

WE ALL ARE AMERICA

SHAPING A UNITED AND WELCOMING NATION



Federal and State 2024 Policy Priorities

Who We Are

We Are All America (WAAA) is a nationwide coalition led by refugees and immigrants, working to build a strong organizing infrastructure to garner public support for those escaping violence and persecution. We aim to oppose nativist agendas and promote more welcoming policies at both federal and state levels.

Originating from the immigrant rights movement and refugee resettlement coalitions, WAAA stands as the sole campaign of its kind in the USA. Through collaboration between these movements, we strive to create a more inclusive America for everyone.

Thanks to our Steering Committee members and their partners, WAAA has increased the number of state-based organizers from five states in 2017 to all 50 states today. Our collective field represents the largest national grassroots organizing initiative advocating for refugees and

immigrants in the nation, serving around 50 million people across the U.S. Notably, the majority of our organizers are refugees and asylees who have immigrated to the U.S., predominantly from Middle Eastern, African, Asian, South American, and Muslim backgrounds.

WAAA's multiracial and multi-ethnic ecosystem represents a new chapter in our nation's relationship with immigrant and refugee communities, exemplifying strength in diversity.

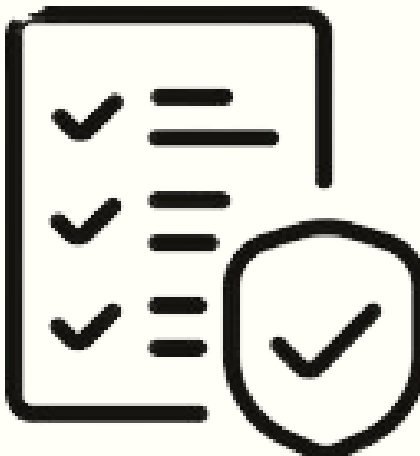
Since 2017, WAAA has been led by refugee and immigrant leaders, connecting multicultural refugee communities with the broader immigrant inclusion movement. We provide training and opportunities for immigrants and refugees to ascend to leadership roles and foster solidarity among diverse racial, ethnic, and faith groups, serving as a conduit for leadership advancement and community solidarity.

Our Pillars



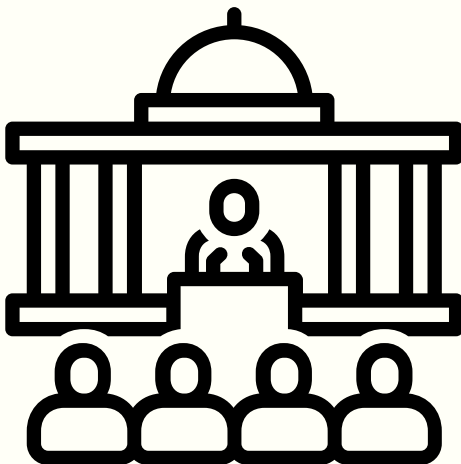
Pillar 1: Centering the Leadership of Directly Impacted Leaders

The campaign empowers individuals with lived experiences of being forcibly displaced by building the infrastructure for refugee and immigrant power. This includes collaboration, capacity building, leadership development, mentorship, technical assistance support, and our Ethnic Community-Based Organizations (ECBOs) cohort.



Pillar 2: Promoting State and Local Welcoming Policies and Inclusive Initiatives

The second pillar promotes pro-refugee and pro-immigrant policies at state and local levels through advocacy and organized activities. Currently, WAAA state organizers are active in California, Florida, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, and Tennessee, with nationwide presence through our Steering Committee partners. Our goal is to expand our reach and strengthen state organizers' leadership in the field.



Pillar 3: Strengthening Our Federal Protection System

The third pillar involves advocating for federal priorities in refugee resettlement and asylum seekers. WAAA shifts the national narrative through advocacy, webinars, advocacy days, press engagement, and rapid response efforts. It focuses on organizing power by uniting refugee and immigrant leaders, advocates, and partners nationally.

Welcoming Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Defending and Strengthening Access to Permanent Protections.

