

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



July 29, 2003

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 03-17

TO: COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES ALLOCATIONS

This letter is to advise counties of their proposed Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2003 Refugee Employment and Social Services (RESS) Program allocations. The Proposed Notice of Allocations to States of FFY 2003 Funds for Refugee Social Services was published by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in the *Federal Register* on July 21, 2003. Copies of this Notice may be accessed on the Funding Opportunities page of the Refugee Programs Branch's (RPB's) web site at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/refugeeprogram/>.

The state's proposed RESS allocation for FFY 2003 is \$7,335,116, representing a decrease of \$1,309,401 from last year's final allocation of \$8,644,517 which included two special set-aside allocations. This year's allocation includes set aside funds in the amount of \$2 million for funding programs promoting healthy marriages. This set-aside may only be used for marriage-building or relationship enhancement activities, such as marriage education, relationship enhancement programs, divorce reduction activities, and/or other activities that promote and sustain healthy marriages. The state's allocation was determined by a formula based on the state's proportion of the national population of refugees who had been in the United States (U.S.) three years or less as of October 1, 2002, as adjusted for estimated secondary migration.

Section IV of the Notice explains the basis for the estimates of the state's refugee, Amerasians from Viet Nam, Cuban and Haitian entrants, and Havana parolees, as well as eligible trafficking victims. This section notes that states which have served persons granted asylum within the 36 month period ending September 30, 2002 or those certified as victims of a severe form of trafficking may submit data on these groups in order to have their population estimate adjusted. The RPB believes that there may be significant numbers of persons in California who fall into these categories. In order for the RPB to compile statewide data to submit to ORR, counties are requested to provide the following information on all asylees and/or trafficking victims who have received Refugee Program services:

- 1) Alien number;
- 2) Date of birth; and
- 3) For asylees, date asylum was granted; or
- 4) For trafficking victims, certification letter number and date on certification letter

This information should be reported separately for asylees and trafficking victims. It should be submitted to the RPB in *Microsoft Excel* format via mail on a diskette or e-mail (RPB@dss.ca.gov) by close of business on August 8, 2003. The RPB will compile all counties' data and forward it to ORR with a request to adjust the state's population estimate.

General comments on the Notice are due to ORR by August 20, 2003. The RPB is reviewing the Notice and will be preparing comments for submittal by the deadline. If counties have comments they wish to be included with the state's comments, they should submit them in writing to the RPB, to the attention of Ms. Bunny Furlo, by close of business on August 8, 2003. If counties wish to offer separate comments directly to ORR, they are requested to provide copies of them to the RPB.

In light of the extremely low arrivals figures for FFY 2002, all counties eligible to receive RESS funds for FFY 2002 are eligible for FFY 2003 funds. This number includes all counties who had a minimum of 500 refugee arrivals during the most recent five-year period (FFY 1998 through 2002), as well as two counties with slightly fewer than 500 arrivals during the same period (See Enclosed Arrivals Summary). Therefore, the following counties are eligible for FFY 2003 RESS funds: Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Yolo. Please note that all or some of the allocation for San Diego County will be diverted to the Fish/Wilson Alternative Project. The exact amount of funding for the project has not yet been determined by ORR. Should the amount, once determined, differ from the amount calculated according to the state's methodology, allocations for other counties could be affected.

After setting aside a portion equal to 15 percent, as well as \$655,000 to offset previously over allocated funds (as discussed in prior correspondence), FFY 2003 RESS funds have been allocated to counties according to the conventional methodology which is based on the number of adult refugees receiving cash assistance in each eligible county who have resided in the U.S. for 60 months or less. Data used in the formula was obtained from the most recent Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) Report, dated June 25, 2003. RESS allocations are shown in Column 4 on the attached spreadsheet and RESS set-aside allocations are shown in Column 7 of the attached spreadsheet. In the past, counties were authorized to use up to \$2,000 of the amount shown for the purposes of coordinating an annual public event to celebrate the achievements of refugees, raise awareness of the contributions that refugees have made to the community and promote the Refugee Resettlement Program in California. However, due to decreased funds client services are a top priority. Therefore, all funds are to be used to provide direct client services and there is no allowance in this year's allocation for coordinating refugee awareness activities.

As always, counties are cautioned to use the proposed allocations for planning purposes only. Final allocations are subject to federal funds availability and may be less than amounts indicated in the proposed Notices. In addition, final allocations will be based on the most recent MEDS data available at the time the Final Notice is published by ORR. Because MEDS data fluctuates, final county allocations may be significantly different from proposed allocations. The RPB anticipates that the Final Notice will be published by ORR in late August or early September.

