



INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE IN UTAH

Community Impact Report | 2025
October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Utah, we look back on a year of immense upheaval and new challenges for the families we serve. The past year has also been one of transformation: we moved to a new office location in West Valley, evolved through federal policy change and funding cuts, and expanded community-based approaches to serve families who call Utah “home.” Through it all, we were grateful for the growth of our supporter community, the endurance of our partnerships, the dedication of our incredible team, and the compassion of numerous volunteers. **Each strengthened our resolve.**

Even as the IRC in Utah faced monumental challenges, local refugee and immigrant families continued to face the shifting sands of federal and state policy, undermining their efforts to rebuild and seek safety in their new home. From the—often punitive—changes to immigration policy federally to the loss of vital public safety nets, fear and uncertainty continued to tug at the families we serve, surfacing at dinner tables and overflowing into conversations with caseworkers and immigration legal representatives.

129

Newly arrived
refugees



3,757

Total people
served

Through it all, we remained steadfast, working to provide the best possible services to local families. In 2025, over 50 staff members worked alongside hundreds of community volunteers to deliver essential programs, working to support self-sufficiency, maintain housing stability, offer pathways to upward mobility, and much more for **3,757 local refugees and immigrants**. Even as the families we served faced mounting uncertainty, they continued to take control of their own futures: starting businesses, seeking advanced education and achieving incredible milestones.

In July, the IRC in Utah hosted its annual New American Dream Lab—a prime example of collaboration, learning and perseverance. Through our Small Business Program, 27 entrepreneurs applied to join the event, attending workshops and receiving technical assistance to deepen their storytelling skills and map out concise business plans. Three finalists were selected to participate in the final (friendly!) pitch competition where all walked away with business capital prizes.

Carolina Terrazas, entrepreneurship & economic empowerment manager, summarized the effort well: “This event reminds us that refugees are Americans too—we often call them New Americans—and their dreams, their talents, and their businesses are all part of what grows and strengthens Utah.”

This statement is a sincere reminder: **our communities and our state are better off when we welcome refugees and immigrants with open arms, offering opportunity and the chance to strive toward a brighter future.**

Since opening our doors in 1994, the IRC in Utah has continued to serve local families, responding to the evolving needs our community raises. We offer vital supports and resources; however, the people we serve undertake the real work of rebuilding their lives. **Your generosity is an essential part of the support we provide—it offers the foundation for every success story.**

As ever, we will continue to stand up for refugee and immigrant families in our community: today, tomorrow & always. **Thank you for joining us at every step along the way.**



Sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny Beus". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

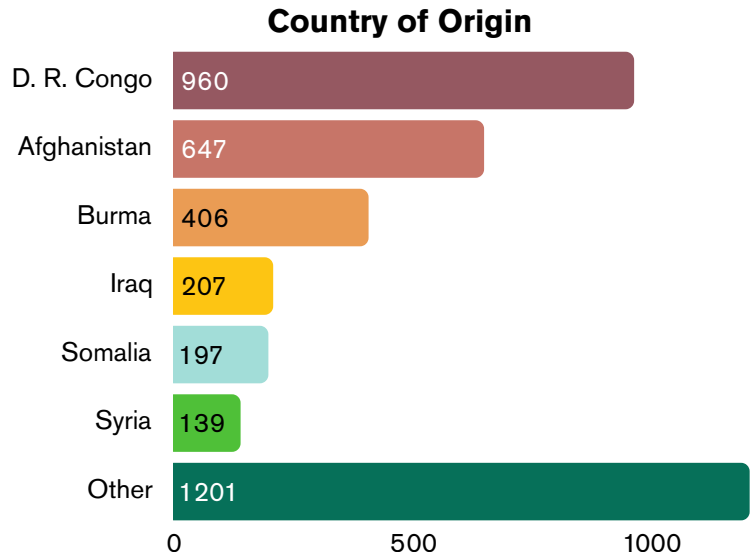
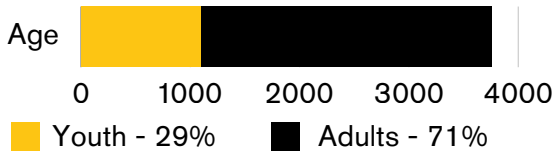
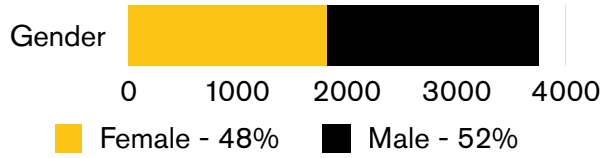
Danny Beus

Executive Director

WHO WE SERVE

The IRC in Utah serves thousands of refugees, asylees, and other immigrants each year, providing vital services to help families rebuild their lives and reach new milestones in their new community.

