

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

ARAB-AMERICAN FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER



Arab-American Family
Support Center

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WHO WE ARE

For more than 30 years, the Arab-American Family Support Center (AAFSC) has walked alongside immigrant, refugee, and other marginalized communities across New York City during moments of both stability and crisis. While our name reflects our founding community, AAFSC's doors are open to all. Today, when many of the people we serve are facing heightened uncertainty, we remain a trusted space for care, connection, and guidance.

With staff members who speak more than 20 languages, AAFSC reaches families where they are, in languages and cultural contexts they can relate to. At our core, our work is about partnering with families across generations with the services and resources they need to become stable, supported, and ultimately thrive. For example, when we are able to alleviate pressures, such as the affordability of health care, housing, and food, families become stronger and better able to prepare for, and shape their futures.

This is why, throughout our programs, we also help families build the tools, confidence, and relationships they need to participate effectively in civic life. We see our role as helping guide people, particularly youth, to take ownership of shaping their communities.



LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends:

This year brought extraordinary insecurity to our community. Our clients endured policies that impacted their food and housing security; health benefits; immigration paths; physical safety; and mental health. We encountered a wave of hateful rhetoric against immigrants, and the dangerous normalization of Islamophobia. Each of these pressures also contributed to heightened risk for domestic violence and deteriorating mental health.

Through these challenges, AAFSC continued to equip families across generations with the services and resources they need to become stable, supported, and have the tools to thrive. Together, we touched the lives of nearly 22,000 New Yorkers last year, and responded to shifting needs. When there was a pause in SNAP benefits last fall due to a government shutdown, we distributed high quality meat and produce, ensuring that 1,300 families had nutritional meals for the length of the gap in benefits. Families were able to cook familiar foods—like halal meat and lentils—thanks to your generous contributions. We also responded to a sharp rise in demand for mental health services, increasing the number of sessions we provided by 60 percent over the previous year. These services gave clients the tools they needed to safely manage stressors, like food insecurity. AAFSC also continued to monitor and respond to policies and incidents that harm immigrants, helping to make our community feel safer and supported.

This coming year will be pivotal for AAFSC. With new leadership in place, we are embarking on a strategic review to determine how we can most effectively grow our programs, increase our visibility, and align our work with a new strategic vision. In addition to our programs that set families on a path to thrive, we want to get young people energized about playing a positive role in their communities and showing leadership on the issues of the day. This will be a core focus of AAFSC going forward.

You will continue to see our public-facing communications evolve to truly reflect who we are and how we touch lives through cohesive and powerful story-telling. We will elevate our profile to support our fundraising and advocacy, which will also match the new direction of our programs.

In this consequential moment, community-based organizations like AAFSC are on the frontlines of protecting and supporting the most vulnerable New Yorkers. We are in an ideal position to lay the groundwork to empower those we serve to engage in civic life so they can shape their communities and their futures.

The challenges of the last year have fueled our resolve. With thousands of families served and your support, we will continue to make AAFSC feel like home to so many who are finding their way. We will also harness the strength of our programs and the credibility that we have built over the past 30 years to achieve even greater impact.

