



CDSS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

January 4, 2016

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-01-16

TO:

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY REPATRIATION COORDINATORS
 ALL COUNTY ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
 ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
 ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
 ALL COUNTY CALFRESH PROGRAM COORDINATORS
 ALL COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS
 ALL COUNTY CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CaWORKs) PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
 ALL COUNTY CIVIL RIGHTS COORDINATORS
 ALL COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS
 ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS
 ALL COUNTY CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS PROGRAM MANAGERS
 ALL COUNTY IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS

SUBJECT: ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN MINORS (CAM) PROGRAM

REFERENCE: OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT (ORR) STATE LETTER 15-01, DATED JANUARY 7, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) notice is to provide counties with information about the CAM Program for children in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras who have a parent(s) lawfully present in the United States (U.S.). This notice

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

also explains the eligibility for ORR benefits and services for minors 18 years old and under entering the U.S. under the CAM Program and for their eligible family members.

The CAM Program began on December 1, 2014 and is an in-country program of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras that provides an alternative to the dangerous journey that some children are currently undertaking to the U.S. The CAM Program permits qualifying parents from one of these three countries who are lawfully present in the U.S. to bring their children to the U.S. as refugees via the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The CAM Program **is not** a pathway for undocumented parents to bring their children to the U.S.

Applications for the CAM Program are initiated in the U.S. Parents in the U.S. seeking to apply through the CAM Program for their children residing in one of the three countries must seek the assistance of a designated resettlement agency (RA) that works with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration to help resettle refugees in the U.S. A listing of RAs that are accepting applications for the CAM Program can be found at this link:

<http://www.wrapsnet.org/CAMProgram/tabid/420/Default.aspx>.

DNA relationship testing will also be required as part of the application process to confirm the biological relationship between the parent in the U.S and the in-country child. The RA will notify the U.S.-based parent of the required steps for DNA testing. The U.S.-based parent will pay for the DNA testing and costs will be reimbursed when all relationships are verified to be true. The minor's DNA will be collected abroad in certified labs in his or her country.

QUALIFYING PARENT

A qualifying parent must be at least 18 years of age and be lawfully present in the U.S. in one of the following seven categories at the time of filing an application with a RA to bring his or her child or children to the U.S.:

- Permanent Resident Status;
- Temporary Protected Status;
- Parolee;
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA);
- Deferred Action (non-DACA);

- Deferred Enforced Departure; or
- Withholding of Removal.

The U.S.-based parent does not need to be a national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras. Other individuals lawfully present in the U.S. outside of the CAM Program, such as aylees, victims of trafficking or other serious crime with a T or U Visa, and special immigrant visa holders, may have other programs to bring eligible derivatives to the U.S. For more information, please refer to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service's link under the Further Information Section on page four of this document.

QUALIFYING CHILD

A qualifying child must be:

- The child of the qualifying parent (biological, step, or legally adopted), and
- Unmarried and under the age of 21, and
- A national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras, and
- Residing in his or her country of nationality.

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

Unmarried children under the age of 21 of the qualifying child can be included as derivatives on the request.

A parent of the qualifying child can be included in the request if:

- He/she is part of the same household and economic unit as the qualifying child, and
- He/she was legally married to the qualifying parent at the time the CAM Program Affidavit of Relationship was filed, and
- He/she continues to be legally married to the qualifying parent until the parent arrives in the U.S.

It is anticipated that a relatively small number of children from Central America will be admitted to the U.S. as refugees in Fiscal Year 2016, because of the length of time it takes to be processed for U.S. refugee admission. Children determined not eligible for refugee admission but who are still at risk of harm may be considered for parole on a

case-by-case basis through the CAM Program. Parole allows someone who is otherwise inadmissible to come to the U.S. for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Travel costs of children who come to the U.S. through the CAM Program will not be paid or reimbursed by the U.S. government.

CAM PROGRAM REFUGEES

Minors who enter the U.S. through the CAM Program as refugees are eligible for ORR benefits and services to the same extent as any other child with refugee status. Applications for ORR benefits and services by minors processed through the CAM Program should be treated the same as an application for benefits by other refugees. Minors processed through the CAM Program as refugees are not entitled to any extraordinary or additional refugee benefits or services from ORR beyond those benefits available to any eligible refugee child.

CAM PROGRAM PAROLEES

Minors who enter the U.S. through the CAM Program as parolees are not eligible for ORR benefits and services. After a five-year waiting period, they may potentially be eligible for mainstream federal benefits. Parole is temporary and does not confer any permanent legal immigration status or path to permanent legal immigration status in the U.S. Parolees are eligible to attend school and/or apply for employment authorization. Individuals authorized as a parolee under this program generally will be in parole status for an initial period of two years and may request a renewal.

DOCUMENTATION

Documentation types presented by children in the CAM Program would look the same as that of any other refugee or parolee.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about the CAM Program, please see these links:

<http://www.state.gov/j/prm/releases/factsheets/2014/234067.htm>

<http://www.wrapsnet.org/CAMProgram/tabid/420/Default.aspx>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/12/234655.htm>

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-01-16
Page Five

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/state-letter-15-01>

<http://www.uscis.gov/>

Any questions regarding this ACIN can be directed to Deborah Cramer, Policy Analyst, Refugee Programs Bureau, at (916) 654-1246 or Deborah.Cramer@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

KIMBERLEY JOHNSON, Chief
Child Care and Refugee Programs Branch