



Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies 2023 Annual Report



CRSA

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About CRSA

The **Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies (CRSA)** was founded in 2012 by seven Atlanta refugee resettlement and service organizations to educate Georgia's policy makers and leaders on the positive contributions refugees and immigrants make to the state. The CRSA was founded in an environment where anti-immigrant sentiment and misinformation in the state contributed toward policies that negatively impacted Georgia's vibrant immigrant communities and endangered the economic growth and cultural diversity that had brought greater prosperity to all Georgians. As service organizations with limited resources, the CRSA's founders came together to share messaging, data and staff capacity in order to communicate a positive message and advocate for a more welcoming state.

Today the CRSA has grown to **26** members that include a broad coalition of refugee resettlement agencies, refugee and immigrant service providers, ethnic community organizations, educational institutions, community centers and health providers. This diverse coalition advocates for a more welcoming Georgia at the federal, state and local level.

The CRSA's key priorities for 2024 include:

1 Ensure effective and robust refugee resettlement in the United States on a federal, state, and local level.

3 Expand CRSA's relationships across sectors and party lines.

2 Promote a legislative agenda in Georgia that provides opportunities for the success of all.

4 Provide leadership development, advocacy training, and engagement opportunities for refugees and immigrants in the work of CRSA.

CRSA Member Organizations



Amani Women's Center
<https://amaniwomenscenter.org/>



Afghan American Alliance
<https://www.afghanamericanallianceofga.org/>



Bethany Christian Services
bethany.org/locations/us#georgia



Burmese Rohingya Community of Georgia
brcgrohingya.org



Catholic Charities Atlanta
catholiccharitiesatlanta.org



CDF: A Collective Action Initiative
cdfaction.org



Center for Victims of Torture
cvt.org



Clarkston Community Center
clarkstoncommunitycenter.org



Eritrean-American Community Association of Georgia
atleritrea.org



Ethaar
ethaarusa.org



Friends of Refugees
friendsofrefugees.com



Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network
<https://georgiaasylum.org/>



Global Village Project
globalvillageproject.org



Inspiritus
weinspirit.org



International American Relief Society
iarsociety.org



International Rescue Committee in Atlanta
rescue.org/atlanta



Jewish Family & Career Services
jfcsatl.org



Latin American Association
thelaa.org



New American Pathways
newamericanpathways.org



Refuge Coffee Co.
refugecoffeeco.com



Refugee Women's Network
refugeewomensnetworkinc.org



Somali American Community Center
facebook.com/somaliacc



Reach for Excellence
reachforexcellence.org/



Tekton Career Training
<https://tektiontraining.org/>



Refugee Family Assistance Services
<https://refugeefamilyassistanceprogram.com/home-1>

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
<https://refugees.org/#>

Economic Impact of GA Refugees & Immigrants

Refugees and immigrants are a vital part of Georgia's communities and economy.

1,089,506 (10.1% of population)

Immigrant residents in Georgia¹

\$11.4 billion

Taxes paid¹

\$44 billion

Immigrant household income¹

292,636

Immigrant homeowners¹

\$32.6 billion

Spending power¹

¹Visit *American Immigration Council* to learn more

<https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/georgia/>

The Business & Immigration for Georgia (BIG) Partnership

Georgia's global workforce is vital to the state's economic success. In 2020, CRSA launched the [BIG Partnership](#), a statewide partnership of Georgia business and civic leaders committed to strengthening Georgia's economy by tapping the potential of the state's immigrant communities. With more than three dozen members already, the BIG Partnership continues to grow and carve a path toward greater prosperity for all Georgians.

Global Talent Study Committee

In 2021 the Georgia House **unanimously passed HR 11** to form the **House Study Committee on Innovative Ways to Maximize Global Talent**. This bi-partisan committee met over four sessions with business, community, and education leaders along with foreign-born Georgia residents. On December 10, 2021, the Study Committee issued a final report with five recommendations for maximizing Georgia's deep pool of global talent:

1. Remove barriers to admission at Georgia public colleges.
2. Invest in English learning instruction.
3. Streamline requirements for experienced professionals to re-enter their fields.
4. Support childcare entrepreneurs and expand access to childcare.
5. Incentivize entrepreneurship programs.

