



# Asylum Seeking Families Program New Jersey

Unprecedented levels of violence and insecurity in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador force families to seek safety, and for some, undertake a dangerous journey through Mexico to seek asylum in the United States. Families seeking asylum face considerable challenges, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is responding to their needs and providing critical support at key points along their way.



## Program Creation

IRC's national Asylum Seeking Families (ASF) program was created in Phoenix, Arizona in early 2019 in response to massive needs expressed by families recently released from immigration detention without any resources or connections to the community. **The Welcome Center** opened in Phoenix in July 2019, helping families regroup, access supplies, obtain legal orientation, and coordinate travel to their sponsors throughout United States. IRC's ASF program operates in Dallas, San Diego, Phoenix, Tucson, New York City and Elizabeth.

## New Jersey Based Services and Programs

Families seeking asylum are encouraged to make an appointment with IRC's ASF Caseworker or visit during **ASF walk-in hours on Thursdays between 1:00 and 4:00pm.**

- **Case Management** including local referrals, information and resources; community orientation and stabilization; assistance with school enrollment and navigation; connection to psychosocial support services.
- **Immigration Legal Services** for low-cost immigration services. IRC cannot represent clients in asylum applications, but can provide initial consultations and offer connection to low cost or pro bono representation.
- **Community Training** – IRC offers free Know Your Rights Trainings and Asylum Orientations at community partner locations

## How You Can Support Asylum Seeking Families in NJ

- Rent your empty apartment or room through [Airbnb's Open Homes](#) platform
- [Donate furniture](#) to IRC
- Purchase school supplies for school aged children
- [Donate to IRC NY/NJ's emergency fund](#) so IRC can respond quickly to immediate needs

### For More Information:

PROGRAMMING  
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