At We Are All America, we remain committed to supporting inclusive policy through a movement of immigrants and refugees with lived experience who work with policymakers to build infrastructure and equip local communities with the resources they need to welcome newcomers effectively. While we fight to rebuild resettlement infrastructure, safe pathways, and welcoming policies, in 2024, we are focusing on defending our systems from attacks and efforts to dismantle them. As we enter 2024, we will leverage our collective power across the country to continue pushing for short and long-term solutions to the challenges our communities face day to day.

This document contains We Are All America's federal policy priorities, state priorities, and peak of action. **Should you have any questions or comments, please email Fatima Saidi at (fatima@partnershipfornewamericans.org).**

Advancing for Humanitarian Protection

- **Strengthening U.S. Refugee Admissions and Resettlement Programs:** In response to global events, conflict, climate change displacement, etc., urge the administration to set the FY25 refugee admissions goal at 125,000, rebuild the resettlement program and other integration initiatives to significantly increase and welcome arrivals appropriately, through different mechanisms, including the Welcome Corps
- **Providing Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** for all countries experiencing the requisite conditions—including African and Caribbean countries, and dismantling racially discriminatory approaches within the immigration system.



Advocating for Permanent Protections and Safe Pathways

- [Protecting Stateless People in the United States](#): With an estimate of 200,000 stateless people or people at risk of statelessness in the United States, the federal government must adopt the international definition of statelessness, provide protections from arbitrary immigration detention, establish a path to naturalization for stateless people in the United States and a temporary legal status with work authorization while their status is being resolved, adopt safeguards to prevent people born to or adopted by U.S. citizens overseas from becoming stateless, and issue travel documents to allow stateless individuals in the U.S. to travel internationally.

We Are All America is advocating for the introduction and passage of the Stateless Protection Act in Congress.

- **Afghan Adjustment Act (S.4787/H.R.8685)**: The Afghan Adjustment Act is urgently-needed legislation which would allow Afghans paroled into the U.S. to apply to become lawful permanent residents one year after arrival. Given the temporary nature of parole, tens of thousands of the relocated Afghan men, women, and children resettled in the U.S. need to navigate complex legal issues to find lasting protection in the U.S.



Federal Inclusion and Integration

- **New Deal for New Americans ([H.R. 1643/S. 883](#)):** The New Deal for New Americans aims to transform the federal government's approach to immigrant inclusion and increase federal support for the proactive inclusion of immigrants and refugees into the social, economic, and civic fabric of our country. NDNA's provisions would establish new programs in key inclusion areas like language training, workforce development and legal services, while removing common obstacles that impede access to naturalization and other immigration benefits. The legislation would also streamline federal cross-agency coordination on policies that affect immigrants and refugees and facilitate alignment between federal, state, and local approaches to immigrant inclusion.
- **Restoring and Strengthening Access to Asylum and Work Permits:** Defend asylum from efforts to undermine the system, promoting a framework that includes harmful and permanent restrictions that would threaten the lives of those seeking safety. Improve access to work authorization by reallocating DHS resources to work permit backlogs and reducing the 180-day waiting period to issue EADs.
- **Advocate for the Implementation of the Task Force on New Americans:** WAAA members will engage with relevant stakeholders to support forthcoming initiatives aligned with the Task Force on New Americans, once the Biden administration releases the plan. Ensure that recommendations and implementation efforts prioritize the voices and needs of impacted community members.

State Priorities

We Are All America passionately champions welcoming and inclusive policies that uplift refugees, immigrant communities, and newcomers. By advocating for these policies, we aim to create environments where everyone can thrive, contributing to the well-being of our communities as a whole. Our state priorities are intricately woven with the insights of our dedicated organizers and field members, who identify and address critical issues within their localities and states. These priorities include:



Building Welcoming Infrastructure

- Advocating for state and local funding for refugee and immigrant communities.
- Improving accessibility for state programs and services; expanding case management.
- Encouraging cities and counties to create civic, social, and economic inclusive policies.
- Supporting legislation related to driver's licenses, housing, workforce development, mental health, and other social services.
- Promoting language access reforms across state, county, and city agencies.



