

Coalition of Refugee  
Service Agencies

# 2022 Annual Report



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# About CRSA

The **Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies (CRSA)** was founded in 2012 by seven Atlanta refugee resettlement and service organizations to educate Georgia's policy makers and leaders on the positive contributions refugees and immigrants make to the state. The CRSA was founded in an environment where anti-immigrant sentiment and misinformation in the state contributed toward policies that negatively impacted Georgia's vibrant immigrant communities and endangered the economic growth and cultural diversity that had brought greater prosperity to all Georgians. As service organizations with limited resources, the CRSA's founders came together to share messaging, data and staff capacity in order to communicate a positive message and advocate for a more welcoming state.

Today the CRSA has grown to **25** members that include a broad coalition of refugee resettlement agencies, refugee and immigrant service providers, ethnic community organizations, educational institutions, community centers and health providers. This diverse coalition advocates for a more welcoming Georgia at the federal, state and local level.

## The CRSA's key priorities for 2023 include:

- 1** Ensure effective and robust refugee resettlement in the United States on a federal, state, and local level.
- 2** Promote a legislative agenda in Georgia that provides opportunities for the success of all.

- 3** Expand CRSA's relationships across sectors and party lines.

- 4** Provide leadership development, advocacy training, and engagement opportunities for refugees and immigrants in the work of CRSA.

# CRSA Member Organizations



**Amani Women's Center**  
<https://amaniwomenscenter.org/>



**Afghan American Alliance**  
<https://www.afghanamericanallianceofga.org/>



**Burmese Rohingya Community of Georgia**  
[brcgrohingya.org](http://brcgrohingya.org)



**Catholic Charities Atlanta**  
[catholiccharitiesatlanta.org](http://catholiccharitiesatlanta.org)



**CDF: A Collective Action Initiative**  
[cdfaction.org](http://cdfaction.org)



**Center for Pan Asian Community Services**  
[cpacs.org](http://cpacs.org)



**Center for Victims of Torture**  
[cvt.org](http://cvt.org)



**Clarkston Community Center**  
[clarkstoncommunitycenter.org](http://clarkstoncommunitycenter.org)



**Eritrean-American Community Association of Georgia**  
[atleritrea.org](http://atleritrea.org)



**Ethaar**  
[ethaarusa.org](http://ethaarusa.org)



**Friends of Refugees**  
[friendsofrefugees.com](http://friendsofrefugees.com)



**Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network**  
<https://georgiaasylum.org/>



**Global Village Project**  
[globalvillageproject.org](http://globalvillageproject.org)



**Inspiritus**  
[weinspirit.org](http://weinspirit.org)



**International Rescue Committee in Atlanta**  
[rescue.org/atlanta](http://rescue.org/atlanta)



**Jewish Family & Career Services**  
[jfcsatl.org](http://jfcsatl.org)



**Latin American Association**  
[thelaa.org](http://thelaa.org)



**New American Pathways**  
[newamericanpathways.org](http://newamericanpathways.org)



**Refuge Coffee Co.**  
[refugecoffeeco.com](http://refugecoffeeco.com)



**Refugee Women's Network**  
[refugeewomensnetworkinc.org](http://refugeewomensnetworkinc.org)



**Re'Generation Movement**  
[rgmovement.com](http://rgmovement.com)



**Somali American Community Center**  
[facebook.com/somaliacc](https://facebook.com/somaliacc)



**Tapestri**  
[tapestri.org](http://tapestri.org)



**Tekton Career Training**  
<https://tektiontraining.org/>

**Refugee Family Assistance Services**  
<https://refugeefamilyassistanceprogram.com/home-1>

# Economic Impact of GA Refugees & Immigrants

Refugees and immigrants are a vital part of Georgia's communities and economy.

