

State of Newcomer Immigrants in San Francisco

*Office of Civic Engagement &
Immigrant Affairs*

April 22nd, 2024



About OCEIA

The Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) is a policy, compliance, direct services and grantmaking City department.

OCEIA's mission is to promote inclusive policies and foster immigrant assistance programs that lead to full civic, economic and linguistic integration.



OCEIA's Program Areas:



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



COMMUNITY SAFETY



GRANTMAKING



**INTEGRATED
IMMIGRANT SERVICES**



LANGUAGE ACCESS

OVERVIEW

Newly Arrived Immigrants in San Francisco



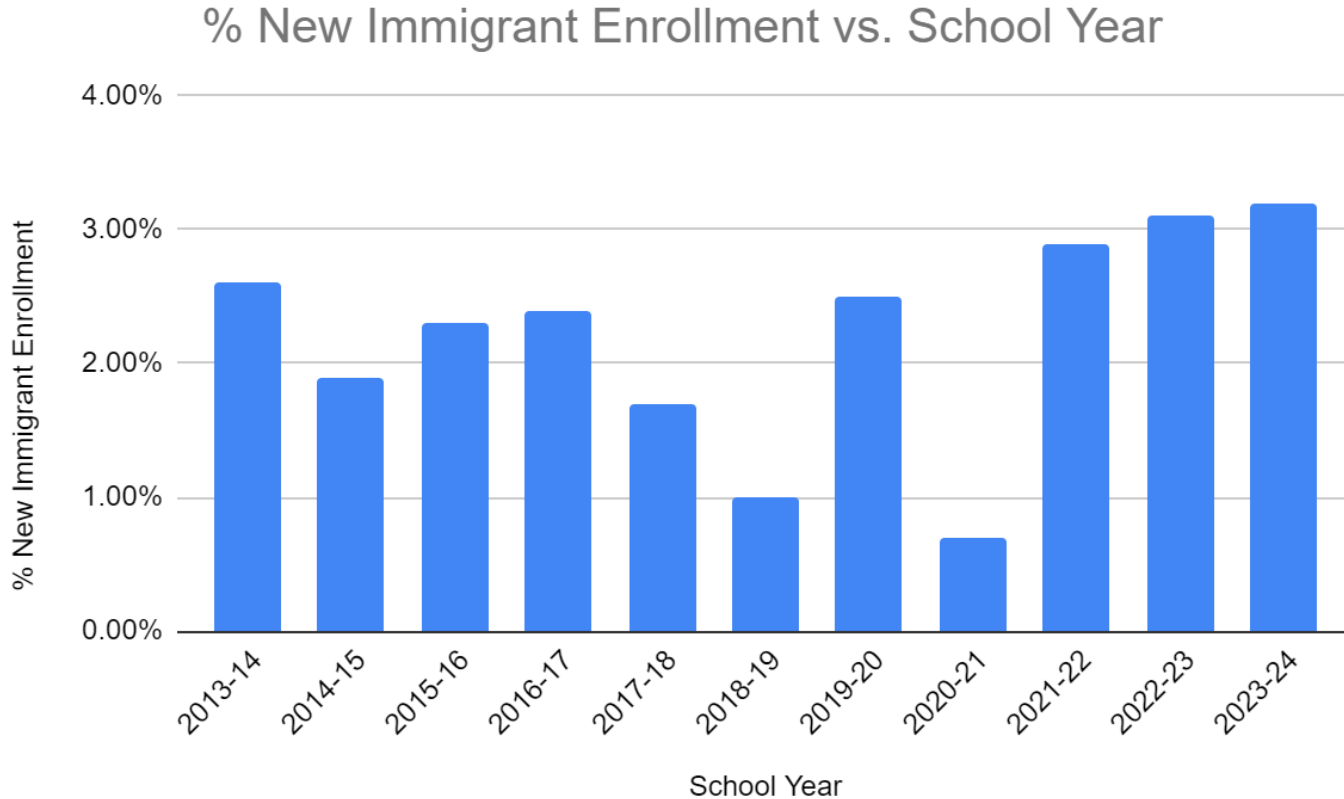
Trends in Migration

- Surge in migration at Mexico-U.S. border since shifts to Title 42 and asylum processes
- Increased diversity of migrant origin countries due to displacement from global conflict, poverty and economic crisis; greater diffusion of linguistic and cultural needs
- Increased numbers of migrants arriving without a receiving support system and immediately experiencing homelessness
- Increased family and unaccompanied minor migration waves
- Biden administration has created special programs to facilitate the migration of Ukrainians, Afghans, Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans

Newcomer Data: Understanding Scope & Needs

- SF is experiencing a steady stream of diverse newcomers and asylum seekers
- Partner data further substantiates the trend. SFUSD shares numbers of newcomer student enrollment data and homeless newcomer students. SFILDC shares demand data for legal services.
- There is limited quantitative data to further measure and understand this trend due to city data collection practices and decentralized arrivals into the City
- More robust data collection regarding newcomers is needed

