

El Cajon Collaborative Newcomer Support Work Group

FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Addressing Concerns Raised through San Diego County Meeting on
Newcomer Arrivals held in January, 2010

Expansion of Specific Programs (already in existence with limited capacity)

2. Additional ESL classes are needed
5. Public Health Center has an increased patient caseload, challenging to serve all clients
6. Increased demand on paramedic and 911 services
9. Challenges to providing appropriate curriculum, trainings for teachers and teacher-aides and after-school programs for refugees
10. Counseling and mental health services needed
11. Parenting classes for newcomer families are needed
16. Standardized testing of newcomers w/ limited or no English presents challenges for schools
17. Stronger collaboration is needed between service providers
20. Community cultural orientation training needed

Potential Action Partners:

New Programs (currently do not exist)

4. Streamlined enrollment for food stamps, Medi-Cal and Cash Aid for newcomers
7. Constructive educational and supportive programs for newcomer youth (*and adults*) needed to prevent gang (*and other criminal activity*)
22. Regulatory language needed to address secondary migration

Potential Action Partners:

Funding Related

1. Support for small organizations to compete and receive funding to support their work in the community
2. Insufficient resources to meet ESL class need
13. East County heavily impacted and not enough resources to meet the need
14. More information/access needed on grants available through ORR
15. Direct communication to congressional offices should be established
21. County and service providers need to learn how to seek/access limited resources available for supporting refugees

Potential Action Partners: El Cajon Collaborative, San Diego Refugee Forum, Community members/volunteers for advocacy

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Health Related

3. Interpreter Trainings, particularly for medical and employment offices
5. Public Health Center has an increased patient caseload, challenging to serve all clients
6. Increased demand on paramedic and 911 services
10. Counseling and mental health services needed

Potential Action Partners: Resettlement Organizations, Chaldean-Middle Eastern Social Services

Education Related

2. Additional ESL classes are needed
7. Constructive educational and supportive programs for newcomer youth (*and adults*) needed to prevent gang (*and other criminal activity*)
9. Challenges to providing appropriate curriculum, trainings for teachers and teacher-aides and after-school programs for refugees
16. Standardized testing of newcomers w/ limited or no English presents challenges for schools

Potential Action Partners:

Uncategorized

8. ORR decision to not serve TANF-eligible refugees in Wilson/Fish Program
12. New refugees with limited/no English have challenges competing for jobs
18. Reports on best practices for other communities with large population of Iraqi refugees are needed
19. Needs of asylum seekers and detainees awaiting case adjudication should be addressed