

IMPACT REPORT



2023



Somali Family Service
Dedicated To Building Thriving Communities



Table of Contents

Message from Our President 3

Somali Family Service 4

Health & Wellness 5

Economic Development 7

Youth Department 9

Workforce Development 11

New Office in El Cajon 12

Our Partners 13

Our Funders 14

Our Locations 15

Message from Our President

Dear Community Leaders,

As we reflect on another year of growth and expansion in 2023, I am excited to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you—our partners, sponsors, and continuing supporters. Your unwavering dedication and commitment have scaled our progress and been central to our success in navigating a year filled with new opportunities and accomplishments.

This year's impact report highlights the extraordinary developments and initiatives at the Somali Family Service of San Diego (SFS). In 2023, we celebrated the exciting milestone of opening our second location in El Cajon, a testament to our dynamic expansion and the increasing needs of the communities we serve. This new center stands as a testament to hope and purpose, furthering our mission to nurture self-reliance and champion equity for all.

Our culturally responsive programs have continued to evolve, offering more comprehensive services and reaching deeper into the core necessities of the communities we serve. This year, more than ever, we have seen the tangible impacts of our work—empowering individuals, uniting families, and strengthening community ties.

As SFS embarks on its 24th year of dedicated service, we are reminded of the foundation laid by decades of commitment and community collaboration. Your invaluable support has been crucial in enabling us to expand our reach and enhance our impact. Together, we have scaled new heights and achieved remarkable milestones.

Looking ahead, we are excited by the prospects of further growth and the ongoing evolution of our services. We remain committed to our cause, drawing strength from our shared vision of remaining community-driven & community-led. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey, for your trust, and for contributing to our ever-growing legacy.

With deepest appreciation,

Ahmed Sahid, President and CEO

Who We Are

Somali Family Service of San Diego was established in 2000 as a non-profit, community-based social service organization. Since its inception, the organization has provided culturally and linguistically appropriate programs and services to San Diego and other refugee and immigrant community members, easing their transition and ensuring successful functioning in their new home. In San Diego, there is a severe lack of support services for refugees. SFS is uniquely positioned to fill this gap in the community to provide services catered to the immigrant and refugee communities.

Mission

Somali Family Service, guided by its community champions, empowers immigrants, refugees, and other underserved, communities in San Diego through its programs that promote health, educational and economic success, and leadership development.

Vision

Somali Family Service envisions a better quality of life for refugees, immigrants, and other under-served communities in San Diego. This vision is reached through fostering self-sufficiency, building healthy communities, and promoting equity.

Our Team

The heart and soul of our impact lies in the incredible teamwork and dedication of our staff. Coming from diverse backgrounds, we collaborate seamlessly, offering services in various languages like Arabic, Dari, English, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, Haitian, Pashto, Somali, and Swahili.



Health & Wellness Department

Somali Family Service aims to improve the health & wellness of the underserved refugee and immigrant communities. We focus on providing education, resources, and interventions to prevent and reduce negative health outcomes.



Food Distribution

Number of households served: 600
Number of individuals served: 3,000

Diaper Distribution

Number of households served: 900
Number of individuals served: 5,000
Number of children served: 2,000



Asthma Mitigation Program

100 participants received uniquely tailored asthma education, home visitation, home and environmental trigger assessments, referrals to other social services, safety-net services, counseling, etc.

- Children ages 0-17 years = 48
- Adults ages 18-65+ years = 52

Number of home visits conducted = 396

Number of environmental assessments conducted = 100

- Include clients who received trigger remediation supplies such as cleaning supplies, dehumidifiers, air purifiers, HEPA vacuums, pillow and mattress covers, pest management supplies

Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communication

Interactive Activities: 5,694
Promotional Activities: 35,038

Haitian Integration Support Services

July to December 2023 -
30 clients enrolled

Refugee Family Support

118 unduplicated clients
served by December 2023

SHIFA Pediatric

82 children served in 2023



Somali Family Service
Dedicated To Building Thriving Communities

Economic Development Department

Economic Development and Refugee Integration

In 2023, we reaffirmed our commitment to empowering refugees and immigrant communities to become self-sufficient and create sustainable income. Our services reached diverse refugee and immigrant communities that predominately spoke Arabic, Afaan Oromo, Amharic, Dari, Haitian Creole, Pashto, Somali, and Swahili. Strengthening our 20+ years of case management, we succeeded in assisting 353 families in navigating and applying for public benefits, translation and interpretation, transportation, workforce development and employment, small business development and expansion, through our new and existing programs.

