

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



September 1, 2006

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 06-08

TO: COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL SERVICES PROPOSED
ALLOCATIONS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2006

This letter provides counties with proposed allocations for the FFY 2006 Refugee Employment Social Services (RESS) Program. The Proposed Notice for FFY 2006 Formula Social Services Program Allocations was announced through Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) State Letter No. 06-17, dated June 16, 2006. Copies of the Notice may be accessed on the Funding Opportunities page of the Refugee Programs Bureau's (RPB) web site at:

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/>

Federal Allocation Methodology

The state's proposed RESS allocation for FFY 2006 is \$10,317,001, which is an increase of \$2,746,174 from last year's final allocation of \$7,570,827. The state's proposed allocation includes set-aside funds in the amount of \$1,502,287 to provide employment services to Hmong refugees.

For FFY 2006, the federal ORR determined the states' RESS allocations based on each state's refugee population in proportion to the national population of refugees who have been in the United States (U.S.) two years or less as of October 1, 2005, and adjusted for estimated secondary migration. This methodology deviates from previous year's to address declining arrivals numbers in FFYs 2002 and 2003 as a result of the events of September 11, 2001. After consultation with State Refugee Coordinators, ORR has decided that this allocation adjustment will only occur for FFY 2006. The normal methodology of basing allocations on three year arrival data is expected to be reinstated for FFY 2007 funding. (Please see the FFY 2006 Proposed Notice for more details on the state allocation adjustment).

Federal Refugee Population Data

The FFY 2006 Proposed Notice explains the basis for the estimates of the state's refugees, Amerasians, victims of a severe form of trafficking, entrants, and Havana parolee populations. The ORR data for these groups in California is in line with RPB data. In February 2006, ORR requested states voluntarily submit data in relation to the number of asylees who were granted asylum and received RESS services between October 1, 2003 and September 30, 2005. The RPB submitted asylee data, as received by the counties for the requested time period to ORR to be considered. ORR plans to match the state's asylee data to their refugee arrivals database and include the

results in the final notice. Counties should be aware that the results of ORR's data matching could affect the state's total allocation.

Eligible Counties

Counties are eligible to receive RESS funds if they have received approximately 500 refugee arrivals during the period October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2005. Twelve counties are eligible for FFY 2006 RESS funds: Alameda, Fresno, Los Angeles, Merced, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Yolo. However, San Diego County does not receive RESS funding due to the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. Therefore, only 11 counties are eligible for FFY 2006 RESS funds.

Wilson/Fish Alternative Project

The Wilson/Fish Alternative Project is operated in San Diego County through Catholic Charities under direct contract with ORR. The funding for this project is taken from the State's RESS allocation. The exact amount of funding for the project has not yet been determined by ORR; however, the RPB has prepared the proposed FFY 2006 RESS allocations using the same amount as was awarded last year to the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project (\$994,373). Should the amount for this year's Wilson/Fish Alternative Project, once determined, differ from last year's amount, allocations for the counties could be affected.

State Allocation Methodology

After setting aside a portion equal to 15 percent of the state's allocation for state administrative costs, FFY 2006 RESS funds are allocated to counties according to Senate Bill 112 which became effective January 1, 2006. This bill amends state law, in part, to allocate RESS funds to eligible counties based on the number of refugees on aid and gives differential weights to refugees according to the length of time a refugee is in the U.S. for each eligible county as follows:

- 1) A weight of 1.50 shall be applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. one year or less;
- 2) A weight of 1.25 shall be applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. two years or less but more than one year; and
- 3) A weight of 1.00 shall be applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. five years or less but more than two years.

Data used in the formula was obtained from the most recent Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) Report dated July 2006. Proposed allocations are shown in the enclosed spreadsheet.

Hmong Set-Aside

As mentioned above, the FFY 2006 RESS grant includes a set-aside in the amount of \$1,502,287. The purpose of the set-aside is to provide employment services to Hmong refugees. The RPB prepared proposed allocations based on the total number of

Hmong refugees who are currently receiving aid in each county who arrived in California beginning in June 2004. (See enclosed spreadsheet, Columns 11-13). After consultation with the County Welfare Director's Association, the RPB determined that non-RESS counties that have received 300 or more Hmong refugees since June 2004 shall be included in the allocation for the set-aside. Butte County is the only county that meets that criteria and has been included in the allocation to receive the set-aside funds. Data on the number of Hmong refugees on aid was derived from the MEDS database for July 2006. Hmong arrivals data used to determine the eligible counties was obtained from the RPB Arrivals Database using arrivals data as of June 30, 2006.

Counties are cautioned to use the proposed RESS and proposed set-aside allocations for planning purposes only. Please note that the allocations attached to this letter differ from the advance copy of allocations provided on July 12, 2006, due to the use of more current MEDS data and a correction to the spreadsheet. Final allocations are subject to federal funds availability and may be less than amounts indicated in the Proposed Notice. In addition, ORR will be verifying asylee data which may reflect a different amount of funding to the states. Furthermore, the 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 different than proposed allocations. The RPB anticipates that the final notice will be published by ORR in the next few weeks.

