



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**“All Are Welcome Here”
A Partnership with Jewish Family
Services of Washtenaw County**

Board of Regents Meeting

April 21, 2022

Lauren M. London, EMU General Counsel and Mira Sussman, Resettlement Resource Development Manager, JFSWC

Overview of the Partnership

- Housing Afghan refugee families on Campus (Dec. 2021- June 2022)
- Volunteer Opportunities for Students, Faculty, and Staff
- Use of Campus Facilities
- The Future: Bringing Refugee Students To Eastern as Part of our Global Village

JFS Background

- JFS was established to support community resettlement efforts that started over 40 years ago. JFS has been involved in resettlement efforts since its inception in 1993.
- We've resettled thousands of refugees, SIVs, and other types of immigrants from all over the world.
- We are the only resettlement agency in Washtenaw County.
- We are one of very few resettlement agencies that provide a continuum of services from pre-arrival all the way through naturalization.
- Our services are built on the holistic model of a wrap-around approach, which focuses on addressing all critical needs and long-term success of each client in one place.
- We are there to be the voice of refugees, an advocate, convener of welcoming activities, expert/educator on all refugee needs, and partner in regional resettlement collaborative efforts.

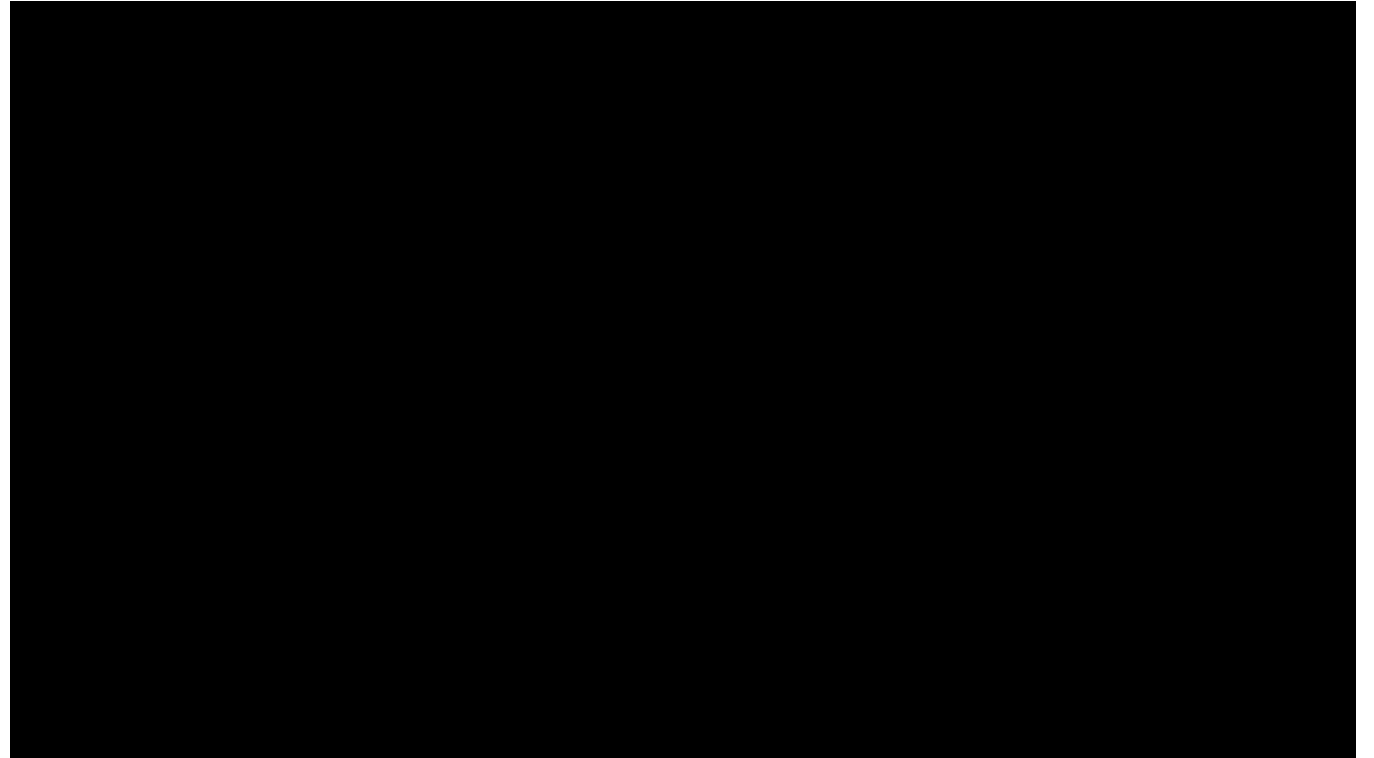
JFS Resettlement: What We Do

- ✓ PRE-ARRIVAL PLANNING
- ✓ RECEPTION OF REFUGEE
- ✓ HOUSING
- ✓ FURNITURE
- ✓ FOOD
- ✓ CLOTHING
- ✓ BENEFITS/SOCIAL SECURITY
- ✓ ESL/SCHOOL REGISTRATION
- ✓ EMPLOYMENT
- ✓ HEALTH SCREENINGS
- ✓ TRANSPORTATION
- ✓ HOME VISITS
- ✓ CRISIS MANAGEMENT



Housing Afghan Refugee Families

- Formalizing our Partnership (MOU and Rental Agreements)
- Our Commitment: House up to 12 Afghan families over 6 months
- Cross-Campus Collaboration
- Student Government Initiatives
- DPTV Story (aired Jan. 27, 2022)



Continuing Volunteer Opportunities on and Off Campus

- Facilities Use and Storage
- Linguistic Support
- Peer Mentorship
- Move-in Help
- Social Services

Next Steps: Welcoming Refugee Students

- Establishing a Fund through EMU Foundation
 - Goal: Cover Tuition, Room & Board
 - Draw Upon a Variety Sources:
 - Merit Scholarship
 - Fund Support
 - Chartwells Partnership
 - Partnership with JFS and others to identify candidates for a pilot program
- Clarifying and Fulfilling Requirements for Refugee Students
 - Visa Status/Implications
 - Language Requirements

Thank You!

Q & A