



Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans





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New Americans

PANA is a **research, public policy & community organizing hub** dedicated to advancing the full economic, social, and civic inclusion of refugees

Refugees in San Diego County



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85,693, resettled since 1975

Refugees in San Diego County



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85,693+ resettled since 1975

~2,400 each year since 2010

Refugees in San Diego County

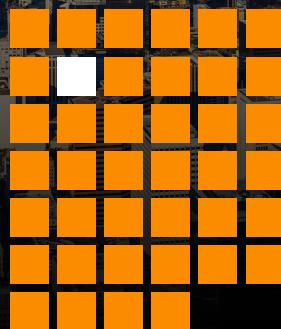


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85,693+ resettled since 1975

~2,400 each year since 2010

1 in 40 San Diegans arrived as
a refugee



What We Knew



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Focus on immediate employment (Refugee Act of 1980)

Why



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Focus on immediate employment (Refugee Act of 1980)

Disparities in health & education

Why



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Focus on immediate employment (Refugee Act of 1980)

Disparities in health & education

Families trapped in poverty

A photograph of a group of people sitting around a table in a meeting. The image is slightly blurred and has a soft, warm light. The text "WE ORGANIZED HOUSE MEETINGS" is overlaid in the center. The word "WE ORGANIZED" is in black, and "HOUSE MEETINGS" is in purple.

**WE ORGANIZED
HOUSE MEETINGS**



House Meeting: Identify and work with trusted/indigenous leaders



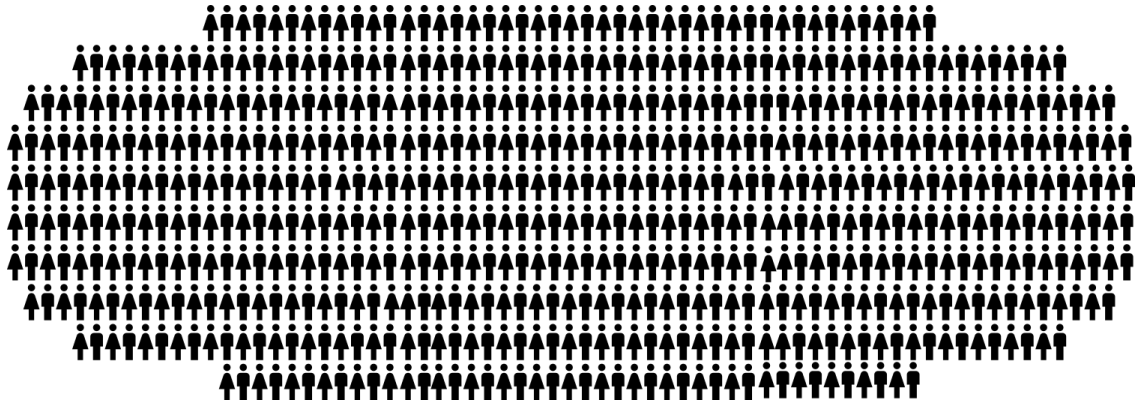
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House Meetings: as a way to develop hot list



This is our most effective base-building opportunity where we identify new leaders that are brought into PANA campaigns, and civic engagement and powerbuilding strategies.



Focus of House Meeting Discussions

 **HOUSING**

 **HEALTH**

 **JOBS**

 **EDUCATION**

 **BELONGING**

House Meetings



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2020 - 2021

- **77 Question Survey**
- **544 community members participated**
- **In language**

The 77-question survey was completed by a total of 544 refugee community members living in San Diego and examined the following topics: health, employment, education, housing, COVID-19, safety and belonging.

Interviews were administered in Arabic, English, Pashto, Dari, Karen, Karenni, Burmese, Oromo, Somali, and Swahili.

SAFETY AND BELONGING



“We left our home country where we were around people that looked like me. We came to America to have a better and safer life for my kids but that is not the case. I don’t feel that my children are safe in this country since they are outsiders, even though they were born here.”

– East African Mother in City Heights

San Diego County Refugee Experiences Report | Executive Summary

As highlighted in the quote, FEAR PERSISTS IN THE MIDST OF XENOPHOBIC AND ANTI-IMMIGRANT POLITICAL RHETORIC

East African respondents were most likely to say that anti-immigrant rhetoric strongly influenced their ability to participate in public life: 65% felt worried about being targeted by a hate crime, speaking up in public, or feeling unwelcome in public spaces.

- Middle Eastern respondents were significantly worried about immigration status, with 72% expressing concern about their own immigration status

Highlighting the need to implement policies that build trust with refugee and immigrant communities.



Civic Engagement

Redistricting



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- Hosted multilingual redistricting 101 sessions with partners across the county, and hosted 13 virtual and in-person Community of Interest sessions with more than 200 residents in English, Somali, Oromo, Swahili, Arabic, and Dari/Pasthou.



As an example, with redistricting,

- In person this has looked like mapping at parks, at mosques, and local schools.
- The community was very excited to participate in it.
- In San Diego it is the first time we participate in redistricting as an African immigrant and refugee community. And we continue to testify at state and county public hearings.
- For example, in January we organized community members to call into a state commission meeting in their preferred language, which was the first time anyone had called in a non-English language since the state commission was seated in fall 2020.
- This was huge because we have been historically shut out of the process for decades.

- This is why it is **so important** for our community to come together to draw our own boundaries and be able to present our community.
- In 2022, PANA will be prioritizing SD County's transition from Polling Locations to Vote Centers. We will also be working with local and statewide partners on youth-powered GOTV campaigns.

Get Out the Vote



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- We increased our contact rates for Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Campaigns nearly 250% from 1,861 contacts in 2016 to 45,887 contacts in 2020.
- In 2021, we launched our first large scale mailer program for the Gubernatorial Election, reaching out to 8,731 households in four languages - English, Oromo, Arabic, and Somali.



- All of our civic engagement efforts are youth led and youth powered. In 2020 alone, PANA trained and hired 50 youth leaders - most of which were bilingual in our priority languages such as Arabic, Somali, Spanish, Oromo, Dari, and Farsi.
- We increased our contact rates for Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Campaigns nearly 250% from 1,861 contacts in 2016 to 45,887 contacts in 2020. This work started with the AACEP (African American Civic Engagement Program).
- In 2021, we launched our first large scale mailer program for the Gubernatorial Election, reaching out to 8,731 households in four languages - English, Oromo, Arabic, and Somali.

Emergency Town Halls & Rapid Response



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Additional ways we engage people include: emergency town halls, workshops and know your rights trainings, and turnout for key issues at City Council. We also engage our base in planning and organizing public action when we need to escalate an issue and force a more public discussion.

Challenges:

1. Building and hanging onto data expertise in house so we can more routinely do surname matches, listmaching from our various actions, etc.
2. Language access for the vote but also in participating/weighing in on key city and county decisions.
3. Back folks are rendered invisible due to the ways in which we collect demographic data, and so their needs are unaddressed and black communities miss on on critical investments

Get in touch



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