

# Item 6: Refugee Family Support Action Item

First 5 California  
State Commission  
Meeting  
October 28, 2021



# Purpose of Agenda Item

- Background of recent humanitarian crisis involving Afghan refugees and motivation for action
- Highlight needs for refugee communities in California
- Outline goals and activities for broad refugee support
- Recommendation for Commission consideration

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing an orange shawl, holding a child. The woman has a serious expression. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

# Background

- Approximately 124,000 people have fled Afghanistan after U.S. military withdrawal.
- Roughly 1/3 or more of the Afghan refugees will resettle in California. Of those:
  - 35% are children under the age of 18
  - 11% are children ages 0 to 4
- Three main immigration status categories:
  - Special Immigrant Visas (SIV)
  - Special Immigrant Parolees (SIP)
  - Humanitarian Parolees
- Visa processes will be slow, so many arriving as a Humanitarian Parolee make acquiring benefits difficult.
- Federal resettlement agencies are only required to provide support for the first 90 days post-arrival.



# Identified Needs

- Housing assistance (highest need)
- Child care and school enrollment
- Culturally and linguistically accessible supports
- Basic needs, including food, clothing, healthcare, etc.
- Translation services, legal aid, and job placement



# Proposed Support

F5CA's investment could provide targeted county-level support for child care, family supports, and resettlement coordination for refugees through the following:

- Expansion of Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Development Program
- Short-term childcare subsidies
- State and local support through translation and legal services, basic needs assistance, and culturally responsive family outreach, engagement, and system navigation



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# Recommendation

**First 5 California staff recommend the Commission authorize up to \$10 million over 3 years to support refugee families resettling in counties across the state.**

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# Questions and Discussion