**1,083,553** (10.2% of population)

Immigrant residents in Georgia<sup>1</sup>

**\$10.3 billion**

Taxes paid<sup>1</sup>

**\$40 billion**

Immigrant household income<sup>1</sup>

**277,595**

Immigrant homeowners<sup>1</sup>

**\$29.7 billion**

Spending power<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Visit *American Immigration Council* to learn more

<https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/georgia/>

## The Business & Immigration for Georgia (BIG) Partnership

Georgia's global workforce is vital to the state's economic success. In 2020, CRSA launched the [BIG Partnership](#), a statewide partnership of Georgia business and civic leaders committed to strengthening Georgia's economy by tapping the potential of the state's immigrant communities. With more than three dozen members already, the BIG Partnership continues to grow and carve a path toward greater prosperity for all Georgians.

# Mobilizing Support for Georgia's Communities

CRSA organizations are bringing resources into Georgia and providing valuable services to immigrants and the communities that welcome them.

**\$42, 717,912**

Amount raised to support vital services.

**3,137**

Community Volunteers Provided.

**90,660**

Hours of Service to Support Immigrant Integration in Georgia's Communities.

**517**

Full and part time employees.

**3542**

People receiving English Language Instruction.

**61** Languages spoken by staff

Abure, Albanian, American sign language, Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Bhutanese, Bosnian, Brawanese, Burmese, Cantonese, Chin, Dari, English, Farsi, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Karen, Karreni, Kibembe, Kifulero, Kikongo, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Kiswahili, Kituba, Kunama, Lagunda, Lingala, Mandarin, Maylay, Nepali, Neyo, Oromo, Pashto, Portuguese, Punjabi, Rakhire, Rohingya, Russian, Serbian, Shona, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Tajik, Tamil, Thado, Thai, Tigre, Tigrinya, Tshilhiba, Urdu, Uzbek, Vietnamese, Yowle, Zomi.

**6262**

Hours of interpretation and translation services.

# Global Talent Study Committee

In 2021 the Georgia House **unanimously passed HR 11** to form the **House Study Committee on Innovative Ways to Maximize Global Talent**. This bi-partisan committee met over four sessions with business, community, and education leaders along with foreign-born Georgia residents. On December 10, 2021, the Study Committee issued a final report with five recommendations for maximizing Georgia's deep pool of global talent:

1. Remove barriers to admission at Georgia public colleges.
2. Invest in English learning instruction.
3. Streamline requirements for experienced professionals to re-enter their fields.
4. Support childcare entrepreneurs and expand access to childcare.
5. Incentivize entrepreneurship programs.

# Supporting Georgia Employers

Refugees and immigrants are critical to Georgia's Economy. They bring skills and experience from their home countries and work in many of Georgia's key industries. Yet nearly one in five foreign is un- or under-employed, costing the state millions of dollars in lost earnings and tax revenue each year.

Immigrants make up **13.9%** of the state's labor force and **12.2%** of jobs considered essential or frontline including:

- **29.1%** of building cleaning service workers
- **23.0%** of physicians
- **12.6%** of convenience, grocery and drug store workers
- **10.8%** of healthcare workers
- **10.6%** of trucking and warehouse workers
- **10.5%** of childcare and social service workers

Visit *Georgia Budget & Policy Institute* to learn more  
<https://gbpi.org/immigration-primer/>

Immigrants make up:

- **42.3%** of software developers
- **22.3%** of STEM workers
- **18.3%** of health aides
- **10.9%** of nurses

Visit *American Immigration Council* to learn more  
<https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/georgia/>

CRSA organizations provide workforce development services that support Georgia's essential workforce:

**1320**

Job placements

**\$17.25**

Average hourly wage

**3,493**

People received job readiness services

**350**

Received career advancement and placement services

# Georgia's Humanitarian Response: Refugees in Georgia

Georgia is home to four refugee resettlement agencies and has been a part of this life saving humanitarian program for over forty years. Georgia's resettlement program has been one of the most successful in the country due to high early employment rates and welcoming communities.

**Refugee:** a person who has fled their country of nationality and is unable to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, ethnicity, religion, political opinion or membership in a particular group.

