

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



September 20, 2000

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER (RCL) NO. 00-29

To: County Refugee Coordinators

This is to apprise coordinators of opportunities that we became aware of for providers of the elderly discretionary grant to proactively collaborate with their local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).

The California Department of Aging indicates that local AAAs are currently developing their plans for their next four years of operation. As part of this planning process, each AAA must conduct a local assessment of the needs of their community. Public hearings, which are part of this needs assessment, are in the process of being scheduled in many locales. We ask that county coordinators ensure their providers of elderly services contact their local AAA for these hearing dates and provide input on the specific needs of their elderly refugees. In addition, providers should also be encouraged to look into participating on their local AAA Advisory Council. Advisory Councils assist with the development of the four-year plan including developing goals and objectives for service systems and for targeting services to special populations with the planning and service area.

These are two excellent opportunities to affect which services are available locally to increase the awareness and utilization of mainstream services by elderly refugees. Your assistance in ensuring these opportunities are not overlooked is appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact your Refugee Programs Consultant at (916) 654-6379, or Ophelia Farrell of the Technical Services Bureau at (916) 653-8980.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Barton".

Robert A. Barton, Chief  
Refugee Programs Branch