

Update from the IRC in Salt Lake City

On February 17, 2022, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Salt Lake City welcomed the final Afghan evacuee family to Utah as part of the initial emergency resettlement effort aligned with Operation Allies Refuge. In total, the IRC in Salt Lake City provided initial resettlement services—including securing temporary housing, completing program intakes, evaluating health and wellbeing—for 612 of our newest neighbors who fled upheaval in Afghanistan.

Through this effort, the IRC in Salt Lake City continues work to ensure each family can pursue their hopes and dreams in a new community. We met Sediqullah, a former U.S. forces interpreter, who was forced to flee because of growing threats in his country: “The Taliban had been sending letters to my family, saying that if I did not leave my job, they would destroy my family and everything I had,” said Sediqullah. This was the first of many hard decisions he would have to make to keep his family safe. Learn more about Sediqullah’s experience [here](#).

The IRC in Salt Lake City worked through a busy Legislative Session in Utah, advocating for the needs of refugees, immigrants and new Americans living in the Beehive State. Through partnerships and broader coalitions, the IRC supported a number of initiatives focused on education, language services, professional licensing, and drivers license testing modifications. Read our summary of legislative wins & progress [here](#).

From everyone at the IRC in Salt Lake City: thank you for your continued efforts in support of our work and our newest neighbors.

784 Total hours of one-on-one education and training by IRC programs:

- **New Roots: 190.5**
- **Health workshops: 44**
- **Economic wellbeing: 94**
- **Youth education: 66**
- **College & career readiness: 79**
- **Digital literacy: 79**
- **Spice Kitchen Incubator: 82**

250

newly arrived refugees resettled from Afghanistan and five other countries totaling 737 arrivals so far in FY22

Clients graduated from our 24 month case management programs:

287

1033

total resettled refugees received extended case management services.

New program enrollments included 278 adults, 129 for youth, 31 entrepreneurs totaling:

438

79

hours of digital inclusion support, including distribution of 108 laptops and 45 new smart phones to youth

IRC's immigration currently has 36 U.S. citizenship applications underway & welcomes an incredible number of new U.S. citizens:

46



\$1.9M given as direct assistance to newly arrived refugees to cover essential expenses.



21,400 meals provided through emergency food assistance via New Roots programming.



\$12,000 was the average tax return received through 110 returns filed by IRC's VITA tax program.



\$57,763 in net revenue earned by Spice Kitchen Incubator entrepreneurs.

A CLOSER LOOK: HEALTH & WELLBEING

The health program at the IRC in Salt Lake City is supported by 19 motivated team members, striving to assist and care for newly arrived refugees and new Americans. The team approaches their work by understanding the social determinant of health and supporting holistic health practices. Core programs include medical appointment scheduling & transportation, vaccine clinics, maternal & childhood care, and mental health support groups.

Holistic health means whole-self care. This includes ensuring language access through in-house and phone interpretation services to overcome language barriers, especially in healthcare settings. Interpretation is guaranteed at all health appointments.

2,486 HOURS

of interpretation were scheduled

13 LANGUAGES

are available for interpretation services

Secure and appropriate housing is also a significant factor in mental health & wellbeing. The IRC works to ensure all newly arrived refugees are housing stable in permanent homes.

83 HOMES SECURED

both apartments and rental homes for permanent housing leases

78 HOUSEHOLDS

were able to move into permanent housing

Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environments where people live that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks.

This spring, the health team at the IRC in Salt Lake City launched a Women's Health and Healing Group for Afghan women wanting to learn how to adapt to a healthier lifestyle. Members of the health team organize and facilitate holistic health activities for the group such as going for walks or structuring conversations on mental & physical health.

[Learn more »](#)



284 COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

were administered in addition to over 500 other immunizations



396 HEALTH APPOINTMENTS

scheduled and completed for refugees and new Americans



244 MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS

conducted for 155 adults and 89 youth



76 MOTHERS WITH NEWBORNS

total were supported through a number of program offerings

| 32 PREGNANT CLIENTS SUPPORTED

| 40 CHILDREN RECEIVED CAR SEATS

| 40 PARENTS WERE TRAINED ON CAR SEATS

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

The maternal and child health team at the IRC partners with the state Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC) to provide support for refugee mothers and children. In this quarter 2, the IRC completed 102 new WIC enrollments.

Jonessa White, health promotion specialist, speaks on the broad range of services for pregnant women and their children. By providing necessary items, such as car seats and strollers, to inviting women to a Mother's Day celebration, the maternal and child health team tends to many aspects of health.

[Learn more »](#)

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