

What does SCRS need in order to continue and improve in its success?

- Capacity building for sustained organizational and program management
- Sustainable funding
- Immediate assistance in program management

Improved organizational infrastructure and management are essential for SCRS to grow. SCRS must plan for improvement in financing, partnerships, staff structures, and infrastructure capacity. Once these areas have been further developed, SCRS will operate more efficiently and effectively towards its goals, strategically utilizing strengths internally and externally.

Sustained funding will allow for SWUCA to (1) strengthen its current programming while formalizing key stipend payments for SCRS additional staff (2) hire capacity building consultants to strengthen SCRS management (3) provide space and time for SCRS to undergo advanced strategic planning and charting the path towards a more professional organization.

Embracing SCRS's critical pedagogy "learn by doing" philosophy, consultants will serve as a stop gap of sorts in immediate program management while using in-progress programs to facilitate SCRS leadership capacity building in program management. In this manner, SCRS stays true to its vision, mission, and values for not only its beneficiaries but also its own leadership.

Why is this a key moment for SCRS?

Simply put, the challenges faced by the Somali community have continued for a number of years. The good work of many nonprofits and community members have contributed but not solved these challenges. In the search for effective programs, a new method must be tried. SCRS believes a community-for-community model with a focus on new refugees in a friendly, open atmosphere managed by the Somalis for the Somalis who could be termed "marginalized" is a catalyst for positive change.

Despite foundations of services and goods provided to the Somali community and the general entrepreneurial spirit of Somalis, numerous community issues have gone unaddressed. This lack of attention has resulted in a situation where the community is plagued by numerous issues such as gang related crimes and radicalization of Somali youth by Al-Shabab and ISIS

Moreover, these concerns could easily remain within one generation as Somali immigration decreases and youth are simultaneously acculturated to American life. However, with the continued presence of Somali-on-Somali violence being observed and then participated in by the second generation, it is crucial the community work to identify new solutions that can ensure a happy and healthy life for all Somalis while living in America.