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October 1, 2010

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 10-08

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS  
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS

SUBJECT: FINAL FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010 REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES  
ALLOCATIONS

REFERENCE: CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NO. 93-566

This letter provides counties with final allocations, contingent upon enactment of the state's 2010-11 budget, for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 Refugee Social Services (RSS) grant. Counties are authorized to provide services with this grant beginning October 1, 2010; however, claims for reimbursement of costs for services provided on or after October 1, 2010 will not be issued until the state budget for 2010-11 is signed by the Governor.

The Notice of Final FFY 2010 Formula Allocations to States for RSS was released by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) on August 13, 2010, and may be accessed on the Funding page of the Refugee Programs Bureau's (RPB) web site at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/>. Final county allocations were delayed due to changes in the allocation methodology for the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project in San Diego County. The RPB could not issue the final county RSS allocations until ORR determined the amount of California's RSS allocation it would award to the Wilson/Fish project. That allocation and determination for Wilson/Fish was received from ORR on September 8, 2010.

#### Federal Allocation Methodology

The state's final RSS allocation is \$11,806,558, which is an increase of \$1,403,985 from last year's final allocation. The ORR determined each state's allocation based on its refugee arrivals in proportion to total arrivals (adjusted for secondary migration) for the period of October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2009. Refugee arrivals include refugees, entrants, asylees, Cuban medical professionals/parolees, Havana parolees, federally-certified trafficking victims, and special immigrants.

For FFY 2010, ORR made a decision to base the states' RSS allocations on the number of refugee arrivals in most recent two FFYs instead of three years, as it has done in the past. Using only two years of arrival data allows for funding to go to states with the greatest number of newly-arriving refugees.

The ORR's Final Notice explains the basis for the estimate of each state's arrivals, and the ORR arrival data for California is consistent with RPB data. In November 2009, ORR requested that states submit data on asylees who were granted asylum and received RSS services between

October 1, 2006, and September 30, 2009. The RPB submitted asylee data which was provided by the counties and the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project in San Diego. The ORR matched asylee data from states with information in federal databases, then included the number of federally-verified asylees in the formula to determine the states' final RSS allocations.

#### Eligible Counties

Counties are eligible to receive RSS funds if they have received at least 400 refugee arrivals during the period of October 1, 2004, through September 30, 2009. Based on that threshold, eleven counties are eligible for FFY 2010 RSS funds: Alameda, Fresno, Los Angeles, Merced, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus. Please note that San Diego County is now included as a RSS-eligible county because it must now serve new arrivals due to changes in the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project currently operating in San Diego County. Effective October 1, 2009, refugee families arriving in San Diego County are being referred to the county, rather than to the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project, for cash assistance and employment services. The Wilson/Fish Alternative Project will continue to serve refugee single adults and families without children.

#### Wilson/Fish Alternative Project

The Wilson/Fish Alternative Project is operated in San Diego County by Catholic Charities under direct contract with the ORR. The amount of \$2,036,701 for this project in FFY 2010 was determined by ORR using a Wilson/Fish-specific funding formula and then deducted from California's total FFY 2010 RSS allocation.

#### State Allocation Methodology

The state's adjusted RSS allocation, after the Wilson/Fish deduction, is \$9,769,857. After setting aside 15 percent of the state's adjusted allocation for state administrative costs, the remaining \$8,304,378 will be allocated for social services and administrative costs to counties in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 13276.

RSS funds are allocated based on the number of refugees on aid in each eligible county, weighted according to the length of time that the refugees are in the United States (U.S.), as follows:

- 1) A weight of 1.50 is applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. one year or less.
- 2) A weight of 1.25 is applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. two years or less, but more than one year.
- 3) A weight of 1.00 is 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 allocation process was obtained from the most recent Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) Report, dated August 31, 2010. FFY 2010 final allocations are shown in the enclosed spreadsheet.

Debarment and Suspension Requirements

Federal regulations require that individuals be prohibited from receiving federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits if they have been debarred or suspended, pursuant to 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 76. Reasons for debarment/suspension may include a conviction for committing fraud or any other crime or action that shows a lack of business integrity (see 45 CFR Part 76.305 for specific debarment/suspension criteria). The debarment/suspension requirements extend to an organization if a debarred/suspended individual is an officer, director, owner, or partner, or if the individual has management or supervisory responsibility within the organization.

