

SF CAIRS Meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 2016 9-11am

Host: American Red Cross 1663 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94103

Welcome & Introductions – *Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Eva Iraheta (SF-HSA), Richard Whipple (SF Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs) Lex Duey (Upwardly Global SF) Blanca Gutierrez (Newcomers Health Program) Efrain Sandoval (Arriba Juntos), Suzanne Manneh, Vlad Komanovsky (SF HSA), Lana Radosavljevic (Refugee Center Online & UpGlo), Naomi Pease (AmerRedCross), Daisey Reyes (LEN Institute)*
Via phone: Sysvanh Kabkeo (Syrian Resettlement Project), Marisa Ramos and Jesse Peck (CA Refugee Health Program)

Partner Agency Presentation:

Syrian Resettlement Project- Sysvanh Kabkeo- CDSS/Refugee Programs Bureau Chief.

- For the federal fiscal year, 2016-2017, 10,000 Syrian refugees are expected to immigrate to the United States.
- Areas that are or are expected to be impacted by Syrian refugees include San Diego and Sacramento.
- Due to the closure of camps, a high volume of Burmese and Thai people are expected to immigrate to the United States in the near future. Immigrants from Middle Eastern countries are also expected to arrive in large volumes.
- The California Endowment has awarded a grant of \$360,000 for the federal fiscal year 2016-2017, which will be utilized to assist 22 resettlement agencies for refugees.
 - It is the agency's desire to distribute the grant as soon as possible.
 - \$5,000 will be given to Resettlement Agencies with the requirement that all participating resettlement agencies meet, in person, twice a year.
 - Resettlement agencies can apply for this grant. Grants will be awarded based on how well the resettlement agencies fit Syrian refugees' special needs.

SF Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs- Richard Whipple- Deputy Director of Programs.
(415) 581-2360 richard.whipple@sfgov.org direct line: 415-581-2365

The office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs is a new city government office that supports policies and programs known to develop inclusiveness and easy access to benefits and resources for recent immigrants. This is accomplished by collaborating with other organizations and agencies, and providing grants for certain programs.

- Local Policy:
 - Language Access Ordinance: Requires *all* city departments to communicate with the public in their native tongue. All documents should be automatically translated to Spanish, Cantonese, and Tagalog. In addition, other languages should be translated upon recipient's request. The office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs requires all city departments to write an Annual Compliance Report that details how many bilingual staff were hired, frequency of translation services, etc.,.
 - Sanctuary City Ordinance
 - Municipal Identification cards are intended to facilitate access to services for undocumented immigrants. There is a \$15.00 fee. Homeless individuals can obtain a fee waiver by presenting a letter from a local shelter, indicating their housing situation.
- Programs:
 - Community Ambassadors Program provides multilingual education and safety forms and tools.

- Direct service program, community ambassadors program. Provides multilingual education, and safety.
- The Day Laborers Program's goal is to prevent wage theft and to regulate and ensure the safety of the workers. While open to all laborers, the program is focused on preventing unfair work practices in order to protect undocumented immigrants who work in construction, gardening, and painting.
- La Collectiva/ The Women's Collective is a program developed to educate and protect undocumented immigrant women from unfair work practices; particularly those who work in housekeeping, daycares, and restaurants.
- Funded Programs:
 - SF Pathways to Citizenship Initiative offers free legal services and workshops regarding how to file different immigration forms (DACA & Naturalization) for immigrants who live, work or study in San Francisco.
 - The Office of Civic Engagement and Immigration Affairs funds 12 nonprofit Language Access Programs that serve to educate and empower the public on their rights pertaining the Language Access Ordinance
- Currently the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigration Affairs are looking for volunteers to assist in various tasks. Bilingual volunteers are highly desired; however monolingual speakers are also encouraged to volunteer.

Refugee Awareness Month in review- Efrain Sandoval, Case Manager & Employment Specialist

- 250 people attended the Refugee Awareness Month, where there were raffles, food, talent show, and music.
- Next year, Arriba Juntos would like more organizations and programs to participate in tableting for the event. Those who are interested in sharing their program's resources with the immigrant population are encouraged to contact Arriba Juntos so that they can reserve a table for the event.

Announcements

- Training opportunity regarding, "Worker Protections from Immigration-Related Employment Discrimination" on July 18, 2016 at 2:00 PM 170 Otis St, Born Auditorium, SF
- Upwardly Global SF seeks skilled IT immigrant professionals, with a BA and 2 years of experience in the field. In addition, Upwardly Global SF is launching a new, expanded online learning platform and more services for those who do not meet all of the UpGlo eligibility but can benefit from training support.
- American Red Cross' Restoring Family Links can help families reconnect after disaster or armed conflict. Other local programs include Home Fire Campaign (education and outreach for home fire safety), the "Pillowcase Project" focused on youth and support in transition, and Preparedness Preparation sessions at agencies and community groups. Contact Naomi Pease: Naomi.Pease@redcross.org
- Free workshop, August 6th for any individual who is ready to obtain citizenship. The purpose of the workshop is to assist those who need help filling out naturalization forms, including the fee waiver form. This workshop is presented by the SF Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs

- SF-CAIRS member agencies can list volunteer opportunities and donations needed on the website by completing this form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1WlyWsWJ3qG1tDiCTrxM5KziUxcZJxifNv_jGaymKTVc/edit
- Share your job announcements on the listserv by sending an email to sf-cairs@googlegroups.com

Next meeting October 13, 2016. 9-11am American Red Cross 1663 Market St, San Francisco

Evaluation questions with responses:

* What topics or panel would you like to see presented for future meetings?

Overview of public benefits (health, housing, etc.) available to various immigration status (asylum, refugee, SIJS, undocumented)

Presentation from other (CA) coalition doing similar work, informing, supporting each other, best practices

Free legal services

*Are there community partners or agencies who could add to or benefit from the network of SFCAIRS?

No responses

* What did you enjoy most about today's meeting?

All of the valuable information and support that was shared

The info from the SF Office of Civic Engagement.

Learning from other organizations and about their work

I learned a lot of timely, important information about Syrian resettlement efforts and much more about SF Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs.

* Please share any additional comments:

Good meeting

Thanks!

Contact Cristy or Eva if you have any items or presentations for the next meeting: cristy.dieterich@sfdph.org , eva.ihaheta@sfgov.org

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If you are a listserv member: Send group emails to: sf-cairs@googlegroups.com

SF-CAIRS Mission

SF-CAIRS aims to serve San Francisco Bay Area asylee, immigrant and refugee communities and its service providers by:

- ❖ *Expanding knowledge and access to health, employment, social, education and legal services;*
- ❖ *Supporting advocacy efforts through coalition-wide networking, information sharing, cross-referrals and community education; and,*
- ❖ *Identifying and addressing challenges faced by immigrants at personal and societal levels*