With gratitude,



Randy Ali
Executive Director



Naseem Haffar
Board Chair

WHAT WE STAND FOR



MISSION

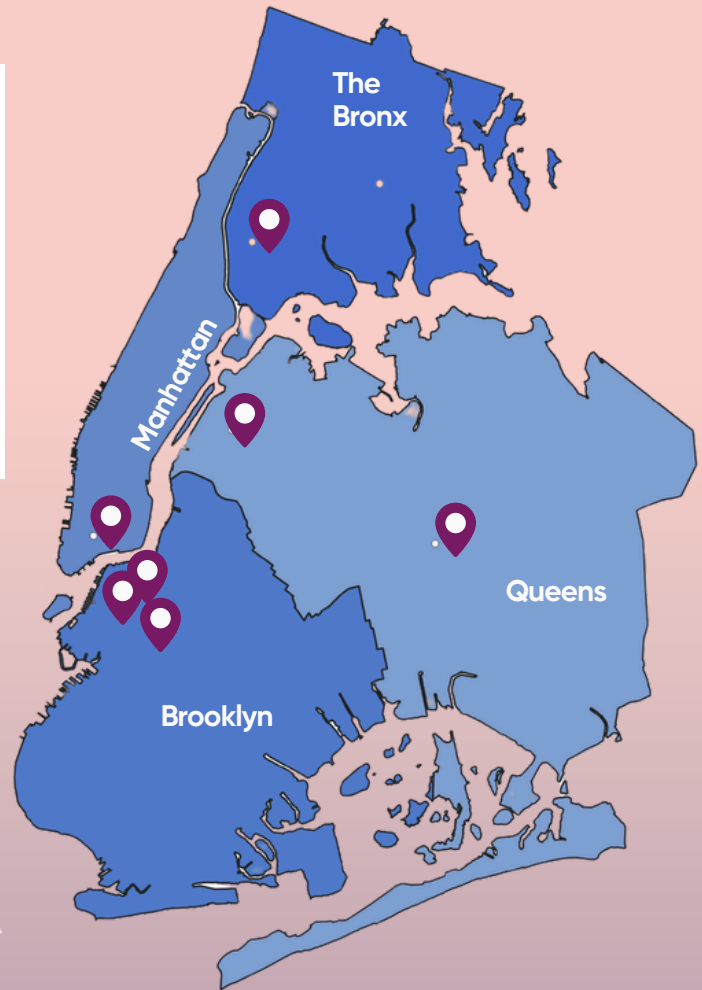
We champion underserved individuals, including immigrants, by delivering linguistically accessible services and uplifting community voices.

VISION

We strive for a socially just society where immigrants and marginalized communities have the resources they need to thrive and fully participate in their communities.

AAFSC serves clients in each of New York City's **five** boroughs.

We have **eight** physical locations and the ability to reach every neighborhood with in-home case management.



BRONX

- NYC Family Justice Center–Bronx**
198 East 161st Street, 2nd Floor
Bronx, NY 10451
Tel: (718) 508-1220

BROOKLYN

- Brooklyn Court Street–Headquarters**
150 Court Street, 3rd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Tel: (718) 643-8000
Fax: (718) 797-0410
- Atlantic Avenue Community Center**
384-386 Atlantic Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11217
Tel: (718) 643-8000
- NYC Family Justice Center–Brooklyn**
350 Jay Street, 14th Floor
Brooklyn NY 11201
Tel: (718) 250-5113

MANHATTAN

- NYC Family Justice Center–Manhattan**
80 Center Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10013
Tel: (212) 602-2800

QUEENS

- Queens Counseling Center**
37-10 30th Street, 2nd Floor
Queens, NY 11101
Tel: (718) 643-8000
Fax: (347) 808-8778
- NYC Family Justice Center–Queens**
126-02 82nd Avenue
Queens, NY 11415
Tel: (718) 575-4545

STATEN ISLAND

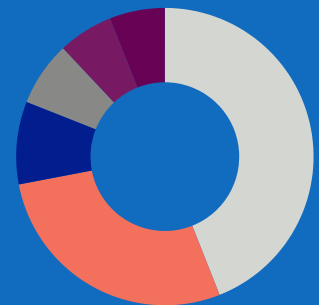
- NYC Family Justice Center–Staten Island**
126 Stuyvesant Place
Staten Island, NY 10301
Tel: (718) 697-4300

21,770 SERVED

Our clients hailed from 138 countries of origin, and our staff are able to provide services in 26 languages. While we're open to all, we are proud to be the largest settlement house in NYC specializing in serving Arab, Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian immigrant communities. We are the largest Arab-serving organization on the East Coast of the United States.

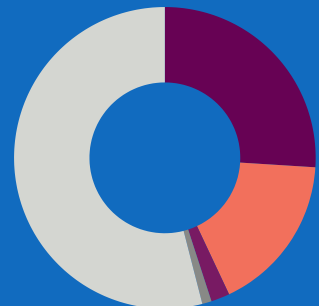
BOROUGH OF RESIDENCE

● Brooklyn	.....	44%
● Queens	.....	28%
● Bronx	.....	9%
● Manhattan	.....	7%
● Staten Island	.....	6%
● Outside NYC	.....	6%



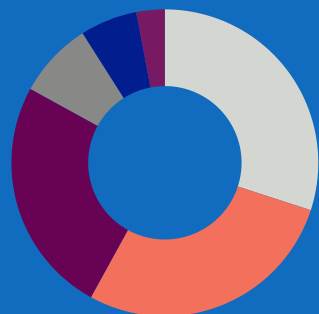
LANGUAGES SPOKEN

● Arabic	.....	26%
● Spanish	.....	17%
● Bangla	.....	2%
● Russian	.....	1%
● Other	.....	54%