Counties are required to comply with the debarment and suspension provisions in 45 CFR Part 76 as a condition of receiving RSS funding. When arranging RSS-funded services through a subgrant or subcontract, counties must verify that the subgrantee or subcontractor is not excluded or disqualified from participation in federal assistance programs by:

- 1) Checking the federal General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List System, found at <http://epls.gov>, which has the most current information about persons who have been excluded or disqualified for participation in federal programs; and/or
- 2) Adding a clause to the contract/agreement in which the contractor agrees to certify that he/she and his/her principals are not debarred or suspended from federal financial assistance programs and services. Example: *"For federally funded agreements in the amount of \$25,000 or more, the Contractor certifies that he/she and his/her principals are not debarred or suspended from federal financial assistance programs and activities."*

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (916) 654-4356, or Ms. Camille Ancona, Analyst, Refugee Policy Unit, at (916) 653-7785 or [Camille.Ancona@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Camille.Ancona@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



THUAN NGUYEN, Chief  
Refugee Programs Bureau

c: CWDA

Enclosure

# FINAL REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES (RSS) ALLOCATION FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2010

*(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.93.566 - Refugee Assistance - State Administered Programs)  
(Grant Period - October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2012)*

\$ 11,806,558 Final FFY 2010 RSS Standard Funds  
 \$ (2,036,701) Funding for San Diego Wilson/Fish Project <sup>1</sup>  
 \$ **9,769,857** Final Adjusted State Allocation  
 \$ (1,465,479) State Administrative Funds (15% of Adjusted State Allocation)  
 \$ **8,304,378** Final Funds to be Allocated to Counties

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
County	Allocation Number	Adult refugees receiving RCA/CalWORKs who have been in the U.S. 60 months or less <sup>2</sup>							Final County Allocations	Final County Administrative Costs @15% maximum	Final County RSS Service Dollars
		Totals by Time in the U.S.			Weights						
		<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	RESS1001	209	127	112	314	159	585	4.808%	\$ 399,274	\$ 59,891	\$ 339,383
Fresno	RESS1002	23	21	58	35	26	119	0.978%	\$ 81,217	\$ 12,183	\$ 69,034
Los Angeles	RESS1003	1,405	822	1,787	2,108	1,028	4,923	40.465%	\$ 3,360,367	\$ 504,055	\$ 2,856,312
Merced	RESS1004	1	1	18	2	1	21	0.173%	\$ 14,367	\$ 2,155	\$ 12,212
Orange	RESS1005	199	112	131	299	140	570	4.685%	\$ 389,060	\$ 58,359	\$ 330,701
Sacramento	RESS1006	275	206	340	413	258	1,011	8.310%	\$ 690,094	\$ 103,514	\$ 586,580
San Diego <sup>1</sup>	RESS1007	805	1,367	761	1,208	1,709	3,678	30.232%	\$ 2,510,578	\$ 376,587	\$ 2,133,991
San Francisco	RESS1008	71	32	41	107	40	188	1.545%	\$ 128,303	\$ 19,245	\$ 109,058
San Joaquin	RESS1009	4	2	27	6	3	36	0.296%	\$ 24,581	\$ 3,687	\$ 20,894
Santa Clara	RESS1010	201	86	112	302	108	522	4.291%	\$ 356,341	\$ 53,451	\$ 302,890
Stanislaus	RESS1011	155	120	130	233	150	513	4.217%	\$ 350,196	\$ 52,529	\$ 297,667
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,348</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>3,517</b>	<b>5,027</b>	<b>3,622</b>	<b>12,166</b>	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>\$ 8,304,378</b>	<b>1,245,656</b>	<b>7,058,722</b>

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> The allocation for non-CalWORKs recipients for San Diego County is diverted to a Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. The amount of funding for the project was determined by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement. San Diego's RSS allocation to serve refugee families is shown in Column 10.

<sup>2</sup> One month data from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File Report dated August 2010.