Supporting Georgia Employers

Refugees and immigrants are critical to Georgia's Economy. They bring skills and experience from their home countries and work in many of Georgia's key industries. Yet nearly one in five foreign born Georgians is un- or under-employed, costing the state millions of dollars in lost earnings and tax revenue each year.

Immigrants make up **13.6%** of the state's labor force and a significant percentage of critical, frontline fields including

- **29.1%** of building cleaning service workers
- **12.6%** of convenience, grocery and drug store workers
- **10.8%** of healthcare workers
- **10.6%** of trucking and warehouse workers
- **10.5%** of childcare and social service workers

Visit *Georgia Budget & Policy Institute* to learn more
<https://gbpi.org/immigration-primer/>

Immigrants make up:

- **23.0%** of physicians
- **20.2%** of STEM workers
- **16.6 %** of health aides
- **12.7%** of nurses

Visit *American Immigration Council* to learn more
<https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/georgia/>

CRSA organizations provide workforce development services that support Georgia's essential workforce:

7750

Job placements

\$16.30

Average hourly wage

6,896

People received job readiness services

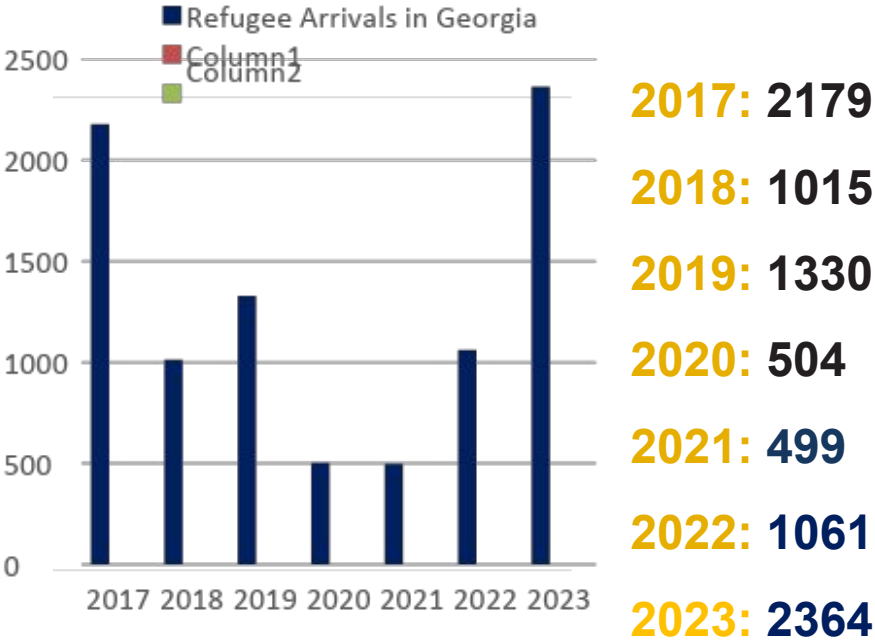
563

Received career advancement and placement services

Georgia's Humanitarian Response: Refugees in Georgia

Georgia is home to six refugee resettlement agencies and has been a part of this life saving humanitarian program for over forty years. Georgia's resettlement program has been one of the most successful in the country due to high early employment rates and welcoming communities.

Refugee: a person who has fled their country of nationality and is unable to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, ethnicity, religion, political opinion or membership in a particular group.



26
Countries of origin

Afghanistan, Burma(Myanmar), Central Africa Republic, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Mali, Moldova, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, S, Sudan, Venezuela, Yemen

17
Counties

Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Chatham, Cherokee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Dekalb, Douglas, Forsythe, Fulton, Gordon, Gwinnett, Hall, Oconee, Polk

2,364
Number of refugees resettled in FY23.

807
Ukrainians humanitarian entrants served

525
Affordable housing units secured

Entrepreneurs

The determination and entrepreneurial spirit of Georgia immigrants have made them a driving force in the state’s small business community, creating new jobs for Georgians across the state and producing billions in sales each year.

105,374 20.6%

Immigrant entrepreneurs in Georgia¹

\$2.7 billion

In income from immigrant-owned firms¹

41%

Foreign-born Georgians are 41% more likely than others to open a new business in the state²

¹Visit *American Immigration Council* to learn more <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/georgia/>

²Visit *New American Economy* to learn more <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/city/atlanta/>

Youth

Refugee and immigrant youth are an important part of Georgia's future. CRSA organizations support parents, students and schools to ensure that Georgia's future workforce has the education and skills they need to thrive.