RACE & ETHNICITY

● Arab/MENA*	.....	30%
● Hispanic/Latino	.....	28%
● Black**	.....	25%
● White	.....	8%
● South Asian	.....	6%
● Other	.....	3%



*MENA stands for Middle Eastern and North African

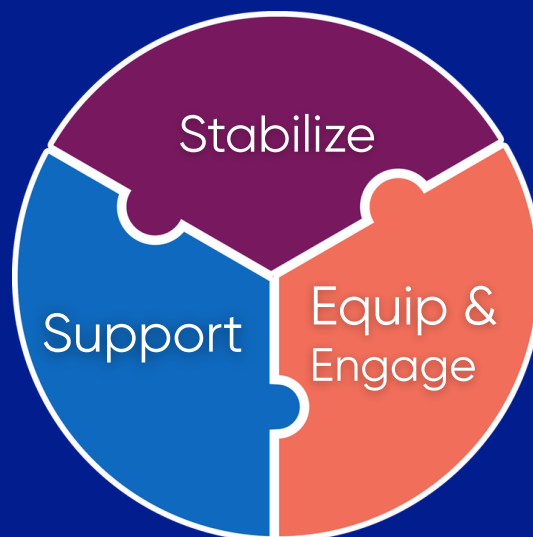
**Black includes Black, Afro-Caribbean, and/or African-American

OUR PROGRAMS STABILIZE, SUPPORT, AND EQUIP & ENGAGE

Preventive Services: Case managers and therapists strengthen families through trauma-informed home-based services to keep children in their homes and out of foster care.

Anti-Violence Program: Trusted social workers tailor cases to individuals, get involved with crisis intervention, provide counseling, and help navigate resources for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence.

Mental Health Counseling Program: Skilled therapists provide individual and group mental health counseling sessions for youth and adults in their native languages.



Community Health & Well-Being: Experienced health care and housing navigators help clients to find the right health, wellness, and food security resources.

Legal Services: We give legal support to reunite families, file citizenship applications, and support asylum seekers.

Adult Education: We teach basic literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and help prepare students for the citizenship civics test.

Caregiver-Child Bonding Circles: We bring caregivers and their children (aged 0-3) together to show the importance of play and interaction in the earliest years.

Young Adult & Youth Program: We provide individual and group academic support, college/career advice, mentorship, healthy relationships exploration, mental health support, and more to youth ages 8-24. The groups provide a space for youth to explore identity, empowerment, relationships, and cultural expectations.

TURNING VISION INTO ACTION

Through AAFSC's multigenerational, linguistically accessible programs, we are committed to meeting people where they are. We build stability and resilience across communities with a focus on health, education, family support, and immigrant rights.