Our Programs:

- Afghan Refugee Assistance Program
- Afghan Communities Support
- Afghan Family Child Care Program
- Black Immigrant and Refugee Equity Project
- Ethnic Community Self-Help Program
- Refugee Integration Program
- Microenterprise Program



Somali Family Service
Dedicated To Building Thriving Communities



Education and Outreach:

- 908 clients benefited from attending 82 in-person and virtual workshops presented in English, Arabic, Dari, Pashto, Somali, and Swahili. These workshops covered various topics, including the Business 101 series, technology, and marketing, capital bookkeeping and accounting, the Welcome to America series, financial literacy, public benefits education, citizenship workshops, workforce development, resume building, housing and utility, tenants' rights, employment preparation, know your rights, housing, and COVID-19.

New initiatives:

- SFS launched three new programs to support the newly arriving Afghan population in San Diego. The Afghan Refugee Assistance Program and Afghan Communities Support provided case management to 174 individuals and families who came after July 29, 2021, aiding them to integrate into their new communities through in-house services and referral to partner organizations.
- The Afghan Family Child Care Program offers technical and financial aid to families interested in starting a family childcare home business. In 2023, eight clients have opened their childcare businesses and are generating income.



YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Somali Family Service's Leaders in Our Neighborhood (LION) program provides comprehensively enriching opportunities for youth (ages 5-26). With its focus on faith, education and family life, youth build confidence and develop skills that empower them toward academic achievement, civic engagement, and personal development.

Youth Development (LION Youth Ambassadors)

- **65 Leaders** in Our Neighborhood (LION) youth empowerment and educational enrichment workshops and webinars
- **15 youth** interns volunteered throughout the year
- **35 books** distributed to youth in partnership with One Book, One San Diego
- **40 youth** in LION youth advisory board



Outreach & Education

15 families received tax filing assistance and earned more than **\$36K total** in credits & refunds

150 parents engaged



Workshops

15 families received tax filing assistance and earned more than **\$36K total** in credits & refunds

150 parents engaged

250 youth participants in various workshops

Annual Youth Awareness Event

- **100 community members** reached at community opioid awareness event featuring expert panelists & guest speakers
- **30 youth ambassadors** provided substance use disorder training & distributed **800 naloxone units** throughout San Diego



Somali Family Service
Dedicated To Building Thriving Communities



Hamza Abdullahi- NNAAC Fellow

“This fellowship has been a wonderful experience for me. This fellowship has taught me to take initiative within my community and be the best leader I could be. Being able to support underrepresented groups within my own city has become a passion!”



**150 voter
pledge cards**

**Over 200 Clients
contacted via
Phone Banking**

**100 public
comments
collected and
submitted**

**100 youth served
through workshops**

**150 community
members engaged in
voter education**

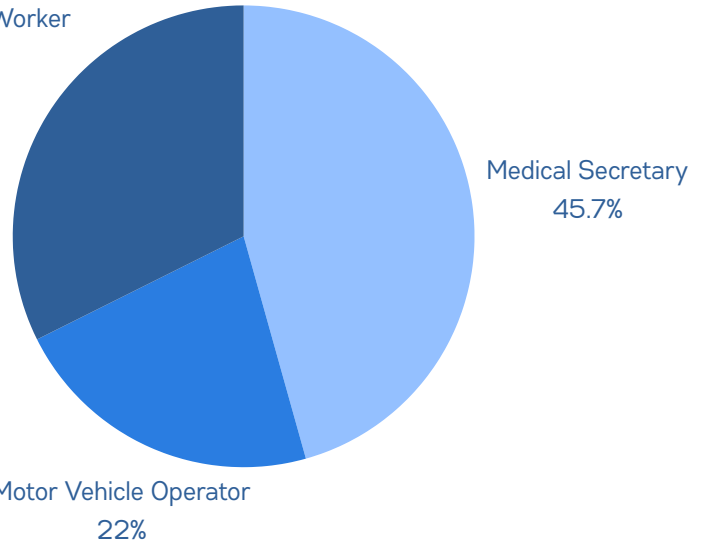
Somali Family Service
Dedicated To Building Thriving Communities