25,057

International students at GA colleges and universities¹

2714

Youth receiving services by CRSA organizations

\$835 million

Contribution to the economy by international students¹

8276

Jobs supported by international students¹

1334

Youth receiving afterschool or summer academic and enrichment services by CRSA organizations

30,734

DACA eligible¹
Goeriga students

635,323

Children in Georgia having at least one foreign-born parent²

1883

Parents served through parent support services

Undocumented Georgians pay tuition

2 to 4 times higher

than in-state residents²

1. [New American Economy data](#) 2. [GBPI data](#)

Immigration

Refugees and immigrants contribute to Georgia's communities and should be able to participate fully in community life. CRSA organizations work to ensure that immigrants and refugees can obtain the most secure immigration status for which they are eligible and have a voice in the decisions that impact their lives.

650

Asylum applications submitted

1,109

Applications for permanent residency

232

Family reunification applications submitted

523,486

Immigrants eligible to vote in Georgia¹

3,247

Registered to vote by CRSA members

601

Citizenship applications submitted

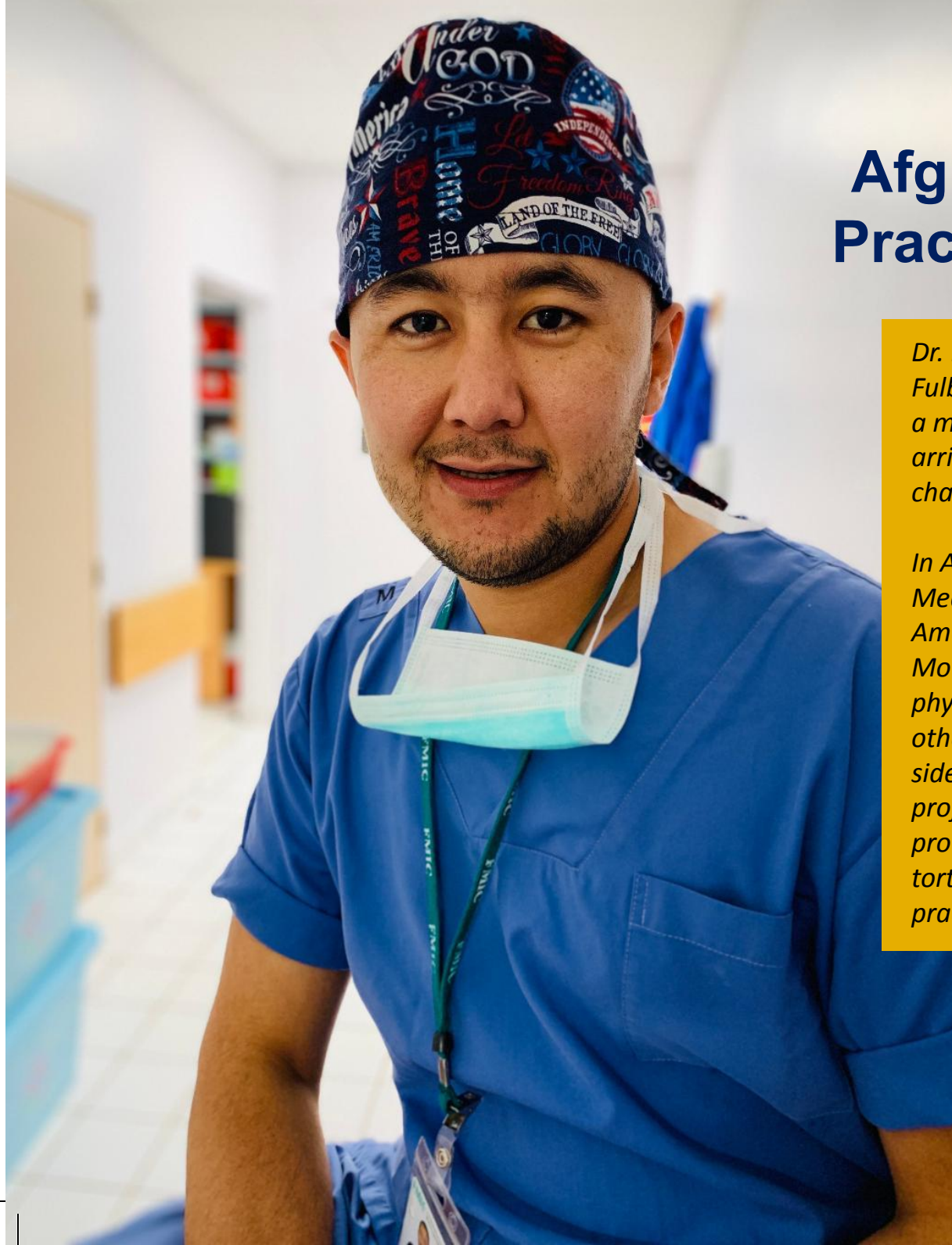
49.5%

Of immigrants in Georgia are naturalized citizens

350,201

Georgia immigrants are eligible for

1. <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/georgia/>



Afghan Doctor Dreams of Practicing Medicine in U.S.

Dr. Dawood Azeemy left Afghanistan in 2021 on a Fulbright scholarship at Georgia State University to earn a master's degree in public health. Two weeks after he arrived, Afghanistan fell to the Taliban, destroying any chance of return.

In Afghanistan, he earned his medical degree from Kabul Medical University. He trained and worked alongside American doctors at the French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children, serving for seven years as ICU physician and anesthesiologist. Due to licensing and other barriers, he is currently sitting on the medical sidelines in GA, unable to practice. He now works as project lead at a nonprofit mental health clinic that provides free care to refugee survivors of war and torture. He continues to explore options to return to practice.

Meet Sandrine, former refugee and future nurse

21-year-old Sandrine was first welcomed by a CRSA organization in Atlanta in April 2022 after she and her family of seven, originally from Zambia, were resettled through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Talented, driven, and soon co-enrolled in the Connect 2 Success and Career Development programs, Sandrine began working with Sam Camirand, Career Pathways Specialist, and Carlos McClaney, Youth Career Readiness Coach, in October 2022 and with their support, completed the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training program at Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC).

Now working for a CNA agency that allows flexible shifts across multiple locations, Sandrine shared, “It’s the kind of job I never thought I would have. As a student, it is very flexible, I can make my own schedule and choose when I want to go to work.”

With a firm educational foundation established and dreams to grow her medical career, Sandrine worked with Carlos to complete her college application to Georgia State University and her application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and started at the Clarkston campus—majoring in Nursing—in Spring 2023.



