

Program offers free mental health services for Afghan refugees in NY

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NASSAU COUNTY, N.Y. (PIX11) — A new state-funded program will offer free counseling services for refugees in Nassau County.

The New York State Office of Mental Health allocated \$200,000 to fund the program, which will provide free mental health screenings, assessments, diagnoses, treatment and care coordination, including translation and interpretive services.

Officials said the program is designed to support Afghan refugees living in Nassau County who have endured trauma from displacement, religious and ethnic persecution and loss.

Following the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 after two decades of involvement, the Biden administration [established Operation Allies](#)

[Welcome](#). The initiative brought tens of thousands of Afghan nationals to the United States and helped them resettle.

The Trump administration suspended most refugee resettlement programs for countries around the world after he took office in 2025, including Operation Allies Welcome, leaving many Afghans who sought refuge in the U.S. in limbo.

The program will also offer health education, mental health literacy resources and wellness-focused group activities.

"Many of these individuals have experienced severe trauma in their home country and continue to live with its effects long after arriving in the United States," said Keisha Graham-Wilson, program director at CN Guidance. "Our goal is to provide compassionate, culturally responsive support that helps participants heal, strengthen their resilience and build fulfilling lives in their new communities."

Nicole Alarcon is an award-winning digital content producer. She has covered local news for the tri-state area since 2021. She joined PIX11 News in 2026. See more of her work [here](#).

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