

April 19, 2022

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
U.S. Department of State
2025 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to formally extend the support of Buncombe County for Lutheran Services Carolina's application to the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration to open a Reception and Placement program in Asheville, NC. LSC has been providing integration services to refugees, immigrants and to the residents of Asheville through the Afghan Placement and Assistance program since 2021.

Buncombe County is supportive of LSC's community-driven approach to resettle refugees. Asheville offers all the necessary resources for refugees to become successful members of their communities, including employment opportunities, educational resources, and supportive community services.

LSC shared plans to operate an R&P program and has sought input from Buncombe County as a community stakeholder to ensure successful resettlement occurs in Asheville. Buncombe County supports the proposed caseload and confirms our ability to serve newcomers to the Asheville community.

Buncombe County's Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for the development and coordination of services that enable refugees to become self-sufficient and self-reliant after their arrival. Buncombe County looks forward to collaborating with LSC to ensure the successful placement of refugees within our community.

Sincerely,

Brownie Newman

Chairman, Buncombe County Board of County Commissioners