

Afghan Support Center

PHOENIX HIGHLIGHTS

May 17th – 20th, 2023

It was an incredible four days in Phoenix. We are so thankful for our providers who helped more than 700 Afghans (30% of the local population) get the support they needed. The feedback we received from our guests was overwhelming positive, with 90% saying they were extremely or very satisfied with the services provided at the support center. While we cannot share every amazing story from our work, we can shine the spotlight on a handful of compassionate professionals who made a huge difference for so many families.



Immigration Legal Services for Afghan Arrivals provides eligible Afghans with pro bono counsel as they navigate the U.S. immigration system. During their work in Phoenix, they met with dozens of people seeking help with their immigration cases. They updated addresses and ensured Afghans were aware of important dates and processes. Attorneys provided one-on-one legal counsel on asylum and green card applications. Many guests had questions about the possibility of bringing family members from abroad into the U.S. In some cases, there are not legal pathways to accomplish this. But having the legal guidance and reassurance a family member was doing everything they could was beneficial.

Despite these successes, we know Afghans and their families face many challenges in the United States. We look forward to continuing our work for them in Tucson from June 1st – 3rd at the Marriott University Park. For more information, please visit centersforaghansupport.org.



Dentists and dental assistants from the **Midwestern University's College of Dental Medicine** in Glendale met with young children who did not understand how to brush their teeth properly. Many were introduced to floss for the first time and were excited to learn about how it can lead to healthy smiles. They worked with mothers, helping them understand the negative aspects of putting babies to sleep with bottles as it greatly increases the chances of tooth decay. Dentists also ensured Afghans could be connected to community dental clinics across the greater Phoenix area, where they could be eligible for reduced or free care if they meet certain requirements.

Our event was held at the **Downtown Sheraton** – a prime location as the hotel has hired more than 85 Afghans since September 2021. Leaders at the Sheraton had connections to nonprofits like **Catholic Charities** and the **International Rescue Committee** who identified candidates for open positions at the hotel. Today, these men and women work as accountants, engineers, office coordinators, waitstaff and housekeepers. The Sheraton has even more roles to fill, so recruiters were happy to discuss opportunities with Afghans who attended our event.

The **Arizona Department of Economic Security** focused on helping families secure public assistance. DES staff worked with more than 60 clients, including a family with six children who were not receiving their full amount of SNAP benefits. After reviewing their files, the team noticed the original form they completed only allowed a maximum of four children to be listed. The family was given a new form and updated their information, increasing their benefits by \$800 a month. This also ensured all their children had access to health insurance through Medicaid.

