

Newcomer Community Center

Emergency Response to Housing Shortages and Increased Reception of Refugees

Context

In Phoenix, as in cities across America, we are proud to welcome refugees, such as the brave Afghans who served alongside our troops and managed to escape as their country fell into turmoil. However, as we prepare to resettle these and other refugees in our communities, we are facing crises of our own, including a severe housing shortage. Phoenix is expected to receive over 2,000 Afghan evacuees for permanent resettlement, and those who have arrived already are being resettled into housing that lacks access to vital services that would help them thrive and integrate quickly.

Proposal

Lifting Hands International (LHI), together with coalition of NGOs, propose the creation of the Newcomer Community Center (NCC), a housing complex with 100 - 150 apartment units, to provide short-term accommodations (3 - 6 months) for refugees upon arrival. The NCC will be both a living space and a hub for support services, facilitating easier access for resettlement agencies (RAs), providing programs essential for integration, and helping find long-term housing.



Goals

1. Reduce the burden on the city & resettlement agencies to find suitable housing upon refugee arrival.
2. Provide arriving refugees the time & services needed to reduce post-migration stressors.
3. Support the city's mission of improving the "quality of life in Phoenix" particularly for vulnerable populations, such as, recently arrived refugees.

Benefits to City of Phoenix

- Provide relief for housing shortage
- Prevent the most vulnerable from homelessness
- Solution to permanent housing
- Bolster labor shortages in key industries
- Revitalize neighborhoods and reduce community crime rates
- Bring diversity, equity, inclusion, & a sense of welcome to newcomers
- Increase newcomer self-sufficiency and integration
- Provide equitable access to essential social services

Budget

Property acquisition and renovation costs: \$14.34 million

One year of operating costs: \$660,000

REQUEST: \$15 million to cover the property acquisition + one year of operating expenses