

About the San Diego Rapid Response Network

The San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN) is a coalition of human rights, service and faith organizations, attorneys, civic leaders and volunteers that monitors increased immigration enforcement activities in San Diego County and humanitarian issues at the border. Core partners include ACLU Foundation of San Diego & Imperial Counties, Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS), SEIU Local 221 and Southwestern College.

Together, we ensure that no one stands alone in our community.

SDRRN has responded to the humanitarian situation created by the federal administration's immigration policies that dismantled our nation's long history of welcoming immigrants – resulting in a bottleneck of tens of thousands of vulnerable people on the United States' southern border. Asylum seekers are consistently metered, and while Title 42 has lifted and no new current enrollments are happening under Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP or "Remain in Mexico"), versions 1.0 and 2.0 continue to impact thousands, waiting months for their first opportunity to present at a port of entry to state their need for protection. Additional harmful limitations continue to be placed on those seeking asylum.

Since January 2021, JFS and the other core partners of the SDRRN have worked alongside the 65-plus organizations of the California Welcoming Task Force, a coalition formed to re-envision how the U.S. can welcome people seeking asylum safely and expeditiously at our border by coordinating across sectors: humanitarian, legal, health, advocacy and communications.

San Diego Rapid Response Network Migrant Shelter Services

Since October 2018, when the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began releasing hundreds of migrant families onto San Diego's streets without warning and without following travel process protocols, SDRRN established an emergency respite shelter to provide humanitarian aid for asylum seekers.

SDRRN Migrant Shelter Services has assisted more than 192,775 people who would've otherwise been dumped by federal authorities in San Diego without food, shelter, transportation or resources. Shelter services are operated by Jewish Family Service of San Diego.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, services for asylum seekers released by the government transitioned from a congregate shelter setting to individual hotel rooms, with public health as the top priority, in coordination with the State of California and UCSD Health. In January 2023, congregate sheltering also resumed for a select number of asylum seekers at the SDRRN Travel Center. The SDRRN Migrant Shelter Services continues to provide case management, travel and financial assistance and legal support.

These asylum-seekers are in the U.S. lawfully to exercise their legal, human right to seek protection from violence and persecution in their home countries.

SDRRN Commitment Statement

The San Diego Rapid Response Network stands at the ready to support asylum seekers and migrants as federal policy changes and needs arise.

Support for SDRRN

SDRRN is grateful to all levels of government, in particular the State of California, as well as private funding/community support, for their support and commitment to welcoming asylum seekers in our region.

Ways for the Community to Support

Funds are desperately needed to maintain vital operations of shelter services and to support cross-country travel expenses of migrant families.

Donations of any amount can be made at rapidresponsesd.org. Visit jfssd.org for available job positions and in-person volunteer opportunities to support this work.