



CDSS

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GOVERNOR

September 19, 2012

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 12-04

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS

SUBJECT: FINAL FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2012 REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES
ALLOCATIONS

REFERENCE: CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NO. 93.566

This letter provides counties with final allocations for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 Refugee Social Services (RSS) grant. Counties are authorized to provide services with this grant beginning October 1, 2012. The Notice of FFY 2012 RSS Formula Awards to States was released in the Federal Register on August 30, 2012, and may be accessed on the Funding page of the Refugee Programs Bureau's (RPB) web site at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/>.

Federal Allocation Methodology

The state's total RSS allocation for FFY 2012 is \$7,775,287, which represents \$6,542,620 for the state refugee program, and \$1,232,667 for the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. The total RSS amount is a decrease of \$2,225,719 from last year's final allocation due primarily to the fact that California has continued to experience a reduction in new arrivals over the last two years, while many states' arrivals numbers have increased. The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) determined each state's total allocation based on its refugee arrivals in proportion to total arrivals nationwide (adjusted for secondary migration) for the two-year period of October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2011. Refugee arrivals include refugees, Amerasians, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, Cuban medical professionals/parolees, Havana parolees, federally-certified trafficking victims, and Iraqi and Afghan special immigrants.

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 January 2012, ORR

requested that states submit data on asylees who were granted asylum and received RSS services between October 1, 2009, and September 30, 2011. 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.

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 \$1,232,667 for this project for FFY 2012 was determined by ORR using a Wilson/Fish-specific funding formula as described below.

Effective February 2010, the Wilson/Fish project in San Diego County began serving only Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)-type adult arrivals instead of all refugee arrivals to the county. Since that time, the CDSS has been working closely with ORR to ensure RSS funding for the project is allocated in a way that is consistent with how other states and Wilson/Fish projects throughout the U.S. are allocated RSS funds. Therefore, the ORR determined the FFY 2012 Wilson/Fish RSS allocation by using the methodology recommended by CDSS, which is to base the amount of funding on the number of arrivals over the last two years who were RCA-type adults. To determine this amount each year, the CDSS coordinates with the Wilson/Fish project to calculate the number of clients that have arrived in San Diego County that are RCA-type adults. After CDSS' careful evaluation that the Wilson/Fish data is consistent with CDSS' data on the RCA-type population, CDSS forwards the count to ORR for use in the Wilson/Fish RSS funding formula. The new formula results in a more equitable distribution of RSS monies being available for counties to provide services to refugee families.

State Allocation Methodology

The state's adjusted RSS allocation is \$6,542,620. After setting aside 15 percent of the state's adjusted allocation for state administrative costs, the remaining \$5,561,227 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 July 31, 2012. FFY 2012 final allocations are shown in the enclosed spreadsheet.

Eligible Counties

Counties are eligible to receive RSS funds if they have received at least 400 refugee arrivals during the period of October 1, 2006, through September 30, 2011. Based on that threshold, eight counties are eligible for FFY 2012 RSS funds: Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus.

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 Ms. Janet Sandlin, Manager, Policy Unit, (916) 654-4356 or Janet.Sandlin@dss.ca.gov, or Ms. Camille Ancona, Analyst, Policy Unit, at (916) 653-7785 or Camille.Ancona@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by
Stan Cagle on 9/19/12***

STAN CAGLE, Chief
Child Care and Refugee Programs Branch

c: CWDA

Enclosure

FINAL REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES (RSS) ALLOCATION FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2012

*(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.93.566 - Refugee Assistance - State Administered Programs)
(Grant Period - October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014)*

\$ 7,775,287 Final FFY 2012 RSS Standard Funds
 \$ (1,232,667) Funding for San Diego Wilson/Fish Project¹
\$ 6,542,620 Final Adjusted State Allocation
 \$ (981,393) State Administrative Funds (15% of Final Adjusted State Allocation)
\$ 5,561,227 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 ²							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	RESS1201	145	99	141	218	124	483	5.66%	\$ 314,765	\$ 47,215	\$ 267,550
Los Angeles	RESS1202	576	307	1,415	864	384	2,663	31.23%	\$ 1,736,771	\$ 260,516	\$ 1,476,255
Orange	RESS1203	146	77	115	219	96	430	5.04%	\$ 280,286	\$ 42,043	\$ 238,243
Sacramento	RESS1204	212	137	263	318	171	752	8.82%	\$ 490,500	\$ 73,575	\$ 416,925
San Diego ¹	RESS1205	401	567	2,012	602	709	3,323	38.97%	\$ 2,167,210	\$ 325,082	\$ 1,842,128
San Francisco	RESS1206	89	46	49	134	58	241	2.83%	\$ 157,383	\$ 23,607	\$ 133,776
Santa Clara	RESS1207	118	49	101	177	61	339	3.98%	\$ 221,337	\$ 33,201	\$ 188,136
Stanislaus	RESS1208	76	37	136	114	46	296	3.47%	\$ 192,975	\$ 28,946	\$ 164,029
Total		1,763	1,319	4,232	2,646	1,649	8,527	100.00%	\$ 5,561,227	\$ 834,185	\$ 4,727,042

Notes:

¹ 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.

² One month data from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File Report dated July 2012.