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

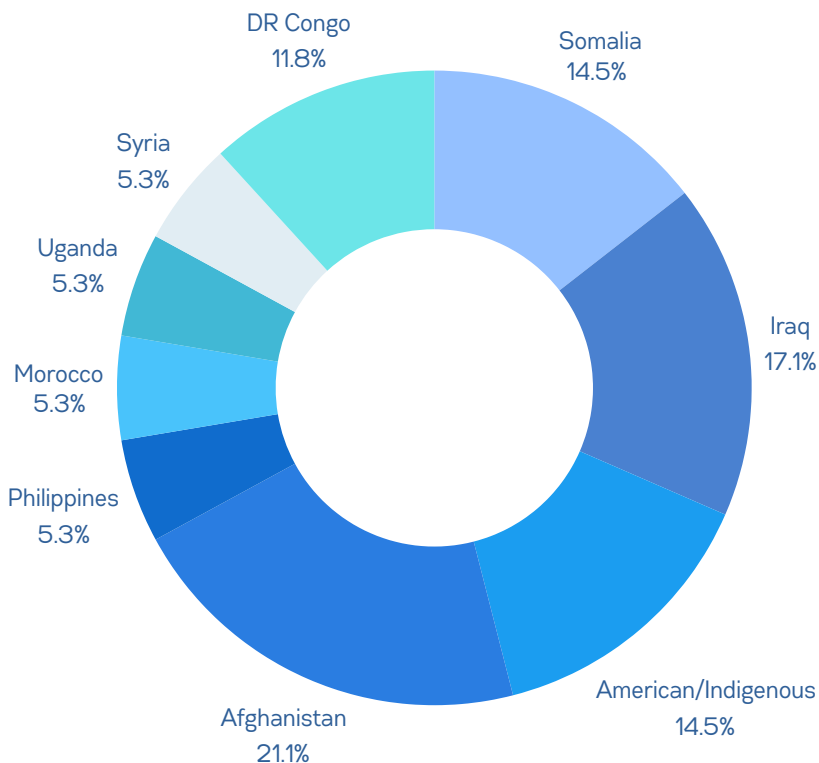
This department offers three certification programs: Motor Vehicle Operating, CHW (Community Health Worker), and Medical Secretary.



Community Health Worker
32.4%



Demographics Served

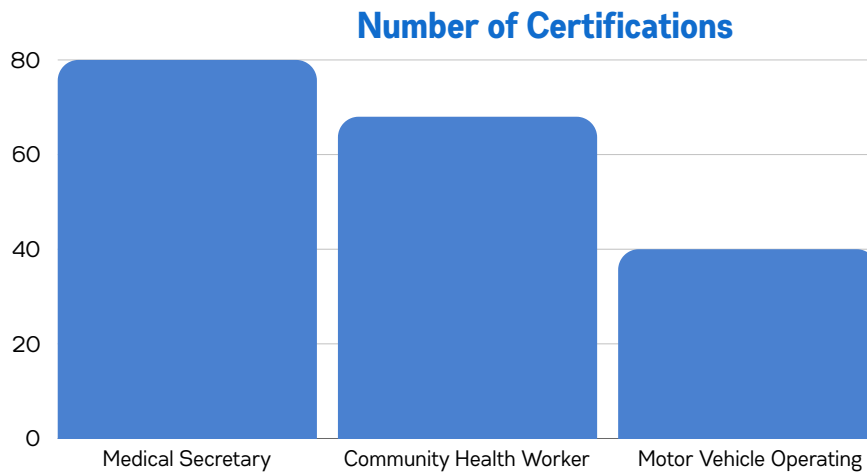


- Essentials of Community Health Work;
- In partnership with UCSD offering Community Health Worker training program to certify and skill members within the San Diego Community.
- Developed 3 different course curriculums; offered 60+ hours of training.
- Provided wrap around services that included technological assistance, transportation support, and childcare
 - Provided 12+ transportation assistance
 - Provided 3 laptops to students
 - In class child watch services

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Joscelyn Betancourt (Student in summer 2023 CHW program):

“I am coming from a very different background and work environment and this whole course was very enlightening. There was the history and general job duties but this course took the extra step. There were examples and engaging activities that may not have shown their purpose as we were in them but had a profound effect on my understanding as we moved forward. Each instructor was knowledgeable and that made me feel comfortable with not just the information but the knowledge I would take with me to the outside world. I liked the guest speakers who came and gave us real life examples and scenarios to prepare for in the future. Thank you for the time and efforts put into this program as I believe that it has not only opened myself to a new career but a lifestyle too. I am more aware of my own prejudices and was given tools to help me move past those. I have a better understanding of what and how I want to be a Community Health Worker. I think I want to work within the elementary districts as a Resource teacher.”



SHIFA360 XPRIZE Finalist Highlight

SHIFA360 by Somali Family Service was selected to be a finalist team for XPRIZE Rapid Reskilling competition which accelerated our mission to empower under-resourced communities through accessible, transformative education

Mustafa Sahid
Director of Operations

ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF THE SFS EL CAJON OFFICE

We are thrilled to announce the grand opening of the SFS El Cajon office, a significant step in our mission to empower immigrants, refugees, and underserved communities. This year's impact report showcases the extraordinary progress at Somali Family Service of San Diego (SFS). In 2023, we celebrated the opening of our second location in El Cajon, highlighting our dynamic expansion and the growing needs of the communities we serve. This new center embodies hope and purpose, advancing our mission to nurture self-reliance and champion equity for all.