PREVENTIVE SERVICES

754

Families
Strengthened

1,597

Children Remain
Safely in Homes

8,708

Home Visits
Conducted

ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAM

4,429

Survivors of Domestic
and Gender-Based
Violence Served

47%

Of Clients
Served Were
High Risk

7,070

Hours of Crisis Intervention,
Case Management, and
Service Navigation

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

\$17,843

Of Funds Distributed

102

Beneficiaries

TOP
NEEDS
IN 2025

42%

Rent

26%

Food

24%

Household Items

3%

Personal Items

3%

Utilities

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

4,237

Individual Counseling
Sessions

346

Clients Served

86%

Of Clients
Experienced an
Increased Outcome

LEGAL SERVICES

TOP 5
POINTS OF
SERVICE

33%

Naturalization

18%

Family Reunification

16%

Green Card Renewal

6%

Adjustment of Status

6%

Visa Processing

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELL-BEING

992

SNAP Enrollees

3,320

Health Insurance
Enrollees

134

Cash Assistance
Applications

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

1,496

Clients Connected to
Safe and Affordable
Housing Options

4,062

New Yorkers Benefitted
from AAFSC's Housing
Navigation Services

YOUNG ADULT & YOUTH PROGRAM

179

Youth Screened
for Symptoms of
Anxiety or
Depression

138

Youth Offered One-
On-One Tutoring
Sessions

81

Stress
Management
Sessions Held

ADULT EDUCATION

682

Students

100%

Pass Rate on
Citizenship Test

306

New Participants
Enrolled

CAREGIVER-CHILD BONDING CIRCLES

161

Caregivers Received
Tools to Reduce
Stress and Boost
Mental and
Emotional Health

236

Children on Path
to Meet
Developmental
Milestones

99%

Play with Their Child
3-4 Times Weekly,
Up from 15% Pre-
Program



Meet Amparo

Amparo is an ESOL student who came to the U.S. 19 years ago from the Dominican Republic with her young son. After years in home health care and serious health challenges, she found language skills, stability, and community at AAFSC. Today, she gives back by supporting classmates and welcoming new students.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Our Mental Health Counseling Program is expanding what culturally responsive care can look like in New York City. In just one year, Omar Kazi, director of the program, has been able to meet the increasing demand for our free mental health services exponentially. With Omar's new processes, external referrals to AAFSC increased by 76 percent; the number of sessions we provide increased by 60 percent; and the waitlist reduced by 85 percent. AAFSC is able to see more clients, who have shorter waiting times, and are able to speak with professionals in the languages they feel most at home speaking.

We are one of the only clinics in NYC offering free counseling in Arabic, Bangla, Hindi, Urdu, and other hard-to-find languages. For many clients, therapy is not just about translation. It is about processing trauma in the language and cultural context in which it was experienced. The team integrates trauma-informed care with deep cultural understanding, creating space for clients to define what healing means for themselves.

The program's strength is also rooted in its clinicians. Staff receive specialized, paid training tailored to their professional goals, including advanced modalities such as Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), a therapy designed to help clients reprocess distressing memories, with dedicated outside supervision. This investment in growth builds a team of experienced providers equipped to address complex trauma, family stress, acculturation challenges, and intimate partner violence with skill and compassion.

Under Omar's leadership, the program launched New York City's first all-male Arabic-language therapy group, directly confronting stigma that often prevents men from seeking support. By pairing accessible services with intentional outreach, the program is reshaping how mental health is understood in the communities AAFSC serves.

Under Omar's leadership, the mental health care that AAFSC provides is accessible, culturally attuned, and stigma-free.



HOUSING ACCESS

Finding affordable housing in New York City is daunting, and the housing crisis is unrelenting. AAFSC's Housing Navigation Services make sure that families do not need to face the complex system alone. Housing Navigation Specialist Kevin Pierre is the program's driving force.

Last year, Kevin served 115 clients, giving advice on what benefits they are eligible to receive, and helping them navigate all different kinds of applications to help make housing affordable.

Clients come to AAFSC seeking help for many different kinds of challenges. Some know they cannot make next month's rent, and others are already holding an eviction notice. Kevin meets each client with clarity, maps a path forward, and stays in their corner.

Kevin demystifies a complicated system: he explains that a 14-day notice does not mean immediate displacement, walks clients through petition deadlines and court timelines, and connects them to free legal representation. For clients who fall outside traditional benefit eligibility, a common reality, new micro-grant and emergency funding is filling critical gaps, covering arrears and move-in costs for those who might otherwise slip through the cracks.

When clients come to AAFSC, we ask many questions to assess their needs, such as health care and food assistance. One-third of people who walk through our door need help with housing. This shows the depth of the affordability crisis gripping the communities AAFSC serves.



With high demand in New York City for help finding affordable housing, we have historically had a waitlist for clients seeking help. Kevin cleared AAFSC's waitlist last year.

Housing instability is at the root of many other issues communities face. According to Kevin, when families have housing they can afford, we see improvements related to employment and mental health, and their general well-being.

HELPING TO DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS

With centers in Queens and Brooklyn, the Youth and Young Adult Program (YAYP) creates spaces where young people can grow into confident students, leaders, and community members. Through Audacious Young Women of Action (AYWA) for girls and young women and MENar (“light” in Arabic) for boys and young men, peers come together to socialize, explore their goals, and support one another through the challenges of becoming independent and also civically engaged residents. The program blends academic support, career exploration, and enrichment activities with something just as important: a sense of belonging.

In the past year alone, YAYP served 220 clients; 124 clients participated in enrichment programming while 138 received academic and career support, including nearly 1,300 individual sessions for homework help, test preparation, college applications, and career planning. For many participants, especially those navigating school systems as first-generation college applicants, these supports help make ambitious futures feel achievable.

