



Afghan Refugee School Impact Afghan Youth Mentoring Programs

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE
CONFERENCE

*Strengthening Partnerships and
Shaping the Future for
Afghan Refugees*

April 29th, 2025

UC San Diego

Altman Clinical and Translation
Research Institute

Center for
Community Health



WELCOME

Welcome to the 2025 Afghan Refugee School Impact (ARSI) and Afghan Youth Mentoring (AYM) Program Statewide Conference. This event is organized by the Refugee and Immigrant Health Unit (RIHU), formerly known as the Refugee Health Unit (RHU), within the Center for Community Health (CCH) at the UC San Diego Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute (ACTRI). This work is in collaboration with the Council On American Islamic Relations (CAIR) California, the San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition (SDRCC), the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the Public Health Institute (PHI), and the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Health (CIRH).

OUR GOAL

This gathering brings together community leaders, ethnic-led organizations, public health professionals, educators, and advocates from across California to strengthen collaboration in support of Afghan refugee and immigrant communities. Today's agenda features inspiring keynote speakers, panel discussions highlighting achievements from the first phase of ARSI and AYM, and interactive breakout sessions focused on youth engagement, early childhood and school-age support, and family and community partnerships. Together, we will reflect on successes, share lessons learned, and begin shaping a collective vision for the future of this work.

We hope this conference serves as a catalyst for deeper connection, shared learning, and ongoing collaboration. Thank you for being here and for your commitment to advancing health, equity, and opportunity for Afghan communities across California.

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WEBSITE PAGE FOR DETAILED
INFORMATION



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AGENDA



<p>Registration, Breakfast & Networking <i>Location: Atrium-Solarium</i></p>	<p>8:30 – 9:00 AM</p>
<p>Welcome & Conference Objectives <i>Location: Main Ballroom</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reba Meigs, Senior Project Officer, RIH-CCH• Asmaa Deiranieh, Program Manager, RIH-CCH <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hashim Wahdatyar, Program Officer, RIH-CCH• Kathy Yang, Deputy Director, Office of Equity Division, CDSS• Carolina Sheinfeld, Branch Chief, Office of Immigrant Youth, CDSS• Abdi Abdillahi, State Refugee Coordinator, Chief Refugee Programs Bureau, CDSS• Mohammad Sediq Hazratzai, Executive Director, CIRH at PHI• Abdul Basit Azizi, Afghan Youth Mentoring Program Mentor, SDAC <p>Our Work in Action (Video)</p>	<p>9:00 – 9:45 AM</p>
<p>PANEL 1 – Youth Engagement: Shaping the Future Vision <i>Location: Main Ballroom</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Tahira Safi, Los Angeles• Ms. Beheshta Jailani, Los Angeles• Mr. Omar Muhammadi, Sacramento• <u>Moderator</u>: Sarah Babar, Special Projects Fellow, CAIR-San Francisco	<p>9:45 – 10:45 AM</p>
<p>BREAK</p>	<p>10:45– 11:00 AM</p>

AGENDA



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Strengthening Statewide Collaboration and Partnerships: Identifying Strategic Directions by Focus Area

Location: Main Ballroom

Note: Session 1 and Session 2 will each have the same three topic discussions. Participants are encouraged to attend a different topic discussion for each session.

Breakout Topic 1: Family and Community Engagement

Location: Tahoe

- Ayesha Zafari, Executive Director, Holistic Afghan Women Association (HAWA)
- Naveed Ahmed, Assistant Director West Region, ICNA Relief
- Facilitator: Fatma Saleem, Program Director, SDRCC

Breakout Topic 2: Youth Mentoring

Location: Berryessa

- Kayla Nicholls, Youth Programs Manager, IRC San Jose
- Keyana Moayedi, Financial Education Coordinator, IRC Los Angeles
- Omar Silmi, Youth Activities Director, Al Misbah
- Facilitator: Alia Aboul-Nasr, Programs Manager, CAIR-Los Angeles

Breakout Topic 3: Early Childhood and School Age Children

Location: Eagle

- Pushtana Ayoub, Program Manager, Shia Muslim Council
- Nadia Ann, Program Manager, Muslim Community Center of East Bay
- Facilitator: Narges Jalah, Special Programs Manager, CAIR-Sacramento

**SESSION 1:
11:00 – 11:40 AM**

**TRANSITION:
11:40 – 11:50 AM**

**SESSION 2:
11:50 AM – 12:30
PM**

AGENDA



Lunch Break & Informal Networking <i>Location: Atrium-Solarium</i>	12:30 - 1:30 PM
PANEL 2 - Responding to Community Needs <i>Location: Main Ballroom</i> Our Impact (Video) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Narges Jalah, Special Programs Manager, CAIR-Sacramento• Alia Aboul-Nasr, Programs Manager, CAIR-Los Angeles• Sarah Babar, Special Projects Fellow, CAIR-San Francisco• Fatma Saleem, Program Director, SDRCC• <u>Moderator</u>: Sarah Vicente, Operations Director, RIH-CCH	1:30 - 2:30 PM
BREAK & Poster Session	2:30 - 3:00 PM
ROUNDTABLE SESSION - Strategic Directions Moving Forward: Developing a Shared Vision for Future Growth <i>Location: Main Ballroom</i>	3:00 - 4:00 PM
Closing Remarks & Next Steps <i>Location: Main Ballroom</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blanca Meléndrez, Executive Director, CCH• Narges Jalah, Special Programs Manager, CAIR-Sacramento• Fatma Saleem, Program Director, SDRCC• Migdalia Wade, Manager, Office of Equity, CDSS• Amina Sheik Mohamed, Founding Director, RIH-CCH	4:00 - 4:30 PM

SCAN ME



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BELOW TO COMPLETE A
BRIEF, ANONYMOUS
EVALUATION SURVEY
SHARING YOUR FEEDBACK
ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE.
THANK YOU!

