



FACT SHEET

July 2016

UNITED STATES REPATRIATION PROGRAM



Background

The United States (U.S.) Repatriation Program, established in 1935 by the federal Social Security Act, assists U.S. citizens and their dependents to return to the U.S. when they become destitute or ill in a foreign country. The citizens are identified by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and determined eligible to return to the U.S.

Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Federal, state, local, and nonprofit agencies are involved in providing repatriation services that include the following:

- The DOS certifies U.S. citizens that are eligible for the Repatriation Program;
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), is responsible for arranging and paying for services once the repatriate has arrived in the U.S.;
- The International Social Service (ISS) - United States of America Branch, Inc., a nonprofit agency under contract with the ORR, is responsible for notifying the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the affected county where a DOS-certified repatriate is arriving, what his or her needs are and arranging payment for the services provided. Effective April 1, 2010, ISS coordinates payment of services with the counties;
- Adult Protective Services programs within County Welfare Departments provide direct services to the repatriates.
- CDSS resolves issues among ORR, ISS and counties.

Program Services

Repatriates are provided with cash and services which include, but are not limited to:

- Domestic travel assistance;

- Food, lodging and incidentals;
- Medical/psychiatric care;
- Assistance to unaccompanied minors;
- Resettlement aid for up to 90 days (certain temporary assistance may be provided beyond 90 days upon a finding by the DHHS Secretary that the circumstances involved necessitate or justify it.);
- Cash assistance at the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) grant level; and
- Other assistance or services approved by ISS.

Repatriation Program services and cash assistance are 100 percent federally-funded. However, assistance given under this program is in the form of a loan which must be repaid to the U.S. government. Individuals requesting Repatriation Program assistance are required to sign a repayment agreement.

For more information regarding the Repatriation Program, please visit the Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB) website at www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram, contact the RPB by e-mail at RPB@dss.ca.gov, by telephone at (916) 654-4356 or visit the ORR's webpage at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/repatriation>.

Group/Emergency Repatriation

The Group/Emergency Repatriation Program provides emergency evacuation of U.S. citizens overseas due to conditions of war, threat of war, invasion, natural disaster or Presidential Declaration of National Emergency.

For more information regarding the Group/Emergency Repatriation, please contact the CDSS Disaster Services Bureau at (916) 651-8880.