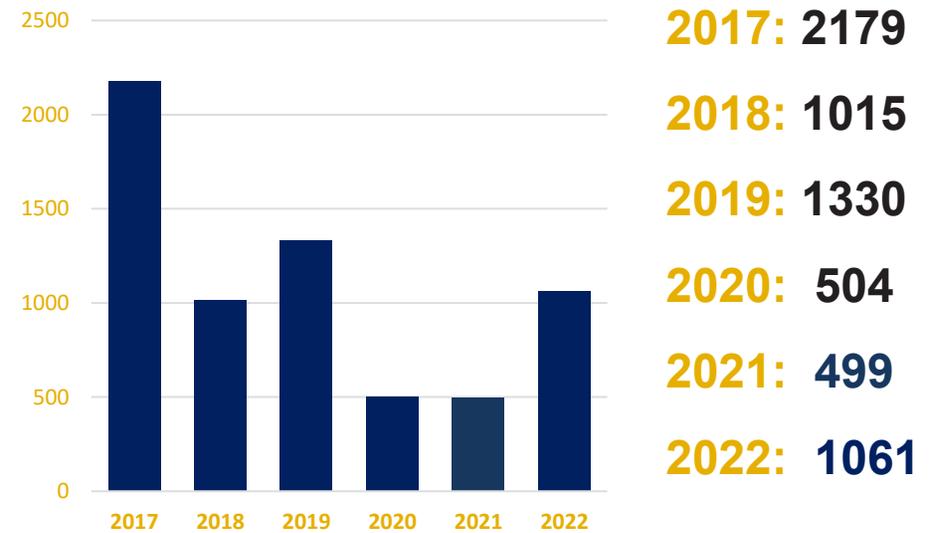
## 16 Countries of origin

Afghanistan, Burma(Myanmar), Cambodia, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam.

## 20 Counties

Barrow, Bartow, Chatham, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Columbia, DeKalb, Douglas, Forsythe, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Muscogee, Newton, Paulding, Richmond, Sumter, Terrell, Tift.

Refugee Arrivals in Georgia



**1,061**

Number of refugees resettled in FY22.

**157**

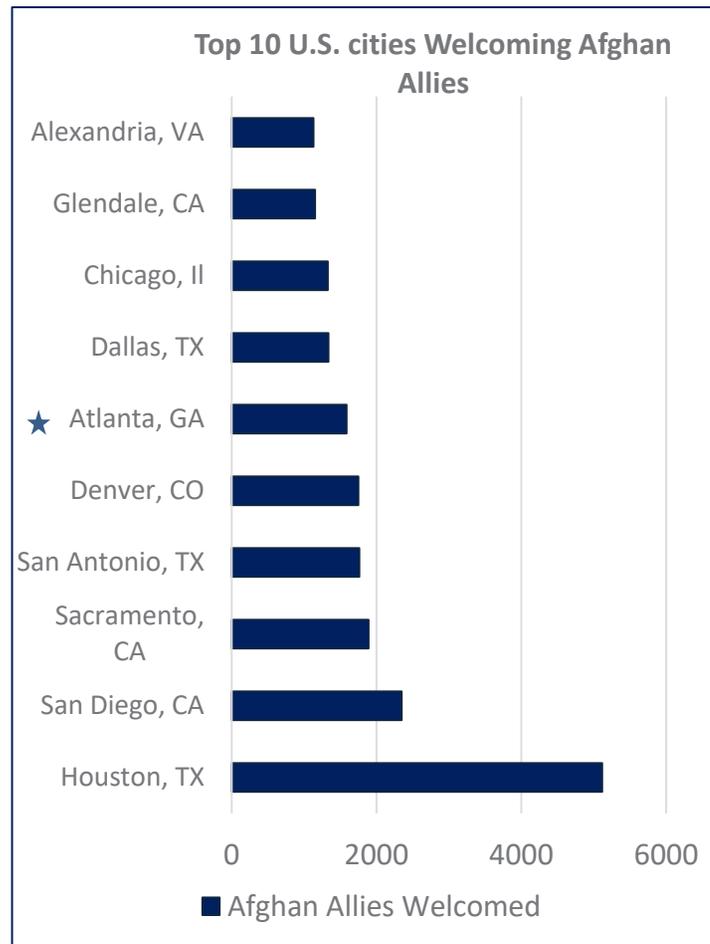
Permanent housing units secured for refugees.