Should you have questions regarding the proposed allocations or other information in this letter, please contact Ms. Phyllis Iwasaki, Manager, Community Development and Fiscal Services Bureau, at (916) 654-2387 or Ms. Bunny Furlo of her staff at (916) 651-9770.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Thuan Nguyen on
July 29, 2003

THUAN NGUYEN, Chief
Refugee Programs Branch

Attachments

PROPOSED REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES (RESS) ALLOCATIONS

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2003

7,137,310	Proposed FFY 2003 Standard RESS Allocation
<u>197,806</u>	Proposed FFY 2003 RESS Set-Aside Allocation
7,335,116	Total Proposed FFY 2003 RESS Allocation
1,100,267	State Administration Funds (15% of State's Allocation)
<u>655,000</u>	Unallocated Reserve
\$ 5,579,849	Funds to be Allocated to Counties
	\$ 5,429,377 Standard
	\$ 150,472 Set-Aside

(1) County	(3) Standard Funds		(4) Proposed County Standard RESS Allocation	(6) Set-Aside Funds		(7) Proposed County RESS Set-Aside Allocation	(8) Total Proposed County RESS Allocation
	Adult refugees receiving RCA/CalWORKs who have been in the U.S. 60 months or less ¹			Refugees (Adults and Children) receiving RCA/CalWORKs without regard to time in the U.S. ¹			
	Number	% of Total		Number	% of Total		
Alameda	279	3.17478%	\$ 172,371	4,714	8.0741%	\$ 12,149	\$ 184,520
Contra Costa	77	0.87619%	\$ 47,573	860	1.4730%	\$ 2,216	\$ 49,789
Fresno	132	1.50205%	\$ 81,552	11,030	18.8922%	\$ 28,427	\$ 109,979
Los Angeles	4,579	52.10514%	\$ 2,828,982	13,199	22.6072%	\$ 34,018	\$ 2,863,000
Orange	648	7.37369%	\$ 400,345	4,580	7.8446%	\$ 11,804	\$ 412,149
Sacramento	1,787	20.33455%	\$ 1,104,039	14,139	24.2173%	\$ 36,441	\$ 1,140,480
San Diego ²	380	4.32408%	\$ 234,771	4,419	7.5689%	\$ 11,389	\$ 246,160
San Francisco	135	1.53619%	\$ 83,406	761	1.3034%	\$ 1,961	\$ 85,367
Santa Clara	512	5.82613%	\$ 316,323	3,164	5.4193%	\$ 8,155	\$ 324,478
Stanislaus	131	1.49067%	\$ 80,934	908	1.5552%	\$ 2,340	\$ 83,274
Yolo	128	1.45653%	\$ 79,081	610	1.0448%	\$ 1,572	\$ 80,653
Total	8,788	100.00000%	\$ 5,429,377	58,384	100.0000%	\$ 150,472	\$ 5,579,849

Notes:

¹ Data from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File Reports, dated June 25, 2003.

² Please note that the allocation for San Diego County will be diverted to a Fish/Wilson Alternative Project. The exact amount of funding for the project has not yet been determined by ORR. Should the amount, once determined, differ from the amount calculated according to the state's methodology, allocations for other counties could be affected.

**** Final allocations are subject to federal funds availability and may be less than the amounts shown here.**

REFUGEE ARRIVALS INTO CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

Federal Fiscal Years 1998 through 2002

COUNTY / FFY	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	TOTAL
Alameda	546	453	353	392	173	1,917
Alpine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amador	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butte	13	5	2	-	-	20
Calaveras	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colusa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contra Costa	100	75	95	144	80	494
Del Norte	-	-	-	-	-	-
El Dorado	5	4	8	4	5	26
Fresno	124	102	79	109	54	468
Glenn	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humboldt	-	5	1	-	-	6
Imperial	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inyo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kern	6	-	3	10	-	19
Kings	-	2	-	-	-	2
Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lassen	-	3	-	-	-	3
Los Angeles	1,982	2,068	3,602	3,838	756	12,246
Madera	-	5	11	2	-	18
Marin	32	43	14	29	4	122
Mariposa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mendocino	1	-	-	-	-	1
Merced	2	-	22	-	-	24
Modoc	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mono	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monterey	10	16	3	2	3	34
Napa	-	4	-	-	-	4
Nevada	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange	903	834	621	635	291	3,284
Placer	49	37	18	67	27	198
Plumas	-	-	-	-	-	-
Riverside	120	95	81	40	17	353
Sacramento	2,864	2,197	1,791	1,926	1,775	10,553
San Benito	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Bernardino	211	160	89	74	40	574
San Diego	627	1,353	1,083	1,140	322	4,525
San Francisco	734	487	443	292	221	2,177
San Joaquin	66	27	4	29	4	130
San Luis Obispo	-	8	-	2	1	11
San Mateo	104	60	54	65	55	338
Santa Barbara	42	12	11	5	8	78
Santa Clara	1,319	1,122	914	866	406	4,627
Santa Cruz	-	-	1	2	-	3
Shasta	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sierra	-	-	-	-	-	-
Siskiyou	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solano	10	14	8	6	1	39
Sonoma	24	12	4	4	9	53
Stanislaus	64	108	237	374	70	853
Sutter	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tehama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trinity	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tulare	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuolumne	4	-	1	-	-	5
Ventura	21	28	34	28	7	118
Yolo	378	197	166	214	146	1,101
Yuba	1	-	4	-	-	5
TOTAL	10,362	9,536	9,757	10,300	4,475	44,430