



## FACT SHEET

October 2016



### STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON REFUGEE ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES

#### Background

The State Advisory Council on Refugee Assistance and Services (SAC) is an advisory body comprised of individuals with a cross-section of experience from all sectors involved in, or affected by, the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) in California. The SAC was established by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in accordance with the Refugee Act of 1980, to advise the CDSS on refugee issues and ensure community involvement in policy discussions crucial to the development of a comprehensive, successful, cost-effective, and culturally and linguistically sensitive RRP.

The CDSS, Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB) provides support for the SAC, keeps the SAC informed of current issues affecting the RRP in California, and solicits input from the SAC on the administration of the RRP.

#### Membership

The SAC is intended to represent a cross-section of experience from all sectors involved in, or affected by, the refugee resettlement process. The fifteen individual seats are filled by volunteers with selection criteria based on expertise in refugee issues, constituency, representation, geographical location, and other associations. The terms of appointment for all members are three years. Seven of the fifteen seats are filled by public members from various refugee stakeholders who are allowed to serve two consecutive terms. Eight of the seats are from state or local organizations/agencies who are allowed to serve as many consecutive terms as their nominating agency allows.

Eight seats on the SAC are nominated from the following organizations and agencies:

- The Governor's Office: one seat.

- The County Welfare Directors Association: two seats. (One member shall hold assignment as a County Refugee Coordinator.)
- The California Department of Public Health: one seat.
- The Refugee Programs Bureau: one seat. (This member shall be chosen from the community-at-large and shall not be a CDSS employee.)
- The Local Refugee Health Program Coordinator: one seat.
- The County Refugee Forum: one seat.
- The Joint Resettlement Agency Committee of California: one seat.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the SAC is to advise the CDSS on issues both specific and general as they relate to refugee resettlement. These issues include, but are not limited to, income assistance, health services, employment services, and social integration services for California's resettled refugees. Also, the SAC represents service agencies, community groups, and others by providing input and recommendations to the CDSS. The advice given to the CDSS by the SAC is given serious consideration and incorporated in the development of the refugee resettlement process in California.

For information on the SAC nomination process, to obtain a nomination form, or for a list of SAC members, please visit the following web page: [www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/refugees/stakeholders/sac](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/refugees/stakeholders/sac).