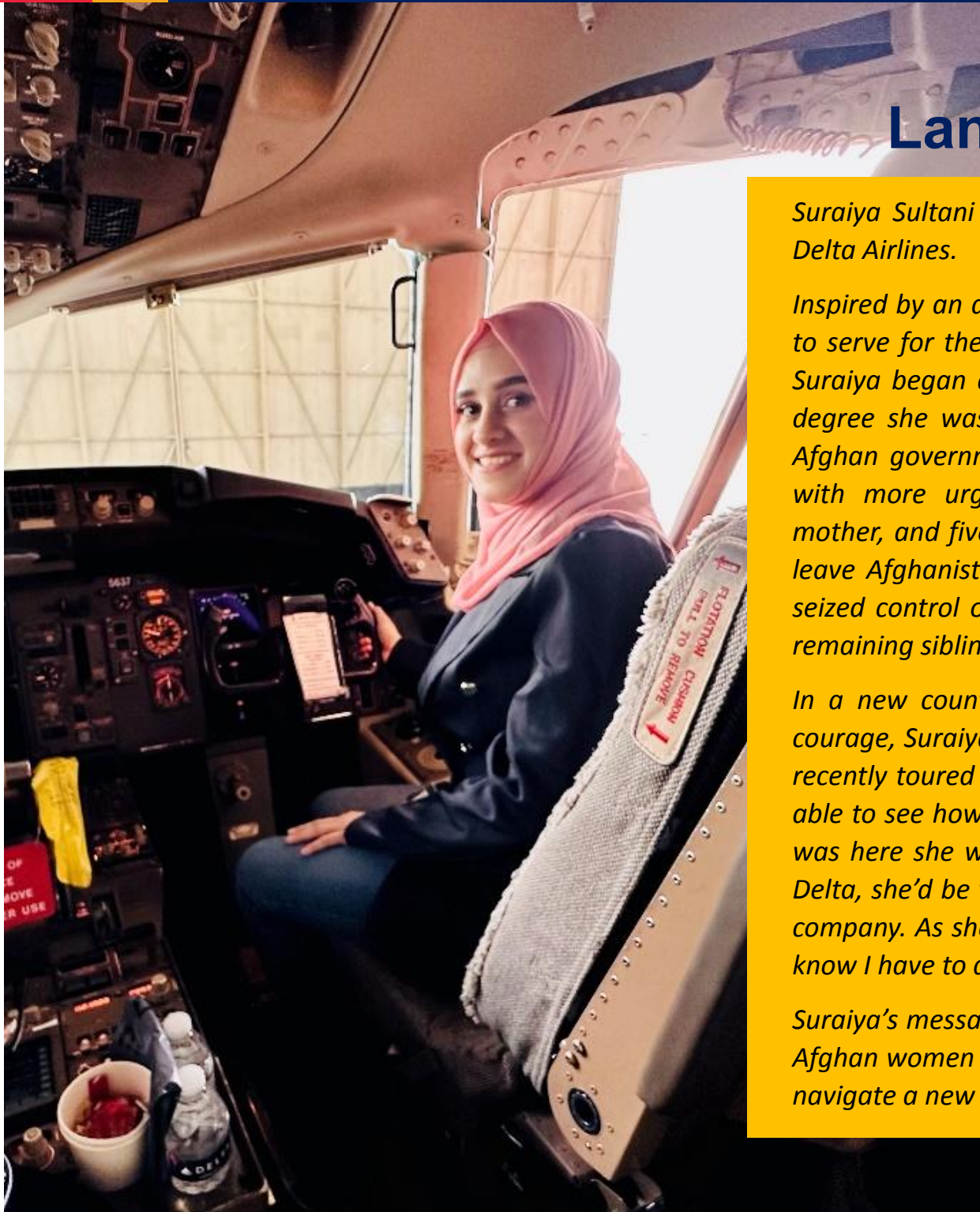
Landing her Dream Job

Suraiya Sultani has a dream to be the first Afghan woman to fly for Delta Airlines.

Inspired by an article her mother shared about the first Afghan woman to serve for their country's Air Force, it was during the pandemic that Suraiya began contemplating a change of direction from the business degree she was pursuing in college at the time. However, when the Afghan government fell to Taliban rule, she was suddenly confronted with more urgent and difficult decisions. Ultimately, Suraiya, her mother, and five of her nine siblings in their blended family decided to leave Afghanistan on August 28th, 2021. Eight days after the Taliban seized control of the country, she said goodbye to her stepfather and remaining siblings.

In a new country with new opportunities and a newfound sense of courage, Suraiya has been revisiting her dream of becoming a pilot. She recently toured the Delta TechOps facility at the airport where she was able to see how planes are assembled, tested, cleaned, and repaired. It was here she was informed that if she became a commercial pilot for Delta, she'd be the first Afghan and hijabi woman to fly a plane for the company. As she retells this anecdote, Suraiya beams and adds, "Now I know I have to do this."

Suraiya's message for lawmakers: "Women can do anything they want. Afghan women are human too. Please, help our women and allow us to navigate a new life here."



From Job to Dream Job

Jose Delcid arrived to the U.S. at the age of 14 with his parents. After high school, he worked for PF Chang's for 16 years in multiple positions. Once he turned 40, he was still working as a bartender at PF Chang's but wanted to turn his career around to have more work/life balance. One day, he came to a CRSA organization looking for volunteer opportunities and stumbled upon a Unidos in Finance orientation session. Although he hadn't come to the organization for that specifically, joining the program changed his life forever.

Once he graduated from Unidos in Finance, he was offered multiple job offers at different partner banks but ultimately decided to join the Bank of America team. He currently serves as a Senior Personal Banker, where he is responsible for assisting current customers at the bank with their financial needs. Jose is still very close with his graduating class and has come back as a Unidos in Finance volunteer to help with the mock interview process and classes.







Mission: To engage a broad coalition to highlight the cultural, social, and economic contributions of refugees and immigrants in Georgia.

Vision: We envision a future where every person who calls Georgia home is valued, respected, and able to build a successful life.

Contact Us: If you would like to learn more about CRSA or any of our partners, please contact CRSA Co-Chairs Ashley Coleman Ashley.Coleman@weinspirit.org and Muzda Oriakhil muzhda@friendsofrefugees.com

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[@CRSA_Georgia](https://twitter.com/@CRSA_Georgia)



crsageorgia.wordpress.com

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