Anti-Immigrant Action Rapid Response & Defense Work

- Creating response strategies to address anti-immigrant action from governors and state legislatures.

Building Bridges and Growing the Movement

- Engaging with ECBOs to address their challenges by sharing organizational strategies and resources.
- Educating communities and creating interfaith relationships to support Ukrainians and Russians fleeing the war.

Civic Engagement & Narrative Work

- Engaging community members, Ethnic Community Based Organizations (ECBOs), and elected officials to protect democracy through civic engagement and voter registration and education.
- Developing and implementing digital work and storytelling to educate our communities leading up to the 2024 Presidential Election.
- Engage local and ethnic media to raise awareness on topics relevant to our communities



Coordinated Peaks of Action

Refugee Council USA

Advocacy Days

Refugee Council USA Advocacy Days will take place May 7th through 8th and is a unique and critical opportunity for Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDPs) and allied advocates to engage with Congressional offices and enhance community engagement critically. The purpose is to champion legislation that is in support of refugees, asylees, stateless people, and all forcibly displaced people who seek safety in the US.



World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day is an annual global observance that occurs on June 20th. The day is dedicated to raising awareness of the challenges faced by refugees worldwide and advocating for their protection and support. Investing in refugee advocacy is crucial, as it can help ensure that refugees have access to the support and protection they need to rebuild their lives.

This year, We Are All America and its partners are prioritizing refugee advocacy by highlighting the importance of welcoming newcomers, promoting pro-refugee policies, and supporting local World Refugee Day events. We Are All America is committed to passing at least 5 Welcoming Resolutions or proclamations during the 2024 World Refugee Day. Additionally, the organization will engage with local elected officials to sign a letter in support of higher refugee admissions for the federal fiscal year 2025.

WAAA National Advocacy Days

We Are All America - National Refugee Advocacy Days is an annual event in August that mobilizes people to advocate for refugee and immigrant rights at the federal level. During the August Congressional Recess, constituents can engage with their elected representatives directly. Participants take part in activities like legislative meetings, training sessions, and workshops to learn how to advocate for inclusive policies effectively. The goal is to amplify the voices of refugees, immigrants, and their allies, advocating for policies that uphold the nation's commitment to welcoming and protecting those seeking safety and refuge.

Presidential Determination

We Are All America and our partners write a letter to the President each year advocating for an increase in refugee admissions to 125,000. The letter emphasizes the United States' historical commitment to refugee resettlement and the benefits that refugees bring. Once the letter is drafted, stakeholders sign it to support this more compassionate policy. We then organize a "Day of Action" to deliver the letter to the President's office, raising public awareness about the urgent need for action. Our ultimate goal is to influence the President's decision-making process and advocate for policies that reflect our nation's values of compassion and inclusivity.



Welcoming Week/Citizenship Day

New American Voters (NAV) encompass individuals who have recently attained naturalized citizenship in the United States. Typically comprising immigrants and refugees, these individuals have completed the citizenship process, granting them the privilege to participate in the nation's electoral process by casting their votes during elections.

Overall, WAAA plays a vital role in uplifting the immigrant and refugee vote through the [New American Voters Campaign](#) by providing support, resources, and advocacy to empower newly naturalized citizens to actively participate in shaping their communities and the nation through the democratic process.

Here are some ways WAAA is uplifting NAV:

Partnership and

Outreach:

WAAA partners with community organizations, local leaders, and national networks to reach and support newly naturalized citizens. This includes conducting outreach events, providing information and resources, and facilitating connections with local services and programs.

Media Engagement:

WAAA engages in social media and local/national media campaigns to amplify the voices and stories of New American Voters. By sharing testimonies and experiences of naturalized citizens, WAAA aims to inspire and mobilize others to participate in the democratic process.

Advocacy and

Support:

WAAA advocates for inclusive policies and initiatives supporting immigrants and refugees, including access to citizenship and voting rights. By promoting immigrant-friendly policies and supporting newly naturalized citizens, WAAA uplifts NAV voices in politics.