Should you have questions regarding the proposed allocations or other information in this letter, please contact Ms. Janet Sandlin, Manager of the Refugee Policy Unit at (916) 654-1246 or via e-mail at Janet.Sandlin@dss.ca.gov, or Ms. Camille Ancona, Analyst, Refugee Policy Unit at (916) 653-7785 or via e-mail at Camille.Ancona@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



THUAN NGUYEN, Chief
Refugee Programs Bureau

Enclosure

**PROPOSED REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES (RESS) ALLOCATION
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2006**

\$ 8,814,714 Proposed FFY 2006 RESS Standard Funds
 \$ (994,373) Estimated Funding for San Diego Wilson/Fish Project ¹
\$ 7,820,341 Adjusted Proposed State Allocation for Standard Funds
 \$ 1,502,287 Proposed Hmong Set-Aside
\$ 9,322,628 Adjusted Proposed State Allocation
 \$ (1,398,394) State Administrative Funds (15% of Adjusted Proposed State Allocation)
\$ 7,924,234 Funds to be Allocated to Counties
 \$ 6,647,290 Standard Funds
 \$ 1,276,944 Set-Aside Funds
\$ 7,924,234

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
County	Allocation Number	STANDARD FUNDS							HMONG SET-ASIDE FUNDS			Proposed County RESS Allocation (Standard funds + Set-Aside funds)	Total County Administrative Costs @15% maximum	Proposed County RESS Service Dollars	
		Adult refugees receiving RCA/CalWORKs who have been in the U.S. 60 months or less ²							Hmong Adult Refugees Currently receiving aid ³		Proposed Hmong Set-Aside Allocation				
		Totals by Time in the U.S.			Weights				Proposed County Standard Funds Allocation	Total on Aid					% of Total
		<1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	(<1) X 1.5	(1-2) X 1.25	Weighted Total (cols 5 + 6 + 7)	% of Weighted Total							
Alameda	RESS0601	94	43	66	141	54	261	3.54%	\$ 235,315	0	0.0000%	\$ -	\$ 235,315	\$ 35,297	\$ 200,018
Butte	RESS0612	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%	\$ -	105	5.4830%	\$ 70,015	\$ 70,015	\$ 10,502	\$ 59,513
Fresno	RESS0602	88	435	62	132	544	738	10.00%	\$ 664,729	794	41.4621%	\$ 529,447	\$ 1,194,176	\$ 179,126	\$ 1,015,050
Los Angeles	RESS0603	633	338	1,361	950	423	2,734	37.04%	\$ 2,462,156	4	0.2089%	\$ 2,668	\$ 2,464,824	\$ 369,724	\$ 2,095,100
Merced	RESS0604	35	161	3	53	201	257	3.48%	\$ 231,326	342	17.8590%	\$ 228,049	\$ 459,375	\$ 68,906	\$ 390,469
Orange	RESS0605	289	65	110	434	81	625	8.47%	\$ 563,025	0	0.0000%	\$ -	\$ 563,025	\$ 84,454	\$ 478,571
Sacramento	RESS0606	510	477	366	765	596	1,727	23.40%	\$ 1,555,466	446	23.2898%	\$ 297,398	\$ 1,852,864	\$ 277,930	\$ 1,574,934
San Francisco	RESS0607	43	23	39	65	29	133	1.80%	\$ 119,651	0	0.0000%	\$ -	\$ 119,651	\$ 17,948	\$ 101,703
San Joaquin	RESS0608	44	110	19	66	138	223	3.02%	\$ 200,748	221	11.5405%	\$ 147,366	\$ 348,114	\$ 52,217	\$ 295,897
Santa Clara	RESS0609	166	40	81	249	50	380	5.15%	\$ 342,335	0	0.0000%	\$ -	\$ 342,335	\$ 51,350	\$ 290,985
Stanislaus	RESS0610	88	10	31	132	13	176	2.38%	\$ 158,206	3	0.1567%	\$ 2,001	\$ 160,207	\$ 24,031	\$ 136,176
Yolo	RESS0611	35	30	36	53	38	127	1.72%	\$ 114,333	0	0.0000%	\$ -	\$ 114,333	\$ 17,150	\$ 97,183
Total		2,025	1,732	2,174	3,040	2,167	7,381	100.00%	\$ 6,647,290	1,915	100.0000%	\$ 1,276,944	\$ 7,924,234	\$ 1,188,635	\$ 6,735,599

Notes:

¹ The allocation for San Diego County will be diverted to a Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. The exact amount of funding for the project has not yet been determined by ORR, therefore, an amount using last year's Wilson/Fish award has been inserted for estimation purposes.

² One month data from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File Report dated July 2006.

³ Hmong aided data derived from the MEDS database using data for July 2006.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.93.566