3,757 total people served from 69 countries, 36% of whom arrived to the U.S. in the past five years.



The Hussaini family enjoys a meal in their new home in Utah.

REBUILDING LIVES & STABILITY

When newly arrived refugees and other displaced families arrive to Utah, the IRC's case management and housing teams spring into action, working to ensure families establish the basics: a furnished home, a signed lease agreement, access to eligible benefits, and an ongoing connection to a case manager. Through the case manager, our newest neighbors connect to essential resources, navigate new systems, and work hard to achieve stability as they rebuild their lives in Utah.

129 Newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan, Venezuela, Burma, Iraq, Democratic Republic of Congo and 18 others.

80% of new arrivals maintained refugee status; remainder held Special Immigrant Visas.

100% of new arrivals received support to establish healthcare.

52 referrals and coordinated intake appointments to supportive mental health services post-arrival.

Housing Supports Provided	Households
New leases signed by families	33
Transitions to affordable housing	22
Housing Stability Orientations	55

In addition to supportive case management, the IRC in Utah maintains an **Occupational Therapy (OT) fieldwork program** that steps in to help break down barriers into bite-size tasks that anyone can work to accomplish. From forming daily habits to learning new skills, OT helps families plan for the future.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY & UPWARD MOBILITY

As families begin to build their foundation in Utah, the IRC maintains focus on two primary goals—**self-sufficiency & upward mobility**—to support long-term self-reliance through a variety of programs and services. Families access a breadth of services tailored to meet their unique cultural and linguistic backgrounds, helping to navigate their new community, develop necessary skills, and plan for the future. For both our newest neighbors and for families who have settled into life in Utah, the IRC offers skill-building programs like Vocational ESL and digital inclusion alongside a variety of financial capabilities services—from matched savings to income tax assistance and more—that offer a boost to self-sufficiency at critical milestones.



Participants learn workplace English & other essential skills in the VESL classroom.

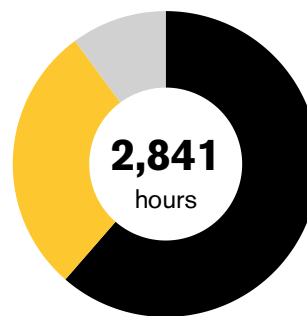
\$404,478 refunded via 195 state & federal tax returns; average return of \$2,074.

\$347,200 total amount saved & matched by 32 clients who made vehicle purchases.

96 individuals supported with job search & placement into initial or improved employment.

109 adults received digital inclusion assistance and training.

Upward Mobility Supports



■ 1,744 hours of Vocational ESL instruction

■ 810 hours of financial coaching

■ 287 hours of Digital Literacy training

Expanding English Language Learning in Utah

As refugees and new Americans work to rebuild their lives in Utah, many face the first and most significant hurdle: English language access. In 2025, the IRC in Utah launched its **Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL)** program to offer families a space to boost learning while working to navigate other resources. Originally designed as an intensive six-week newcomer course, the program has evolved into a flexible, community-based initiative working to establish classes based on participant feedback. Students described the VESL program as the “best place to learn to speak English quickly,” noting that they feel they have “learned a lot” in a very short time.

HEALTHY FUTURES



A College & Career Readiness program youth participates in a leadership workshop at a local climbing gym.

The IRC in Utah works to address a variety of the social determinants of health for the people we serve while also creating opportunities—particularly for youth—to achieve their goals as they pursue a brighter future. Through a multi-faceted health & wellness program, the IRC ensures access to healthcare, educates on self-sufficiency when navigating systems, and connects families with critical resources, such a mental healthcare, through an expert team of community health workers. Beyond healthcare, the IRC works with youth and adults to expand learning and personal growth, including college & career readiness, student supports, and youth agriculture.

