



Insights from the Health Equity for Afghan Refugees (HEAR) Project

In one of the largest humanitarian evacuations in modern history, more than 75,000 Afghan citizens were evacuated to the United States in 2021. Refugee resettlement services cover the spectrum of social determinants of health, and support refugees' access to food, housing, education, and employment. Collaboration across these services is essential to refugee resettlement and can enable health and human service organizations to align diverse efforts to support refugee well-being, integration, and long-term self-sufficiency.

Funded by the [AIR Equity Initiative](#), the [Health Equity for Afghan Refugees \(HEAR\) project](#) generated and used evidence to enable organizational collaboration to center resettlement efforts around refugee concerns. The HEAR project conducted research to understand the resettlement landscape, the experiences of refugees, and the perspectives of the organizations supporting them. To put evidence into action, the project team created the HEAR Learning Network—a learning community of different organizations that provide services and supports to Afghan refugees.

Insights from research findings and expertise of the HEAR Learning Network have guided the development of [recommendations](#) for policymakers and practitioners to address specific challenges to organizational collaboration in refugee resettlement: insufficient funding to support long-term collaborative partnerships, systemic barriers to collaboration, limitations in organization capacity and resources, and barriers to partnership implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

- Develop new or modify existing funding mechanisms to incentivize collaboration between resettlement agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs).
- Develop infrastructure to enable representatives involved in refugee resettlement to identify, discuss, and address systemic barriers that prevent collaboration.
- Allocate or modify funding to enable resettlement agencies to build and maintain capacity for collaborative efforts with or among CBOs, especially those that represent refugees.
- Incorporate a whole-person approach in refugee resettlement programs that can adapt to refugees' priority needs and their stage in the resettlement and integration process.

CONTACTS



Trenita Childers
Senior Researcher
tchilders@air.org



Maliha Ali
Senior Researcher
mali@air.org

For further information about AIR, contact Natalie Coupe, Senior Manager, Public Affairs at ncoupe@air.org

Since its founding in 1946, the American Institutes for Research[®] (AIR[®]) has conducted rigorous research and used evidence to address complex social issues and improve the lives of people, both in the U.S. and across the globe. The AIR Equity Initiative is predicated on these same principles and strengthens AIR's commitment by investing in the generation and use of high-quality evidence to address the harmful effects of inequality.