



DEDICATED
TO BUILDING
THRIVING
COMMUNITIES

2025 IMPACT REPORT



 somalifamilyservice.org

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Partners & Community,

As we reflect on 2025, I want to begin with sincere gratitude to the community members who trust Somali Family Service (SFS), and to the partners, funders, and supporters who make this work possible. Meaningful change happens when services are culturally grounded, delivered with dignity, and shaped by the voices of the communities we serve.

This year, SFS expanded its reach across immigrant, refugee, and underserved communities, providing essential support to help families stabilize while strengthening pathways to long-term health, opportunity, and self-sufficiency.

As families navigate increasing complexity across health, education, and economic stability, the need for culturally responsive support continues to grow. We remain resilient and solutions-driven, strengthening partnerships, improving access to services, and ensuring our programs respond to evolving community needs.

One powerful example was our youth-led *Voice for Peace* documentary, featured in news outlets and viewed by hundreds, demonstrating what's possible when young leaders are equipped to lead.

2025 was also a year of regional growth. In September, we officially opened our Twin Cities, Minnesota office, marking a major milestone in expanding our long-term presence and accessibility in the region.

On the advocacy front, we proudly supported the passage of California's AB 91, the MENA (Middle East & North Africa) Inclusion Act. As part of the CA MENA Civil Rights Coalition, SFS helped advance this landmark law to ensure MENA communities are accurately counted and better represented in public data.

Looking ahead, our mission remains clear: to set the standard for community empowerment rooted in culture and built for impact. Thank you for standing with SFS. Together, we are building lasting change.

With Gratitude,

Ahmed Sahid, President & CEO



“Our mission remains clear: to set the standard for community empowerment rooted in culture and built for impact.”



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ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW



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.

Values

 Community

 Empowerment

 Innovation

 Sustainability

 Integrity

 Collaboration



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CLIENT & SERVICE OVERVIEW



IMPACT REPORT 2025

Our Clients...

Come from

19+

Countries

Speak

12+

Languages

Including those represented on the map above and more!

Including: Arabic, Amharic, Afan Oromo, Dari/Farsi, English, French, Haitian Creole, Kirundi, Pashto, Russian, Somali, Swahili, Tagalog, Ukranian, & More!

Our Program Areas Include:

Children & Youth Programs

Education & Training

Economic Development

Health & Wellness

Immigrant & Refugee Services



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2025 HIGHLIGHTS

2025



IMPACT REPORT 2025



SFS advocacy contributed to the passing of AB-91, the CA MENA Inclusion Act



SFS expanded our City Heights office space & hosted an open house



SFS opened our newest office location in the Twin Cities, Minnesota



We reached 10,000+ people via direct services, outreach, & events



We launched our new website!



Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe visited our offices



Governor Stephen Sang of Nandi County, Kenya met with San Diego diaspora community

We helped clients establish **69 small businesses**

We provided essential items like diapers & food to **over 3,000 households**

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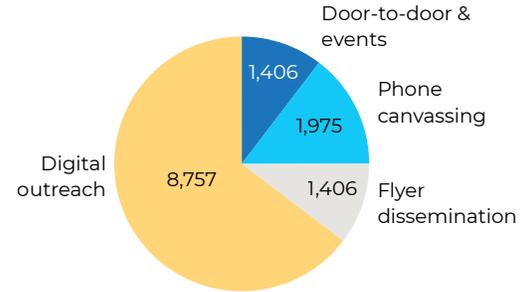
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CHILDREN & YOUTH

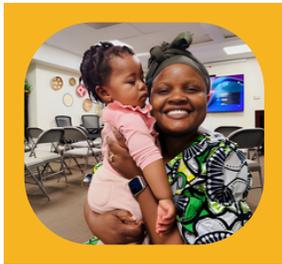
Our youth programs focus on faith, creativity and arts, education and family life, confidence and skill development, civic engagement, leadership skills, and personal development.

Civic Engagement

In partnership with Community Health Workers, youth participated in voter engagement via social media, door-to-door outreach, phone banking, and events. This empowered youth to exercise their right to vote and to engage underserved communities.



Community Members Reached



Early Childhood Literacy

Funded by: Dr. Seuss Foundation & San Diego Foundation

We served over **60 individuals** with literacy skill development training, reading comprehension strategies and other resources designed for youth ages 0-5.

Elevate Youth California

Funded by: Sierra Health Foundation

30 Youth Ambassadors, ages 12-26, received culturally- appropriate training about substance use disorder prevention, CPR, and NARCAN certification, as well as mentorship and civic engagement opportunities.



