



NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Social Services

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California Department of Social Services Secures \$1 Million Federal Grant to Provide Educational Services to Refugees

Sacramento – The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) today announced receipt of a nearly \$1 million in federal funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement under the Refugee School Impact Grant (RSIG). The grant will provide educational services such as summer school and English-learner classes to assist new refugees and their families to adapt and excel in school and the workplace.

“In securing this grant, CDSS continues to find and maintain resources to help refugees assimilate into their new homes,” said Director John Wagner. “By being creative, working smarter with our partners and seeking outside funding, we will provide useful services to student refugees and their families.”

The RSIG grant allows CDSS to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) worth \$950,000 to school districts in counties that have received more than 300 refugee school-age children within the past three fiscal years (2007-09), including: Alameda (583), Los Angeles (11,064), Orange (1,166), Sacramento (1,801), Santa Clara (1,502), and San Diego (7,851). CDSS plans to award five to eight school districts with amounts ranging from \$75,000 to \$200,000 to serve this population.

The award marks the second time CDSS has received RSIG funding from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). The first award was granted to CDSS in 2005 for a project period beginning August 14, 2005, and ending August 14, 2010. The award in 2005 was the first time ORR changed eligibility criteria to apply for the RSIG from state educational agencies to those agencies administering state refugee resettlement programs.

Program Background

CDSS' Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP), made up of federal, state, county and community partners, helps assist eligible refugees and other targeted groups to successfully resettle in California. RRP is federally funded and administered by CDSS' Refugee Program Bureau, who supervises county operations and delivery of RRP services.

While eligibility varies from the different groups we serve, benefits can include the Refugee Cash Assistance Program, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Refugee Medical Assistance, Supplemental Security Income and State Supplementary Payment programs, and Food Stamp benefits.

California has received more than 688,000 refugees since 1975 and 7,300 asylees over the last three years. In addition, approximately 150 federally-certified trafficking victims have settled in California.

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