- 193** youth ages 15 to 24 received 522 hours of coaching & tutoring support, working to pursue academic & career goals.
- 753** health appointments coordinated, including 641 transports by staff and volunteers.
- 600** mental health screening & wellness checks resulting in 52 referrals to supportive care.
- 22** Youth Agriculture, Learning & Leadership participants who cultivated 2,000 sq. ft. of land & enaged in 124 hours of training.

FOOD SECURITY

As our community continued to see cost of living and rent increases, families served by the IRC in Utah became increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity. Through programs like New Roots, families have accessed community garden plots to grow food on their own. However, after H.R.1 was signed into law in 2025, the IRC worked to expand food security responses, including increased community navigation supports, direct food assistance, and efforts to engage with hunger prevention coalitions locally.



A New Roots farmer organizes vegetables at her market booth.

- 302** food assistance orders completed for new arrivals or to address emergency needs.
- 559** community members who utilized SNAP / EBT benefits at New Roots Farmers Markets.

Food Security Resource	Amount
Food Assistance Orders	\$54,421
Free Produce Vouchers	\$77,132
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Vouchers	\$5,144
Double Up Food Bucks	\$20,945
Total Food Benefits Distributed	\$157,642

625,086 total pounds of local produce grown by 244 producers, including 55 farmers and 167 gardeners.

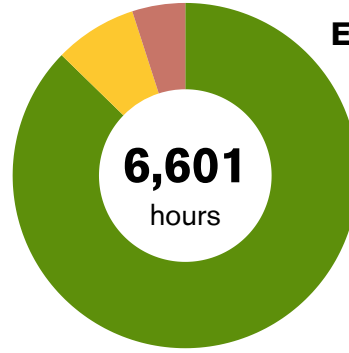
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The IRC in Utah continued offering robust entrepreneurship and small business services in 2025 across three distinct program areas: small business services, Spice Kitchen Incubator, and New Roots. Study after study in recent years shows that refugees and immigrants are more likely to start small businesses, when compared to U.S. born citizens. The IRC provides small business counseling and tailored technical assistance to individuals who are looking to start, scale or sustain their small business in our community.

269 Total entrepreneurs served.

11 Business sectors served, including food service, art, retail, and transportation.

6 Spice entrepreneurs confidently graduated from the program.

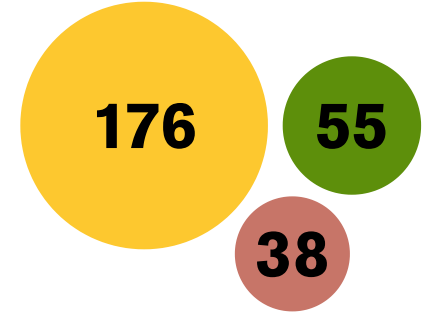


Entrepreneur Technical Assistance Provided

- 5,762 hours
- 511 hours
- 328 hours

Entrepreneurs by Program

- New Roots
- Small Business
- Spice Kitchen Incubator



Raised in a humble home where food was both necessity and expression, chef Wendy Juarez (below) learned how to create nourishing, versatile meals using simple, seasonal ingredients — many grown at home. Her approach blends ancestral knowledge passed through generations, techniques learned from professional kitchens, and deep respect for ingredients and cultural identity.

With support from the IRC in Utah's Spice Kitchen Incubator, Wendy launched Prime Corn, a business celebrating richness of Indigenous Mexican and Mesoamerican cuisine.

Farmer Revenue Source	Amount
Saturday Farmers Markets	\$100,834
Wednesday Farmers Markets	\$53,287
Wholesale	\$51,149
Community Supported Agriculture	\$31,474
Total Income Earned by Farmers	\$236,744

1,402 Total number of Farmers Market customers.

16 Farmers independently operated a Community Supported Agriculture program.

8 Farmers managed their own wholesale accounts independently.



IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Over the last year, refugee and immigrant families working through required immigration legal process have experienced almost daily changes to federal policy, dramatically increasing anxieties, and uncertainty in an already strenuous process. Three Department of Justice-accredited Immigration Legal Representatives at the IRC in Utah worked around the clock to address concerns, navigate policy changes, and prioritize safe paths forward for local community members. Though the numbers below celebrate the accomplishments of this team, they barely scratch the surface when telling the true story: increased complexities, heightened fears, longer wait times—all while working diligently in service of our community.