Stop The Hate

500+

Community members watched the documentary

Funded by: CA Department of Social Services
Led by: Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties

Youth led the development of “Voice for Peace: A Call for Change”, a documentary film addressing the impact of hate crimes on immigrant and refugee communities.





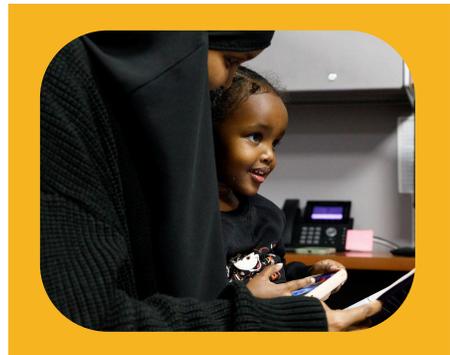
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CHILDREN & YOUTH TESTIMONIAL



I loved how welcoming and supportive this program was. It felt like a safe space where everyone could be themselves and learn without being judged. I learned a lot about leadership, teamwork, and how substance use affects our community. The projects and discussions helped me grow more confident in speaking up and using my voice.

— Youth Ambassador





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HEALTH & WELLNESS

We promote lifelong health by addressing mental, physical, and environmental well-being through culturally tailored education, care, and community-based wellness programs.

3,689

Individuals reached through environmental health & climate resilience support

70

Community members enrolled in CalFresh

Resource Distributions

In partnership with: San Diego Food Bank

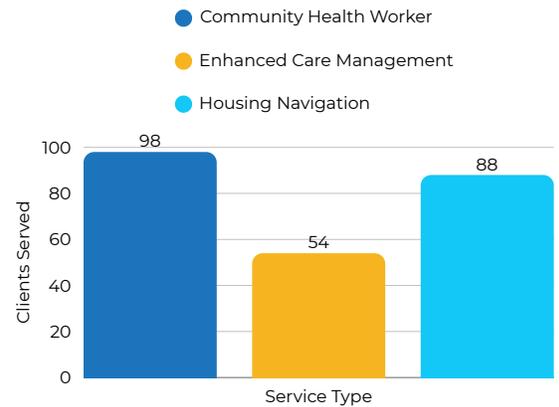
SFS conducts monthly resource distributions to ensure our community has consistent access to basic needs like food, diapers, and hygiene products.



3,150

Households received food & diapers

CalAIM Services



California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) is a statewide initiative to make long-term improvements to Medi-Cal to increase health equity.

Developmental Disability Services

Programs include:



- **SHIFA Pediatric Initiative:** support for families with young children, offering developmental screenings and referrals to essential services
- **Coordinated Family Support:** tailored support for adults with developmental disabilities living at home

200+

Families served

2,000+

Hours of advocacy, case management, & system navigation



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

TESTIMONIALS

“The team explained everything in my language, took their time, and connected me to resources I never knew existed. For the first time, I feel supported and confident caring for myself and my family.”

— **Enhanced Care Management Client**

“The workshops taught me about mental health, nutrition, and stress management in a way that made sense to me culturally. I didn’t just receive information. I received real support. Now I feel empowered to make healthier choices for my family.”

— **Client**

“This program feels like a safe space. The staff truly understand our culture and language, and I never felt ignored or misunderstood. My voice matters here, and it has made a big difference in my life.”

— **Client**





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IHSAN CENTER



At Ihsan Center, we deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health education, mental health support, workforce training, and resource navigation services.



350

Community members engaged via outreach

950

Behavioral health workshop attendees

Services Include:

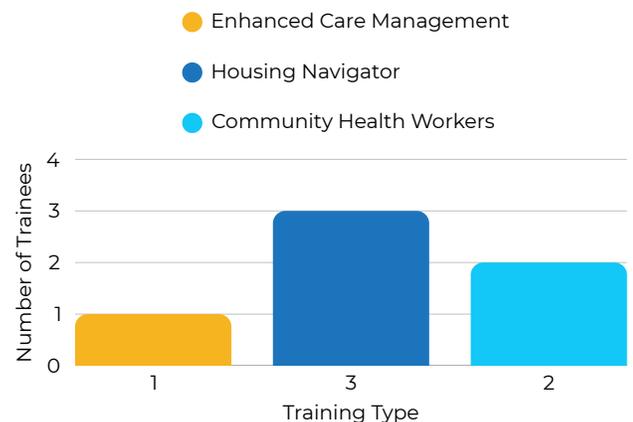
- Individual therapy
- Support groups
- Couples counseling
- Adolescent therapy
- Family therapy
- Workshops on mental health and coping skills

Behavioral Health Workforce Training

Funded by: Kaiser Permanente

We train and upskill the behavioral health workforce at Ihsan Center. These professionals are already connected to underserved communities and can deliver programs and services in community languages to improve health literacy, knowledge, trust, and service use.

