legislative action. This workgroup has met biweekly starting September 14th. They also convened subgroups that met in between meetings focused on understanding the current landscape for Afghan arrivals in different areas, including housing, employment and workforce development, education, healthcare, language access and legal services.

Leading and participating in these sub-workgroups were representatives from the Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Health Authority and affiliate CCOs, Oregon Employment Department, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Early Learning Division, and other state agencies. In addition, we engaged with community partners, including resettlement agencies, federal and local jurisdictions, and other key stakeholders.

After several months of collaborative work, they have identified urgent funding allocations that are needed before the Legislature returns to session in February. Families have already started to come to Oregon, and there are areas of critical unmet needs that the federal government has not funded. In particular, within the following areas of legal services, housing, emergency management, and culturally specific support, we must address gaps to provide adequate support for families to meet their basic needs and build a strong foundation for their future in Oregon.

**B. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FUNDING REQUESTS**

Allocate funding for the ODHS Emergency Management Unit’s Short-Term Housing and Feeding Mission (ODHS)	<b>\$5,362,590</b>
Subcontract Case Management With Refugee Resettlement Organizations (ODHS)	<b>\$2,914,286</b>
Subcontract with Community Organizations for Culturally-Responsive Outreach and Support (ODHS)	<b>\$717,600</b>
Hire Staff to Coordinate Long-Term Housing Assistance and Build Culturally Specific Infrastructures to Support Afghan Arrival(ODHS)	<b>\$302,586</b>
Provide at least 12 months of Rental Assistance for Afghan Refugees (ODHS)	<b>\$5,961,600</b>
Contract with a Non-Profit Legal Services Provider to Provide Legal Support Once Families Arrive in the United States (ODAS)	<b>\$2,890,000</b>
Contract for Interpretation Services (ODHS)	<b>\$90,000</b>
<b>Total Amount of State-Level Funding</b>	<b>\$18,238,662</b>

**C. THE LANDSCAPE OF FEDERAL SUPPORT**

On August 29th, President Biden directed the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate evacuations under “Operation Allies Welcome”. The passage of Federal FY 22 Continuing Resolution included many Afghan-related provisions, including ensuring evacuees will be eligible for certain public benefits, including refugee benefits under the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Special Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid/Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Local resettlement agencies will receive State Department-funded assistance through the Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) Program to provide assistance for Afghan arrivals during the first 30 to 90 days in their new communities. Securing stable housing, employment, and adjusting immigration statuses takes much longer than the 90 day period. Families will need additional support, especially after the difficult journeys many have needed to make. This is where the state of Oregon needs to step to address critical gaps that were not met in the federal government’s response.

**D. AFGHAN RELOCATION ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND OREGON**

Federal officials are coordinating the relocation of over 40,000 individuals from military bases, following their evacuation from Afghanistan, to communities across the country. Current commitments from resettlement agencies across the country do not meet the current level of need and Oregon must be prepared to increase our resettlement numbers in response to the federal resettlement efforts. Oregon’s six local refugee resettlement agencies have committed to resettling up to 1,200 Afghan arrivals with additional state support. State agencies and local resettlement agencies require additional resources to meet current needs and respond to the needs of arriving families in the coming months.