



VFP 2023–2024

Massachusetts Afghan Alliance

Driven by experience assisting Afghan evacuees in Kabul's fall, a nonprofit was established to ensure refugees arriving in Massachusetts had access to essential resources, advocacy, and a path to community integration. That vision became the Massachusetts Afghan Alliance (MAA).



John Moses

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS | US ARMY

Challenges

- **Tens of thousands** of Afghans flooded the airport after the fall of Kabul, desperate to flee violence, uncertainty, and the collapse of everything familiar.
- **76,000+** Afghans were resettled across the United States, with Massachusetts receiving **2,100+** in 2021–2022.
- In Greater Lowell, these families faced an interconnected set of challenges: **food insecurity, unfamiliar housing systems, and social isolation.**

Achievements



Established **Massachusetts Afghan Alliance** as a **501(c)(3)** in **December 2023.**



Secured **10 grants totaling \$50,000+** from organizations such as the **Boston Foundation, IINE, and the AAPI Commission.**



Launched a **food relief program** that served approximately **1,500 people** in its **first year.**



Hosted **6 events**, including **Eid, Nowruz, and art showcases**, bringing together approximately **800 Afghans, volunteers, and residents.**

Activities

1. Navigated the **legal, operational, and funding requirements** of building a **nonprofit from the ground up.**
2. Built **relationships with partners** including **IINE, the AAPI Commission, the Greater Lowell Food Bank, and local churches** serving Southwest Asian communities.
3. Hosted a **Stanford student researcher** who provided direct **community support and AI consulting** for MAA.
4. Engaged **peer Veteran Fellows and senior Stanford leaders** as critical **sounding boards** in shaping MAA's direction.
5. Cosponsored a **Hoover Institution Town Hall** and engaged **national media** including CNN and BBC to advocate for **Afghan refugee issues.**



Learn More

john@massafghanalliance.org