**87%**

Refugees working & self-sufficient within 8 months

# Georgia's Humanitarian Response: Supporting Afghan Allies

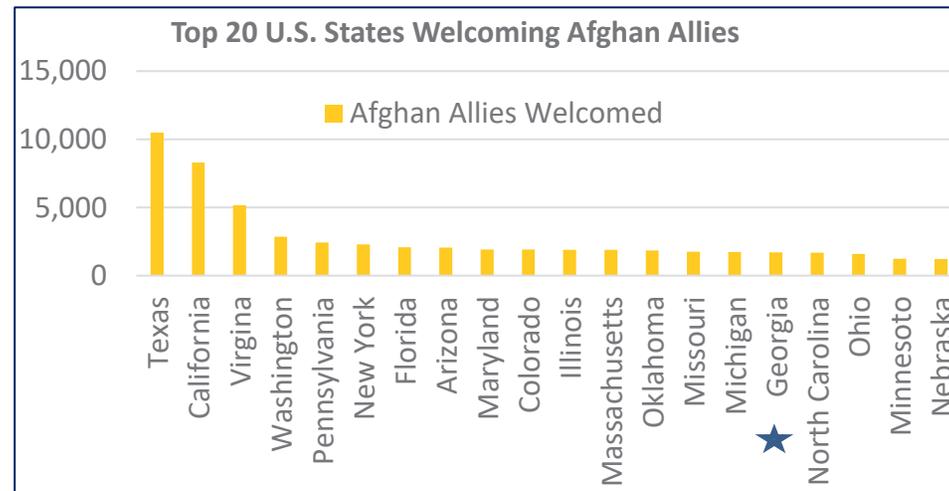
On August 15, 2021, the Taliban captured Kabul after a three-month offensive that coincided with the departure of U.S. and allied forces. When Kabul fell, hundreds of thousands of Afghans who supported the U.S. and NATO during the 20-year war were at risk of retaliation by the Taliban. On August 29, 2021, the Biden administration launched Operation Allies Welcome, which welcomed over 155,000 to U.S. communities. Georgia played an important role in this historic humanitarian effort.



**1697**  
Number of Afghan Allies resettled in FY22.

**612**  
Afghan asylum screenings completed.

**348**  
Permanent housing units secured for Afghan Allies.



Source: CBS News, *Here's Where Afghan Evacuees Have Resettled in the U.S.*, Feb 24, 2022, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/afghan-evacuees-resettled-us-texas-california-virginia/>



## Georgia's Global Talent

Selamawit moved from Ethiopia to the U.S. in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. She then found a CRSA member organization which teaches refugees and immigrants coding skills, where Selamawit became a top graduate of the program. Selam then decided to pursue a master's degree in computer science and, with the help of the connections she made through the coding program, she graduated with her masters.

Selam now works as a frontend developer for an IT consulting organization, Tata Consultancy Services. Selam also continues to volunteer for the CRSA member organization where she got her start, saying, **"As an immigrant, there are a lot of people out there with a professional background and I know it's not gonna be easy to dive into any professional in the U.S. Without any help, I wanted to help those people and I want them to know where to start in the coding jobs. I want to be an example and that's the main reason behind coming back to volunteer..."**

# Entrepreneurs

The determination and entrepreneurial spirit of Georgia immigrants have made them a driving force in the state's small business community, creating new jobs for Georgians across the state and producing billions in sales each year.