- 1,210** Applications prepared & submitted for 828 individuals.
- 413** Permanent Resident Cards filed.
- 261** Employment Authorization Documents filed.
- 31** New U.S. citizens.
- 53** Family petitions filed.
- 148** Freedom of Information Act request filed.*
- \$790,000** Estimated total savings to clients applying for green cards alone.



The Hussaini family is reunited with their three eldest daughters at the Salt Lake City International Airport.

*Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests have increased due to shifting federal policies. In previous years, FOIA requests were limited and only needed under specific circumstances.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN ACTION

Each and every day, the IRC in Utah's work is made possible because of generous contributions and support from our community. From partners offering expanded programs for our newest neighbors to volunteers stepping up to fill critical service gaps, we are deeply grateful to work in such a welcoming community. To each & every person who has contributed their time, made a financial contribution, awarded a grant or worked to partner better: **Thank you!**

- 15,242** Volunteer hours logged.
- 526** Dedicated volunteers.
- 476** Generous individual donors.
- \$1.6M** Total private giving.

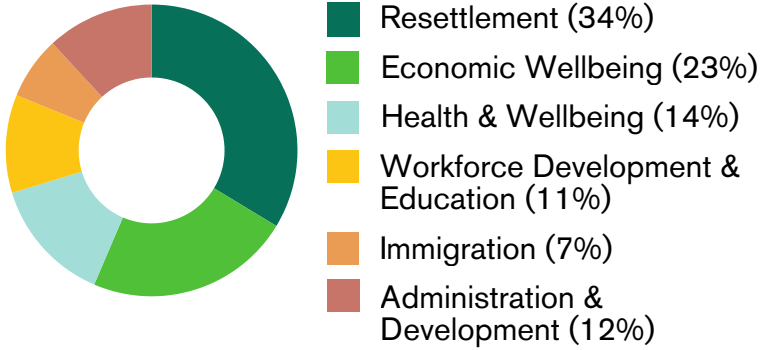


Jay, a Tax Assistant Volunteer, provides free tax return services for local immigrant families.

OUR FINANCIAL YEAR

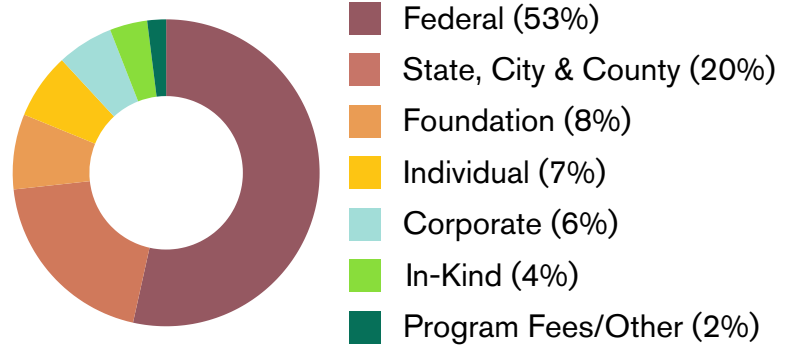
The IRC in Utah works diligently to uphold all compliance requirements and ensure efficient use of all funds received, no matter their source. Through combined federal, state & local funding leveraged alongside private contributions from foundations, corporations & supporters like you, **the IRC served over 3,757 people this year.** The financial summary below has not been audited.

Expenditures by program area



\$9,056,681 Total FY25 operating budget

Revenue by source



\$1,172,138 Delivered in direct assistance to local families; a total of 13% of the operating budget.



IRC in Utah housing team staff and volunteers gather after setting up a new apartment for a refugee family from Venezuela.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Make a gift

Help support the work at the IRC by considering a donation. Give today at

Rescue.org/GiveSLC »

Gather supplies

Collect high-need items for newly arrived families. Donate items at

Rescue.org/DonateSLC »

Become a volunteer

Help refugees adjust to their new lives by volunteering. Volunteer now at

Rescue.org/VolunteerSLC »

Gifts by mail — International Rescue Committee, 1149 West 2240 South, West Valley City, UT 84119
Federal EIN 13-5660870

Explore all of the opportunities to get involved locally by visiting **Rescue.org/SupportSLC »**

Reach Us

SaltLakeCity@Rescue.org | +1 801 328 1091
Rescue.org/SaltLakeCity

Stay Informed

  @IRCSaltLakeCity