Dear partners:

We would like to share information about the impact of the federal shutdown on refugee programs and programs that refugees may rely on.

**Federal Refugee Programs**
There is currently no impact to any of the refugee programs administered by the Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB), including the Refuge Support Services (RSS), Refugee School Impact (RSI), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Services to Older Refugees (SOR), or the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) programs. We expect funding levels to remain uninterrupted through this quarter. Fund availability may be impacted in the future if the federal shutdown continues for a significantly longer amount of time. RPB will share more information as it becomes available.

**Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP) and the California Newcomer Education and Well-Being (CalNEW) Project**
The federal shutdown will not have a direct impact on the availability of state-funded programs such as TCVAP and CalNEW.

**CalFresh, CalWORKs, Housing, Etc.**
We recognize our clients utilize services from various funding streams that may be impacted by the federal shutdown, including CalFresh, CalWORKs, and housing programs.

CalFresh nutrition assistance benefits for the month of February will be issued early to most client’s EBT accounts on January 16, 2019. The early issuance of February benefits is necessary due to the federal government’s shutdown. County partners were instructed to continue all other CalFresh operations as usual. Please see All County Welfare Directors Letter, CDSS press release, and visit: [http://www.cdss.ca.gov/](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/)

We will provide specific information as we learn more about any potential impact to other programs.

**Immigration Legal Services**
The federal shutdown will not have a direct impact on the State’s immigration legal services programs. However, the clients may be impacted as they navigate through backlogged systems such as the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). According to a USCIS news alert, it will continue to accept petitions and applications during the federal shutdown.

Thank you for partnering with us and serving the immigrant community. We will continue to keep you informed and will share additional details as soon as they are available.

In partnership,

Immigration and Refugee Programs Branch