New Immigrant Enrollment Data

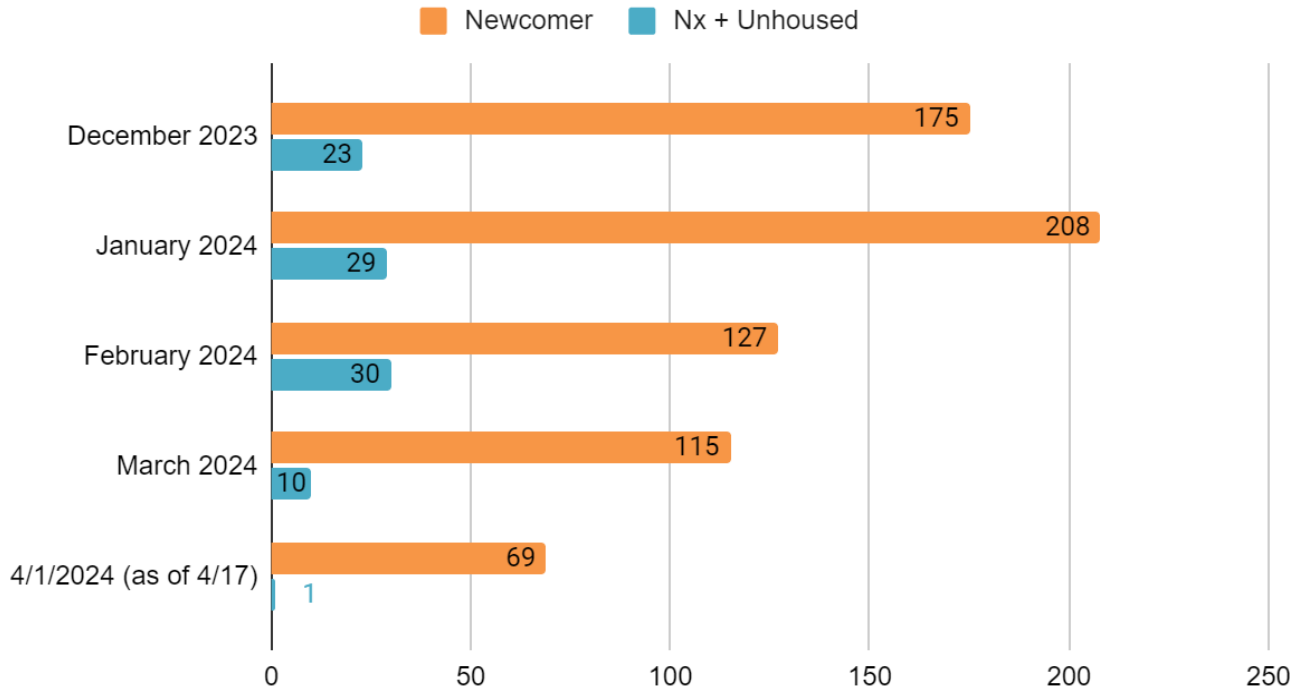


New Immigrant Enrollment Data

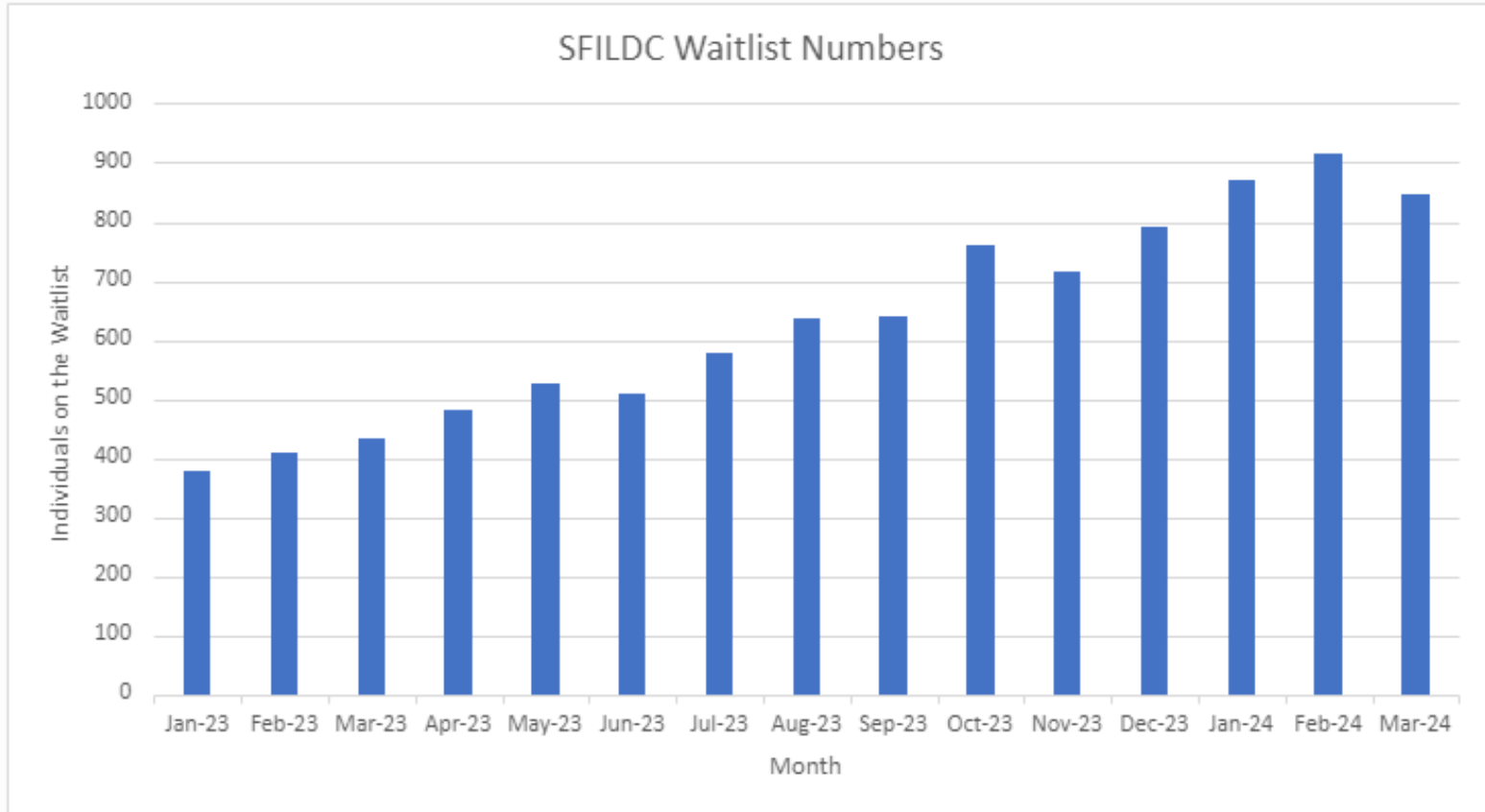
Newcomer Student Enrollment

Unhoused Newcomers (Self-Reported)

Newcomer & Unhoused



Demand for Defensive Immigration Services and Waitlist Data (SFILDC)



A typical situation for newcomer asylum seekers

Asylum seekers...

Have permission to be in the U.S. while they fight their case

Are likely being monitored by ICE and will have to attend court

Do **NOT** have the right to an attorney

Do **NOT** have a Social Security Number (SSN) or ITIN that enables employment.

They can apply for a work permit 6 months

AFTER filing asylum application

May lack or lose identity documents

Are **NOT** eligible for most public benefits (e.g., CalFresh, CalWORKS, Section 8) other than Medi-Cal and city funded programs

Are not subject to public charge

May arrive without sponsors or community support

Interdepartmental Coordination & Planning

Interagency Mass Arrival Planning

Beginning in September 2022, convened with other city agencies to prepare for mass arrivals, resulting in a No-Notice Sheltering Plan and Newcomer Shelter Operations Activation Plan..

Immigrant Rights, Resources and Cultural Competence Training for HSH

OCEIA has developed a training in collaboration with Refugee and Immigrant Solidarity in Education (RISE) for HSH Access Point staff and partners to build their capacity for effectively working with immigrants.

OCEIA and HSA Alignment