Within AYWA and MENar, youth explore topics that shape their daily lives, from healthy relationships and mental wellbeing to leadership and cultural identity. Sessions are hands-on and driven by participants, who often help lead workshops themselves, share their talents with peers, and speak about milestones such as landing their first job or preparing for an interview.

This peer-to-peer learning builds confidence and creates a community where young people feel heard. According to program surveys, 87 percent of participants say they have grown in confidence speaking up for themselves, improved their academic performance, strengthened their ability to set and pursue goals, and deepened their sense of connection and belonging.

At the center of this work is Program Manager Leen Shumman. Leen first walked through its doors as a participant herself, attending the afterschool program as a young person in the neighborhood. She volunteered with the program while in college, and later returned after working as a mental health counselor in an elementary school.

For Leen, YAYP is about giving young people space to step into their own voice and leadership, whether that means solving a difficult math problem independently, applying to college, or guiding their peers through a workshop.

As participation in group programming continues to grow, YAYP is expanding opportunities for youth to learn from one another, take initiative, and shape the communities around them. For many participants, the program becomes a place where leadership begins.



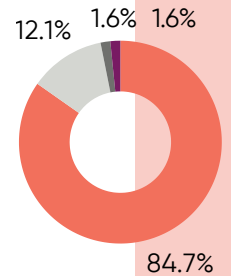
OUR FINANCIALS

July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025* (pending audit)

SUPPORT & REVENUE

\$17,417,959

● Government Grants	\$14,761,584
● Foundation Grants and Support	\$2,110,100
● Individuals and Corporations	\$270,714
● Other Revenues and Gains	\$275,561



EXPENSES

\$17,150,709

Program Services

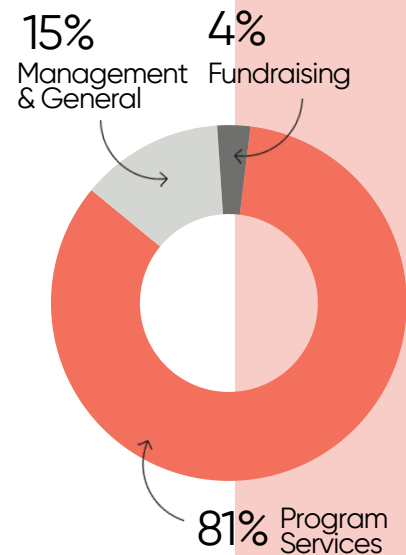
Family Case Management	\$9,718,082
Domestic Violence Case Management	

Benefits Navigation	
Legal Services	\$2,998,372
Mental Health Counseling	

English Classes & Citizenship Prep	
Early Childhood Development Services	\$1,274,054
Young Adult & Youth	

Supporting Activities

Management and General	\$2,514,268
Fundraising	\$645,933



NET ASSETS AT YEAR-END

\$267,250

*AAFSC continues to prioritize financial sustainability. This year, we delivered programs leveraging new resources as well as previously secured dollars designated for this fiscal year.

OUR FUNDERS

Thanks to the generous support from our funders, AAFSC provides high-quality programs across New York City.

- Altman Foundation
- Asian American Federation
- Bronx Community Foundation
- Brooklyn Borough President
- Brooklyn Social Justice Fund
- Brooklyn Org
- Carmel Hill Fund
- Child Welfare Fund
- Cultural Development Fund
- DJ McManus Foundation
- Emily Davie and Joseph S. Kornfeld Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Gerstner Family Foundation
- Harman Family Foundation
- Health Navigator
- Herb Block Foundation
- Hispanic Federation
- John N. Blackman, Sr. Foundation
- Marilyn Simpson Charitable Trust
- Mother Cabrini
- National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
- New York City Transit (NYCT)
- No Kid Hungry
- NY Benefits
- NYC Administration of Children Services
- NYC Care
- NYC City Council
- NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ)
- NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA)
- New York Presbyterian (NYP)
- NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
- NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)
- NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)
- NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS)
- NYS Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
- Olayan Charitable Trust
- Public Health Solutions
- Robin Hood Foundation
- Russell Grinnell Memorial Trust
- Solon E. Summerfield Foundation
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Securing Communities Against Hate
- Stadler Family Foundation
- The City College of New York (CCNY)
- Trinity Church Wall Street
- United Neighborhood Houses (UNH)
- Violet Jabara Charitable Trust
- WholeYouNYC

OUR DONORS

Contributions from individual donors, whether made through a digital fundraising campaign or donated in-kind, have supported the health and well-being of NYC's families, including thousands of newly arrived migrants. The following represents a selection of those who made this work possible.