**81,849** 17.4%

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Georgia<sup>1</sup>

**\$1.9 billion**

In income from immigrant-owned firms<sup>1</sup>

**41%**

Foreign-born Georgians are 41% more likely than others to open a new business in the state<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Visit *American Immigration Council* to learn more  
<https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/georgia/>

<sup>2</sup>Visit *New American Economy* to learn more  
<https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/city/atlanta/>

## Georgia's Global Talent

Baseer is the owner of Kabul Market—a grocery store in Decatur offering traditional Afghan products. Originally from Afghanistan, Baseer arrived in the United States through the refugee resettlement program with his wife and school-aged children in 2014, after being forced to flee their home. In Afghanistan, Baseer worked as a journalist, businessman and artist.

As an active member of Atlanta's Afghan community, Baseer noticed a lack of access to traditional Afghan products and—working with a CRSA member organization—first opened a clothing and accessories business in 2019.

In 2020, he expanded to offering grocery items and received financial coaching and a small business loan with the help of the CRSA member to secure a larger space, with room for a huge custom oven to bake delicious Afghan bread and a butchery space, where Baseer receives fresh cuts of halal meat—goat, beef, lamb and chicken—each Friday.

Baseer's favorite aspect of owning his own business is being able to provide products for his people—the Afghan community. Whenever he learns of a new product his customers want to see in the store, he looks to incorporate it into his inventory.



# Youth

Refugee and immigrant youth are an important part of Georgia's future. CRSA organizations support parents, students and schools to ensure that Georgia's future workforce has the education and skills they need to thrive.

**21,515**

International students at GA colleges and universities<sup>1</sup>

**1182**

Youth receiving mentoring services by CRSA organizations

**\$662.1 million**

Contribution to the economy by international students<sup>1</sup>

**7,139**

Jobs supported by international students<sup>1</sup>

**1360**

Youth receiving afterschool tutoring services by CRSA organizations

**36,395**

DACA eligible<sup>1</sup> Georgia students

**635,323**

Children in Georgia having at least one foreign-born parent<sup>2</sup>

**1462**

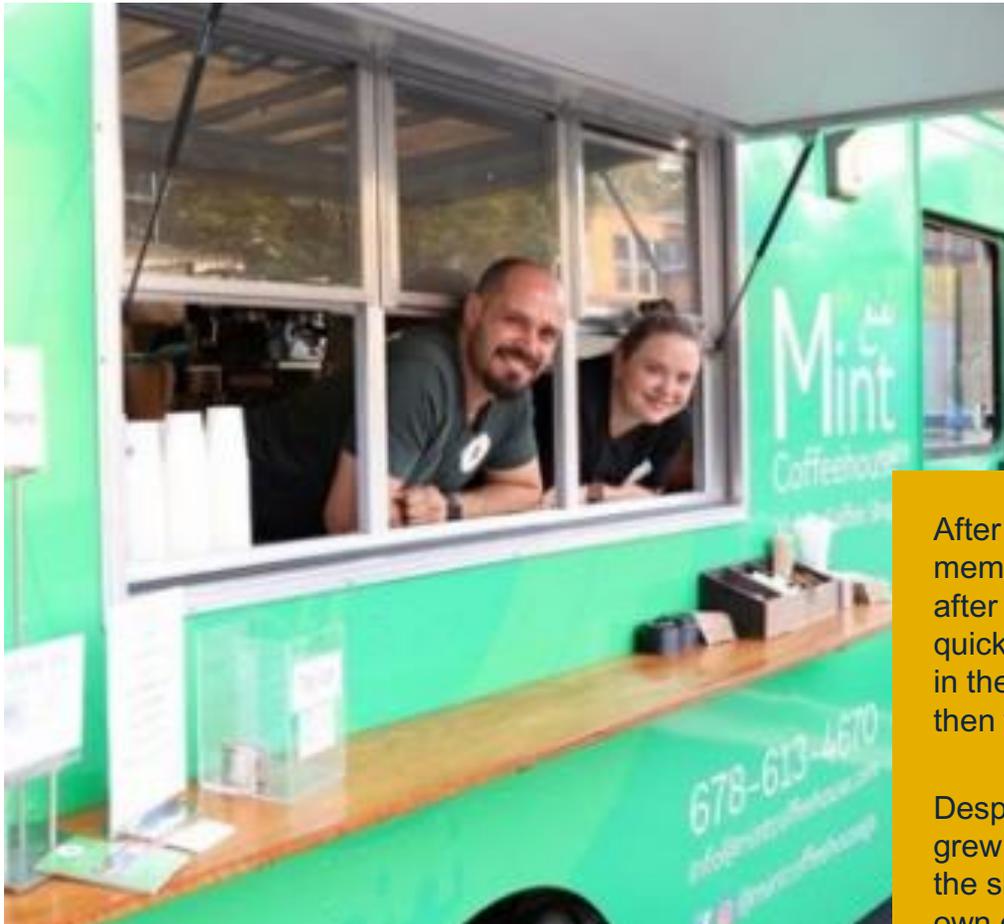
Parents served through parent support services

