

November 17, 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

This letter provides County Welfare Departments with information on ongoing COVID-19 flexibilities for Refugee Cash Assistance, Entrant Cash Assistance, Refugee Support Services, Services to Older Refugees, and the Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program for the period beginning October 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

November 17, 2022

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF COVID-19 FLEXIBILITIES FOR REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE, ENTRANT CASH ASSISTANCE, REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES, SERVICES TO OLDER REFUGEES, AND TRAFFICKING AND CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CASH ASSISTANCE

REFERENCE: TITLE 45, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR) §§ [400.43](#), [400.51\(A\)](#), [400.53\(A\)](#), [400.59](#), [400.66](#), AND [400.75](#), OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT (ORR) POLICY LETTER (PL) [PL 21-08](#) AND [PL 22-16](#), MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) SECTION [40-105.26](#), [42-431.23](#), [70-105](#); ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER (ACWDL) DATED [DECEMBER 2, 2021](#), [DECEMBER 15, 2020](#), AND [MARCH 3, 2022](#)

This letter provides County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with guidance on implementing the sixth extension of flexibilities for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA), Refugee Support Services (RSS), Services to Older Refugees (SOR), and Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP) Cash Assistance benefits, relating to the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. These waivers do not extend RCA and TCVAP benefits beyond 12-months or RSS beyond the 60-month time limit.

Background

Due to the continuance of the COVID-19 pandemic, on September 30, 2022, the United States (U.S) Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) issued [PL 22-16](#), Continued Flexibilities through December 31, 2022, allowing for the continuance of waivers outlined in All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) dated [March 3, 2022](#). The waivers permitted under the authority of PL 22-16 are herein referred to as the “Stage 6” continued flexibilities.

Under ORR PL 22-16, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has obtained authority to temporarily suspend 45 CFR §§ [400.43](#), [400.59](#), [400.66](#), and

[400.75](#), effective October 1, 2022, and ending December 31, 2022. These waivers include the allowance of verbal attestations in eligibility determinations, exclusion of certain forms of COVID-19 emergency assistance when determining eligibility and grant amounts, flexibilities regarding participation in employment services, and provision of interim RCA payments for eligible applicants with pending Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/CalWORKs cases who are unable to complete application requirements due to COVID-related delays.

TCVAP Administration

Unless otherwise provided, pursuant to [MPP Section 70-105](#), TCVAP-eligible individuals are entitled to benefits and services to the same extent as refugees and are subject to the same requirements (outside of legal status) as RCA recipients. With a few exceptions, the TCVAP Cash Assistance program follows the administrative rules of the RCA program, and therefore, TCVAP Cash Assistance recipients must be provided the same Stage 6 flexibilities as RCA recipients, including verbal attestations, exclusion of certain COVID-19 related emergency cash assistance, employment participation flexibilities, and interim TCVAP Cash Assistance. Per [MPP Section 40-105.26](#), TCVAP CalWORKs recipients are not required to provide SSNs since they receive state-funded benefits and are identified as exempt in [MPP Section 42-431.23](#).

Term of Waivers and Program Modifications

The waivers and program modifications in this ACWDL shall expire automatically and without further notice on December 31, 2022, or earlier upon written notice from the CDSS. Once all flexibilities and guidance in this ACWDL have expired, all requirements modified herein shall be reinstated in their original form, unless these modifications are further extended by the CDSS.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Refugee Programs Bureau at (916) 654-4356 or RPB@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

ELIANA KAIMOWITZ, Chief
Immigrant Integration Branch
Office of Equity