HSA and OCEIA meet regularly to align on outreach strategy for newcomers and to elevate questions from newcomers regarding benefits eligibility

Summary of OCEIA Response Efforts

Convening Community Stakeholders

Monthly meetings since Fall 2022 with community and city stakeholders to discuss response efforts, share updates, and identify needs and gaps

Building Legal Services Capacity

Exploring ways to build capacity including work permit clinics in collaboration with our community orgs to expedite work eligibility for newcomers.

Innovative Housing & Case Management Alternatives

Exploring unique strategies to shelter newcomers, including a partnership with USF to house asylum-seekers in university housing, and a hosted housing network.

Language Access Supports

Interpretation Basics Training for city & community staff, department technical assistance and support

Resources for Newcomers/Asylum Seekers

Immigrant Support Hub: *asylum*

The organizations listed on this page can help immigrants find out if they qualify for asylum, and may be able to help them apply. Consultations are generally low-cost or free and the application cost may be covered for San Franciscans.

immigrants.sfgov.org/help/asylum

Resources for Newcomers/Asylum Seekers

Immigrant Resources in San Francisco: Response and Referral Toolkit

Toolkit for community-based organizations, City departments, and other immigrant-serving agencies to connect newly arrived migrants and asylum seekers with trusted service providers and help them access the services they need.

bit.ly/sfimmigrantresources

Thank you