Undocumented Georgians pay tuition

**2 to 4 times higher**

than in-state residents<sup>2</sup>

1. [New American Economy data](#) 2. [GBPI data](#)



## Georgia's Global Talent

After fleeing Syria, Ahmad began working with a CRSA member organization, Refuge Coffee, less than one month after his arrival in Georgia. Through his experience, Ahmad quickly learned English, bought his first car, bought a house in the Clarkston area, became a United States citizen, and then went to Georgia State University for a business degree.

Despite moving on, Ahmad never forgot the business that he grew to love at Refuge Coffee. Equipped with his degree and the skills he gained at Refuge, Ahmad was able to start his own coffee business: Mint Coffeehouse, a mobile espresso catering business servicing the metro Atlanta area!

# Civic Engagement

Refugees and immigrants contribute to Georgia's communities and should be able to participate fully in community life. CRSA organizations work to ensure that immigrants and refugees can obtain the most secure immigration status for which they are eligible and have a voice in the decisions that impact their lives.

**459**

Asylum applications submitted

**403**

Applications for permanent residency

**174**

Family reunification applications submitted

**473,565**

Immigrants eligible to vote in Georgia<sup>1</sup>

**3,247**

Registered to vote by CRSA members

**601**

Citizenship applications submitted

**45%**

Of immigrants in Georgia are naturalized citizens

**353,109**

Georgia immigrants are eligible for naturalization

1. <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/georgia/>



## Georgia's Global Talent

Shelleyan originally worked as a journalist and a communications practitioner in Jamaica, having an extensive background in media, public relations and marketing. After moving to the US in 2015 and having to wait a long amount of time before she was granted a permanent resident visa, she said **“I wasn't able to go to work or return to my career right away [because of the visa status] but now that I have my paperwork, it is still a process transitioning and finding a job that fits, but I know I have been engaged in some really significant roles that will help me transition here better.”**

Shelleyan then was connected to a CRSA member organization, where she became a Civic Pathways Leader. Wanting to help her immigrant community, she felt the civic leadership program would give her the skills and platform to use her voice in order to share her own experiences and be a part of the transition process to the US. Shelleyan is now planning to use her professional communications skills to start a program to feature refugee and immigrant stories.







**Mission:** To engage a broad coalition to highlight the cultural, social, and economic contributions of refugees and immigrants in Georgia.

**Vision:** We envision a future where every person who calls Georgia home is valued, respected, and able to build a successful life.

**Contact Us:** If you would like to learn more about CRSA or any of our partners, please contact CRSA Co-Chairs Darlene Lynch [DLynch@CVT.ORG](mailto:DLynch@CVT.ORG) and Yonas Abraha [yyabraha@gmail.com](mailto:yyabraha@gmail.com)

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[crsageorgia.wordpress.com](https://crsageorgia.wordpress.com)

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