Alger, Alexandra Dewey

Aractingi, Elias

Baum, Roberta Rossi

Bradford, Katherine

Brogan, Matthew C

Carson, Madeline

Chehade, Kristina

Chesin, Scott

Collins, Julie

Daouk, Ihab

DeCarlo, Juliette

Dhouibi, Anissa

Dugan, Renee

El Beih, Mohamed

El-Marsafy, Khaled

Elmasry, Rasha Mansouri

Elojail, Rita

Eltobgy, Maha

Faleiro, Brian

Feibusch, Daniela

Friedman, William S.

Furfaro, Susanna

Fynn, Kwame

Gabriel, Edward M

Glant, Lauren

Haffar, Naseem

Hansen, Laura

Hirschhorn, Michael J

Hochman-Siegler

Family Fund

Jabara, Abdeen

Jaffer, Jameel

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Johnson, Rita Gail

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Khalifa, Hussein

Khalil, Mohammed

Khanani, Fauzia

List, Bobye

Lotfi, Sherif

Naimi, Shahla

Nemzoff, Judith

Peters, Susan M

Pfizer Inc.

Pollak, David

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Rosen, Jonathan

Saba, Camile

Sabry, Salma

Sachs, Dana

Sachs, Ira

Sachs, Lynne

Sarafa, Rami

Sesil, Teresa

Shama, Fatima

Shama, Jeanine

Solin, Frances

State of New York

Tabar, Viviane

Tayeh, David

Trieu, Huoi

Urbina, Kathy

Van Pelt, Marianne

Veissid, Marco

Weltman, Susan

Whorisky Donor Advised
Fund

Younus, Abdullah

Zameli, Ayman

Zucker, Scott

OUR PARTNERS

Spanning across government, non-profit, the private sector, and grassroots organizing, AAFSC's partners played a key role in supporting the needs of our communities.

- Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)
- Arab American Association of New York
- Asian American Federation (AAF)
- Asiyah Women's Center
- Brooklyn Public Library
- Chinese American Planning Council
- City's First Reader
- Coalition for Asian American Children & Families (CACF)
- Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA)
- Council of the Peoples Organization
- Council on American Islamic Relations
- CUNY CLEAR (Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility)
- Department of Youth and Community Development
- Elmhurst Hospital
- Engage
- Food Bank of New York
- Fund for the City of New York
- Human Services Council
- HeartShare
- HELP Roads
- ICNA Relief
- Jahajee Sisters
- Khalil Gibran International Academy (KGIA)
- Literacy Assistance Center
- Maimonides Medical Center
- Make the Road
- Malikah
- Met Council
- MPower Change
- Muslim Community Network
- National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
- New Destiny Housing
- New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault
- New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA)
- New York Immigration Coalition
- New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
- New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
- New York Coalition for Adult Literacy
- NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS)
- NYC Continuum of Care (NYC CoC)
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- NYC Health + Hospitals
- NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
- NYC Racial Justice Commission
- NYC Votes
- NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health
- NYU Langone Health
- Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)
- Queens Borough Hall
- RaisingHealth
- Restorative Justice Initiative (RJI)
- Sanctuary for Families
- Safe Zone Cross Culture Youth
- Sakhi for South Asian Women
- Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Children
- South Asian Women Project
- Tahirih
- The Migrant Kitchen
- Urban Justice Center
- Violence Intervention Program
- Womankind
- Women for Afghan Women
- Yemeni American Merchants Association

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Anissa Dhouibi

Kwame Fyann

Rita Gail Johnson

Danielle Krumholz

Boby List

Susan Peters

David Pollak

David Tayeh

CONNECT WITH US

Interested in connecting or learning more about our work?
We'd love to hear from you.

 (718) 643-8000

 info@aafscny.org

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OPEN TO ALL



**Arab-American Family
Support Center**

Your donation to AAFSC helps support immigrant and refugee families. In 2025, we served 21,000 people with life-saving programs in over 20 different languages. Every dollar expands our reach and helps us champion justice and equity. Make a difference today by scanning the QR code or visiting aafscny.org/donate.



bitly