

Vetting for Enduring Welcome Afghan Refugees

Afghans in the Enduring Welcome pipeline (Refugees and SIVs) undergo a rigorous vetting process to ensure that they meet U.S. government requirements and are one of the most thoroughly vetted and scrutinized groups entering the United States. The vetting process includes detailed biometric and biographic reviews using U.S. identification systems and interviews with multiple U.S. government agencies.

Pre-Travel Vetting in Afghanistan



The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) **conducts a comprehensive review and initial eligibility check** and submits the case for thorough review through the National Vetting Center (NVC).



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service's (USCIS) CARE Review Team backed by DHS fraud prevention specialists **review cases for fraud indicators, inconsistent information, and levels of sufficient vetting data** before a case is booked for travel.



All applicants are biographically and biometrically vetted against U.S. government databases. All cases are biometrically revalidated and reviewed again 24 hours prior to departure from Afghanistan and only cleared cases are allowed to proceed to CARE facilities in a safe third country.



Applicants are scheduled for a Centers for Disease Control medical screening with a physician in Afghanistan. Additional biometrics and facial imagery are collected and data is reviewed against myriad U.S. government systems.

Vetting of Refugees at U.S. Government Facilities



Department of Homeland Security USCIS interviews each applicant to confirm identity, assess credibility, and validate refugee eligibility.



Biometric vetting is renewed for adjudication purposes and must be verified and cleared before Refugee stamp is issued and onward travel is allowed.



DHS USCIS officers review all security checks conducted by the interagency and intelligence community. These officers are specially trained to detect fraud.



If all security checks and biometric reviews are cleared, then the Refugee stamp is provided and travel to the U.S. is permitted. At the U.S. port of entry DHS Customs and Border Protection officers complete final biographic, biometric, and other security reviews.