



The FACTS

Respite Shelter Services for Asylum Seekers

April 2024

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.*

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. All of this work is done with public health as the top priority, in coordination with UCSD Health.

SDRRN Migrant Shelter Services has assisted more than 202,300 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.

People seeking asylum are transported to the SDRRN Travel Center to determine if they are able to travel immediately to meet their loved ones or whether shelter is needed for 1-2 days until travel can be arranged. The SDRRN Migrant Shelter Services continues to provide case management, travel and transportation assistance, and legal support to its guests.

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. These funding levels must be maintained for the next fiscal year to avoid leaving vulnerable populations on the streets, exacerbating the state's homelessness challenges.

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.