With the El Cajon office, we are expanding our reach and reinforcing our commitment to closer support and connections with local families.



**Somali Family Service
hosted an open house for
our clients & community
members in 2023**

OUR PARTNERS

SFS is proud to partner with the following organizations who help to strengthen our capacity and impact



United Way of San Diego County



OUR FUNDERS

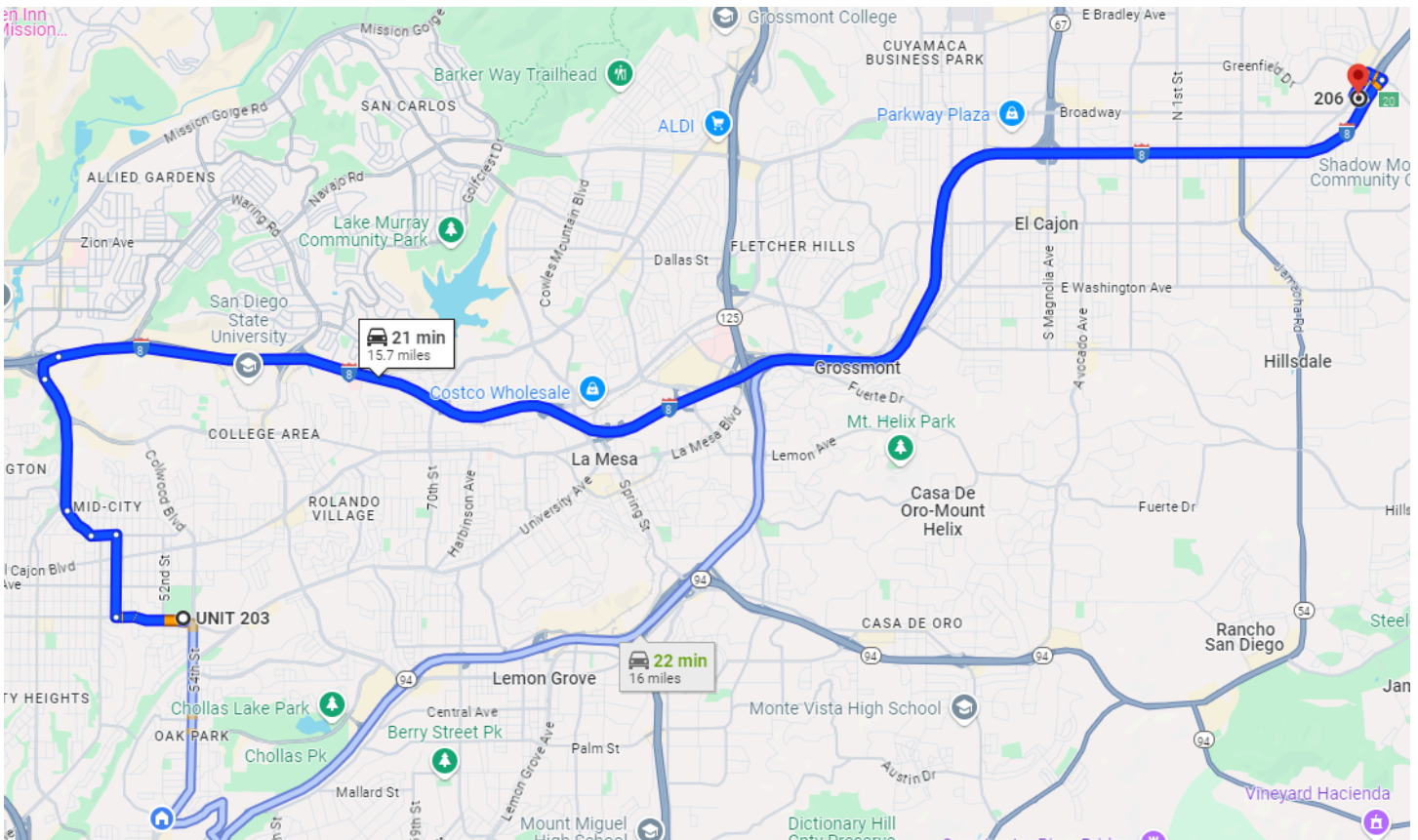
SFS offers our sincerest thanks to our generous funders. Their support helps make our programs and services possible.





**DEDICATED
TO BUILDING
THRIVING
COMMUNITIES**


Come Visit Our City Heights & El Cajon Offices!



City Heights Location:
5348 University Ave Suite 203
San Diego, CA 92105

El Cajon Location:
1625 East Main Street #206
El Cajon, CA 92021

.....

 (619) 265-5821

 somalifamilyservice.org

 SomaliFamilySvc

 [somalifamilyservice](https://www.instagram.com/somalifamilyservice)