In 2018, WAW’s New York Community Center:

- 1,463 women and families received 3,030 case management services (more than double the number served in 2017);
- 680 cases of legal support;
- 50 clients applied for U.S. citizenship, with a 100% success rate among those whose applications were processed during the calendar year;
- 252 women and men participated in adult education classes on English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship, driving test preparation, and new vocational sewing classes for survivors of domestic violence;
- 10 Women’s Circle sessions were conducted during the reporting period, with 45 to 50 women in attendance for each;
- 87 children participated in WAW’s tutoring program, Homework Help, with 100% of participants passing their state exams and advancing to the next grade;
- 35 girls participated in leadership skills training and development through the Girls Leadership Program (GLP);
- 25 boys participated in leadership skills training and development through the Boys Leadership Program (BLP); and
- 19 young women participated in the inaugural Afghan Youth Rising (AYR) program.

Women for Afghan Women (WAW) is a grassroots, civil society organization dedicated to securing and protecting the rights of disenfranchised Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan and the United States, particularly their rights to develop their individual potential, to self-determination, and to be represented in all areas of life: political, social, cultural, and economic. WAW advocates for women’s rights and challenges the norms that underpin gender-based violence and influence harmful attitudes to bring about change.

NEW YORK COMMUNITY CENTER (NYCC)
71-19 162nd Street, Unit CF-D
Fresh Meadows, NY 11365
Phone: +1 718-591-2434

NEW YORK OFFICE / HEADQUARTERS
158-24 73rd Avenue
Fresh Meadows, NY 11366-1024
Phone: +1 347-531-2556

AFGHANISTAN
Noor Mohammad Taraki Street
Police District #3
Kabul, Afghanistan
Phone: +93 728-859-560

EMAIL: office@womenforafghanwomen.org
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/womenforafghanwomen
TWITTER: @WAWHumanRights

womenforafghanwomen.org
New York Community Center

Afghan women in New York struggle with many of the same issues as their sisters in Afghanistan, including domestic violence, poverty, and isolation—with limited access to opportunities to lift themselves out of these circumstances.

The vast majority of Afghan families in New York are low-income refugees or recent immigrants. Yet, most are unable to access public health benefits and seek assistance due to language and cultural barriers. Staggeringly low literacy rates among adults also often leave Afghan immigrant children struggling to keep up in school and many women unable to navigate daily life in the city.

Women for Afghan Women’s (WAW’s) New York Community Center (NYCC) provides direct side-by-side and comprehensive services to the Afghan, South Asian, Arab, and Muslim immigrant communities of New York City (NYC) and remote (phone or online) support to Afghans that reside outside of NYC.

Today, WAW’s NYCC is a lifeline for the local Afghan-American, as well as Afghan immigrant and refugee communities. The NYCC also serves South Asian and Muslim immigrant groups with cultural and language competencies in English, Farsi/Dari, Pashto, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic, and Spanish.

Our move in July 2018 into the new NYCC has allowed the organization to accommodate the increasing demand for WAW’s services from local immigrant and refugee communities, while remaining accessible and within walking distance for most of WAW’s clients. The new NYCC is still within the heart of the Afghan refugee and immigrant community in Queens, and allows WAW to serve a record and ever-expanding number of Afghan and Muslim women, youth, and families with the following programs:

- **CASE MANAGEMENT AND ONSITE LEGAL SUPPORT** that confidentially assist individuals and families dealing with domestic violence, immigration, public benefits, education referrals and counseling, job placement, language interpretation, in addition to other challenges;

- **ADULT EMPOWERMENT CLASSES**, such as English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship, driving test preparation, and other life-skills classes, such as financial literacy, and a new vocational sewing class for survivors of domestic violence;

- **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAM** provides information sessions, direct and referral services for immigrants, awareness-raising about immigrant rights, and assistance for members of the Afghan, Muslim, Arab, and South Asian, communities to better understand and respond to immigration challenges;

- **WOMEN’S CIRCLE**, a monthly support group, which provides a safe and confidential space for discussions on timely topics relevant to WAW’s clients, including domestic violence and women’s rights;

- **GIRLS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM** for girls ages 10-15, which provides empowerment through life-skills training and education on leadership, advocacy, human rights, professional development, and other pertinent issues, such as combatting child marriage, bullying, and racism;

- **AFGHAN YOUTH RISING PROGRAM** for young women and men ages 16-20, which works to develop life skills on leadership, community engagement, advocacy, and provides assistance with college applications and readies;

- **SENIOR PROGRAM** for women ages 55 and above that provides them with weekly social and community activities and education to promote physical and mental wellness; and

- **COALITION X**, led by WAW, which advocates for immigrant and women's rights by coordinating with 15 other women-, Muslim-, and immigrant-led organizations in New York City.

“Learning English is wonderful, but using English to make change is powerful.” — WAW NYCC client

“WAW is not just a place we go to for services - it is a lifeline. It is family.” — WAW NYCC client

BOYS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM for boys ages 10-15, which examines the rigid expectations with which Afghan and Muslim boys are raised and explores how gender norms, cultural attitudes, and religion impact the treatment of girls and women in the community;