

Unaccompanied Minor (UM) Program

In accordance with 45 CFR 400.115 and the Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Section 300 or Probate Code Section 1500 or 1501, the county in which the UM is placed establishes protective legal custody for the child within 30 days of the child's arrival. Primary responsibility for the child's welfare is vested in the CWD, which ensures that the child receives the full range of child welfare benefits and services provided to nonrefugee children in foster care.

The services may include, but are not limited to: initial assessment and development of a service plan; coordination and supervision of the activities listed in the plan; referral to service activities; and selection and placement activities to ensure the appropriate placement of the child. Case planning for the refugee UM must also include: 1) orientation, assessment, and counseling to facilitate the adjustment of the child to American culture; and, 2) preparation for participation in American society with special emphasis on English language instruction and occupational as well as cultural training as necessary to facilitate the child's social integration and to prepare the child for independent living and economic self-sufficiency.

The UM program is provided until the minor is emancipated, reunited with parent(s), or united with a nonparental adult who is granted legal custody or guardianship under state law.

California will continue to comply with 45 CFR Section 400 Subpart H, Child Welfare Services, in providing services under the UM program.

Child Welfare Services Program

CDSS provides child welfare services to refugee children according to the state's child welfare standards, practices and procedures. Payments may also be made for eligible children removed from their own homes due to neglect, abuse, or exploitation and placed in the Foster Care program.