Workforce Trainees





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EDUCATION & TRAINING

We empower community members to build on their strengths, gain new skills, and access pathways to education and employment.

Refugee Career Pathways

Funded by: U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement

The Refugee Career Pathways (RCP) Program helps resettled refugees start or continue professional careers in the U.S. through training, mentorship, support with obtaining certifications, and wraparound services.

343

Clients served

83

Clients enrolled
in RCP



Breaking down barriers to employment through:

- Job training
- Mentorship
- Connection to resources
- Support with resumes, interviews, and application processes

Youth Workforce Development

Funded by: Prebys Foundation

We equip underserved youth through workforce training that leads to careers in community health and support services.



Community Health Worker Training

Funded by: Health Resources and Services Administration

Led by: UC San Diego Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science

In partnership with UC San Diego Extended Studies, we trained and certified **200+** Community Health Workers from the communities we serve.



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EDUCATION & TRAINING

IMPACT STORY

"I'm profoundly grateful for the incredible guidance and support I received. This program has not only made my career transition possible but has also given me the confidence to pursue my passion in a new environment."



Maria

Refugee Career Pathways Participant

Maria's Story

Maria is a former yoga instructor from Ukraine who came to the U.S. determined to continue her career. With personalized career coaching and step-by-step guidance, she navigated the American education system and enrolled in a yoga teacher training program at Miramar College.

Through the program, Maria received tuition support, completed her first training module, passed her exam, and is now on track to earn her U.S. teaching license.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We promote economic stability by reducing barriers to employment and entrepreneurship through workforce training, financial assistance, and culturally responsive education.

Small Business Support

Funded by: City of San Diego

SFS helps low-income immigrant and refugee entrepreneurs to start their own businesses by providing educational workshops, professional development opportunities, and technical assistance.

69

Small businesses
started

\$8,935

Financial assistance
provided



“Thank you for your kindness and patience. Your support helped me so much, and I am very grateful.”

— **Childcare Business Owner**

Networking Events

Funded by: City of San Diego

SFS hosted **2 Business Expos** in 2025 that were attended by **75 community members**. These events offered opportunities for entrepreneurs to network and access resources.



Afghan Family Childcare Program

Funded by: U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement

The AFCC Program helps eligible Afghan refugees build economic stability by providing training and support to start licensed family child care businesses.

42

Clients served

\$33,592

Financial assistance
provided



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IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE SERVICES

We support immigrants and refugees to become self-sufficient through personalized assistance, life-skills training, and resource navigation.

155

Total clients served

\$15,625

Financial assistance provided

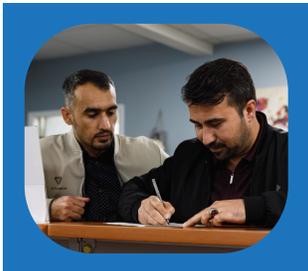
Afghan Newcomers Support Programs

Funded by: CA Department of Social Services

SFS assists recently arrived Afghans in building self-sufficiency and integrating into life in the United States through culturally responsive services and resource connection.

47

Clients served



Black Immigrant Refugee Equity Project

Funded by: CA Department of Social Services

SFS promotes equity for Black immigrant and refugee communities by connecting them to essential resources, services, and opportunities.

Programs include:

- Resource navigation
- Translation & interpretation
- Cultural education & integration
- Financial & other emergency assistance

Refugee Integration Program

Funded by: Islamic Relief USA

We provide refugee and immigrant clients with case management and resource referrals, helping families stabilize and move toward self-sufficiency. The program also provides direct financial assistance to address urgent needs such as rent, utilities, transportation, and employment-related expenses.

\$16,000

Financial assistance provided

92

Clients served

Ramadan Distribution

Funded by: Islamic Relief USA

During Ramadan, we distribute food boxes to clients to celebrate the season of giving.

280

Food boxes distributed

1,426

Clients served



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IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE SERVICES

TESTIMONIAL



When I first arrived in the U.S, I relied on the bus for everything. SFS helped me with a behind-the-wheel program, giving me six hours of training so I could gain confidence in driving. I'm so grateful for their support.

— Program Participant





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FUNDERS & PARTNERS

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our partners and funders. We express our deepest gratitude to the following organizations for their commitment to supporting local communities.

