



Upwardly Global Reaches New Heights in 2022, Charts Path in 2023



Upwardly Global capped 2022 by reaching new heights in our push to remove employment barriers for professional immigrants and refugees. We want to thank our community and supporters for contributing to our success last year and continuing to support us in 2023.

Last year we helped more immigrant and refugee job seekers than ever previously in our 20 years: some 6,500 individuals, including hundreds of Afghans and Ukrainians, and others from Venezuela to Ethiopia and far beyond. We offered industry specific coaching, built the capacity of partner organizations serving immigrants and refugees, and shared career development tools. Average tracked starting salary was close to \$67,000, and we added over \$70 Million to our economy in new combined wages.

As we look ahead, Upwardly Global is about to hit a milestone: 10,000 individuals supported into family-wage jobs. We hope to celebrate with you in the coming months. We are watching the jobs situation carefully, but for now are seeing steady demand for the skills and services of our immigrant and refugee professional community. And we are working to offer services to thousands more and build scale, as the importance of workforce inclusion for immigrants and refugees becomes more apparent.

Read more about our [successes in 2022 and plans for 2023 here!](#)

Upwardly Global Releases New Report on Workforce Inclusion for Young Immigrants



In December 2022, Upwardly Global released a groundbreaking new report, “Roadblocks to Workforce Inclusion for Immigrant Young Adults,” on the unique challenges young adult immigrants face on their employment journeys. We heard from healthcare workers, legal professionals, project managers, physical therapists, journalists, software engineers, human resources professionals, and more about their common thread – navigating the U.S. job market as an outsider. The report finds that 60% of young immigrants believe their professional skills are not fully valued at work, with that number climbing to over 70% for immigrants of color.

[Read more from the newly released report here.](#)

Upwardly Global President & CEO Jina Krause-Vilmar Speaks at Tipping Point Community Breakfast



“Half of the United States’ immigrant population possess bachelor’s degrees or higher, but many find themselves working multiple low-wage jobs due to their credentials and experience not being valued or recognized.”

On December 9, Au Nguyen, an alumna and member of the Upwardly Global Board, and Upwardly Global CEO and President Jina Krause-Vilmar spoke at the Tipping Point Community Breakfast about how immigrants and refugees can impact the U.S. economy and what Upwardly Global is doing to support them.

[Watch Jina's full remarks here](#), and [Au's remarks here](#).

Upwardly Global Joins 200+ Organizations in Support of the Welcome Corps, A New Service Opportunity for Refugee Sponsorship



Upwardly Global joined over 200 diverse organizations in signing a letter of support for the [Welcome Corps](#), a new U.S. government community service program that allows everyday Americans to privately sponsor refugees from around the world—representing the boldest innovation in refugee resettlement in more than 40 years, grounded in the generosity and compassion of American communities.

Over the last year, Americans from every corner of the country have stepped up to welcome Afghans, Ukrainians, and people in need of safety from Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, and Nicaragua. Now, with the launch of the Welcome Corps, the U.S. government is making it possible for Americans to sponsor refugees from all around the world. Many of these refugees have spent significant time in refugee camps worldwide, often unable to leave freely, earn a living, rebuild their lives—and make contributions—in the warm embrace of a new community. This system does not replace, but adds to the critical support for refugee resettlement processes in the U.S. and support for refugee resettlement agencies and organizations like Welcoming America and so many others that support refugees on the ground.

"We have seen first-hand the generosity of Americans sponsoring Ukrainian refugees over the last year," says Jina Krause-Vilmar, President & CEO of Upwardly Global. "Now with the launch of Welcome Corps, our communities will have the opportunity to extend the same generosity to more refugees from around the world."

Learn more about the new program at welcomecorps.org.

Upwardly Global Alum Jalal Maqsood

Publishes Op-Ed in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Upwardly Global program alum [Jalal Maqsoo](#), endorsed the Afghan Adjustment Act and recounted his family's journey to the United States in an op-ed published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

“The Afghan Adjustment Act’s passage would not only affirm the U.S. residency status of many Afghan evacuees, but would also prevent lapses in work authorization, which allows them to provide for themselves and their families. Adding their skills to the labor market would also be a net gain for the U.S. economy at a time when high-demand industries are in need of skilled labor. If professional Afghans newcomers living in the U.S. are able to find skill-aligned work, it would add nearly \$650 million to the U.S. economy per year.”

[Read the full op-ed here.](#)

In the News

Biden Administration Restarts Task Force for New Americans

President Biden is reviving a task force that will help immigrants and refugees restart their lives in the U.S. through workforce training and language learning, as well as education, health, and financial assistance. Upwardly Global proudly worked in partnership with Welcoming America and the National Partnership for New Americans to advocate for the Task Force, and we are participating in a coalition facilitated by those two groups to draft recommendations for the Task Force. The Task Force on New Americans will be run by the Domestic Policy Council and will build on efforts that were established under the Obama administration.

Afghan Adjustment Act Not Included in Omnibus

In spite of setbacks, Upwardly Global is committed to working with allies, members of Congress and the Biden Administration to ensure that the tens of thousands of Afghans who came to the U.S. after the fall of Kabul under parolee and TPS visas have their status extended and made permanent. To date, Upwardly Global is working with over 1,500 Afghan professionals, and we have placed some 400 at skill-aligned work, adding almost \$23 Million to our economy annually. We can help many more - and they can help us. Passing the Afghan Adjustment Act or moving Administrative action to this effect is a top priority for us and allied veteran, immigrant and workforce groups.

Biden Announces Changes to Title 42, Introducing New Lawful Pathways for Some Migrants and Asylum Seekers

On January 5, 2022, President Biden announced new changes to the immigration system, expanding a pandemic-era program allowing the administration to quickly expel people from Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti who illegally cross into the country from Mexico.

Under the new plan, the United States will accept up to 30,000 Cubans, Nicaraguans, Haitians and Venezuelans each month while expelling those who arrive at the border unlawfully.

Read more from NPR [here](#).

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- [Employment Services Advisor, San Francisco/Bay or Washington, D.C](#)

- [Community Partnerships Lead](#)
- [Communications and Social Media Intern](#)

All career opportunities can be found [here](#).

Contributions by our community make all this work possible!

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