



# FAQ FOR RENTING TO NEW VERMONTERS

SOUTHERN VERMONT  
**WELCOMING  
COMMUNITIES**

As part of Vermont's contribution to America's evacuation of our Afghan allies, Southern Vermont will receive 100 Afghan individuals under the federal government's Afghan humanitarian program. Arrivals of one family per week are expected by the end of year and continuing throughout early 2022.

This is the first time that Southern Vermont has taken part in refugee resettlement since the 1970s, so landlords may have some questions about renting to Afghans and other refugees.

## **Why Refugees are Excellent Renters**

- All refugees will have undergone extensive background checks from a reliable third-party (Department of Homeland Security)

- Refugees' initial renting costs will be paid by ECDC with sufficient federal and state funds and local donations
- ECDC's case managers are experienced and tasked with enrolling refugee renters in the new and existing rental assistance programs and resources available to all Vermonters
- Refugees are required by the federal government to look for work within 90 days of arrival
- Refugees have a case manager and a team of community volunteers and co-sponsors supporting them, helping them set-up and maintain their households, communicate with their landlords and neighbors, find employment and cover any long-term costs

Contact [thuddleston@ecdcus.org](mailto:thuddleston@ecdcus.org) with rental opportunities or for more information.



# FAQ FOR RENTING TO NEW VERMONTERS CONT.

## Arrival and Leasing Process

- ECDC—one of the nine federal resettlement agencies—is responsible for resettling refugees in Windham, Windsor and Bennington Counties.
- Contact ECDC if you have any 1, 2 or 3+ BDR that are available over the next 1-3 months and walkable to public bus lines
- ECDC will match your apartment size/layout to an appropriate family size/composition
- ECDC will be able to visit the rental, agree the rental arrangement and prepare everything before the refugee arrives to sign the lease
- You will be able to receive all relevant information on the renter before their arrival
- Back-up temporary housing is available in case the rental's availability is delayed
- Any donations are tax deductible via ECDC

## Best Practices in Renting to New Vermonters

- Consider waiving a credit and background check
- Reserve a unit for an arriving family before they are able to physically sign a lease
- Adjust rents to build up a security deposit, rather than require it upfront
- Work with ECDC to access interpretation/translation services for any building signage
- Contact local Case Managers and volunteer Co-Sponsorship teams to help address any communication barriers or intercultural misunderstandings

## Contact and Support

- Thomas Huddleston, ECDC  
Multicultural Community Center  
([thuddleston@ecdcus.org](mailto:thuddleston@ecdcus.org))
- <https://brattleborodevelopment.com/renting-to-new-vermonters-webinar/>

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