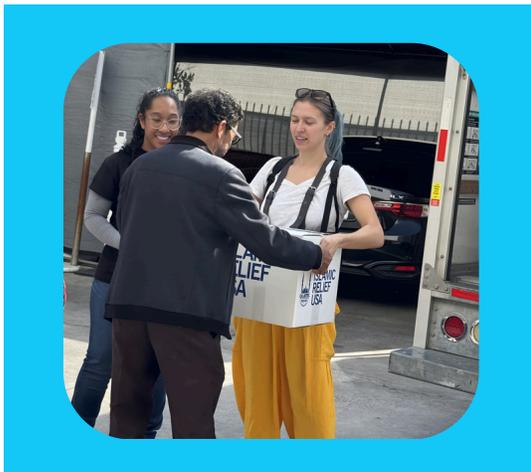
FUNDERS

PARTNERS



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FUTURE OUTLOOK



2026 Vision

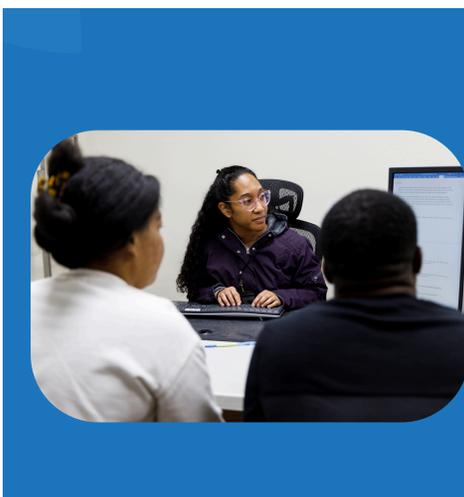
In 2026, SFS will continue building thriving communities through:

- Expanded disability services
- New workforce training opportunities
- Environmental justice collaborations
- Expansion of behavioral health and substance prevention services
- Providing access to food and other basic needs
- And more!

Innovation

SFS is...

- developing innovative approaches to program design and evaluation
- strengthening data systems to better measure impact and respond to community needs
- working with partners to create opportunities for underserved communities to engage in the ethical development and use of technologies like Artificial Intelligence





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STAY IN TOUCH



Phone Number:
(619) 265-5821

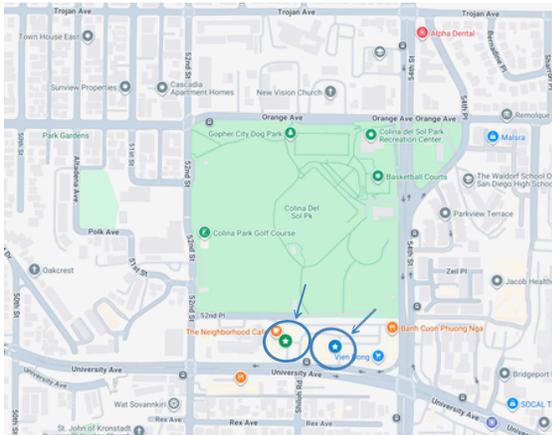


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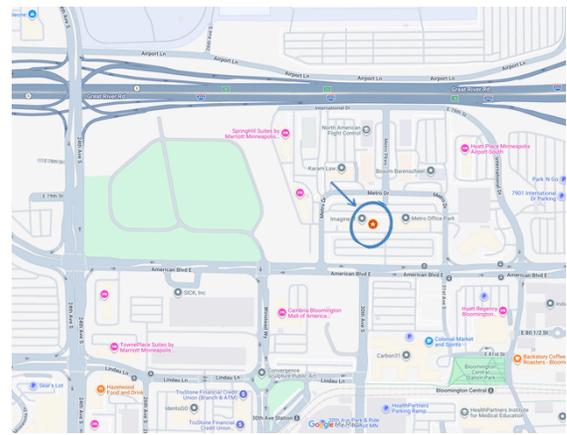
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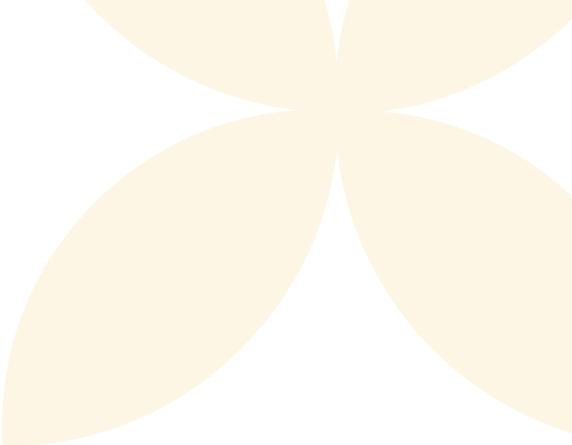
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