

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-3141



July 9, 1984

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I- 63-84

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM (RRP) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

REFERENCE:

This letter is being issued to provide the counties with advance information concerning California's proposal for a demonstration project in the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP).

Both at the State and Federal level, legislation is in process which will provide the necessary authority to implement demonstration projects under the RRP.

At the Federal level, the Fish Amendment to H.R. 3729 (Refugee Assistance Extension Act of 1983) would authorize the establishment and implementation of demonstration projects. The Fish Amendment would additionally allow the transfer of Title IV-A (AFDC) and Title XIX (Medi-Cal) funds which would have otherwise been expended on time-eligible AFDC refugees to fund such demonstration projects. Refugees in the demonstration projects would be ineligible for AFDC or Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) benefits as well as Title XIX medical services.

At the State level, Senate Bill (SB) 2035 would require the State Department of Social Services (SDSS) to establish a demonstration project using primarily RCA program requirements, effective July 1, 1984 or soon after. All time-eligible AFDC refugees would participate in the project, and if not exempt, would be required to participate in SDSS-funded refugee employment/training service projects. The demonstration project would be operable for three years.

As provided for in SB 2035, SDSS is proposing to establish a Statewide Refugee Demonstration Project (RDP) under which some current and all newly-arrived AFDC-eligible refugees will be required to participate. This would include all other-wise Federally-eligible AFDC Family Group and Unemployed Parent (FG/U) cases. The RDP would be administered via RCA Program regulations except that the demonstration project sanctions would be aligned with AFDC FG/U sanction regulations.

The purpose of the RDP is to remove refugees from traditional welfare programs such as AFDC and the employment barriers inherent to these programs; ensure accessibility for all refugees to employment-related training programs specifically designed for refugees; and reduce long term Federal/State/county costs by requiring refugees to accept training and employment opportunities which may decrease welfare dependency.

Costs of the RDP will be 100 percent Federally funded through transfer of Federal Title IV-A and Title XIX monies to the project which would have been otherwise used to fund costs to these cases as eligible AFDC and Title XIX refugee cases. Additionally, Federal RRP funds may also be available to meet the anticipated increase in costs to SDSS-funded refugee employment/training service providers.

Counties should be aware of the following action items in preparation for implementation of the RDP, which is targeted for October 1, 1984:

1. All current AFDC refugee cases whose principal earner has 12 months or more of time-eligibility remaining as of October 1, 1984 will need to be identified for purposes of:
 - a. Adequate notification (Notice of Action language is being developed);
 - b. Deregistration from WIN (a blanket deregistration has been proposed to EDD);
 - c. Referral to the Central Intake Unit (CIU); and
 - d. Tracking and reporting.
2. Ongoing cases will be converted to the RDP in 1/3 monthly increments from October 1 through December 31, 1984.
3. Newly-arrived refugees will be assessed for Federal AFDC FG/U and if eligible, placed in the RDP.
4. If the principal earner is newly-arrived or a secondary migrant with 12 months or more of time-eligibility, the receiving FBU will be converted along with the principal earner to the RDP. All members of these Federal AFDC FG/U cases will remain in the same FBU regardless of individual time-expiration.
5. Good cause determinations for nonparticipation/noncooperation and appropriateness of job offers will be made by the county eligibility workers.

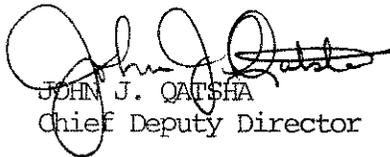
6. Grant reductions and terminations resulting from the employment of members of the RDP case will be tracked and reported by the CWDs to SDSS for purposes of project evaluation, and compared to grant reductions/terminations of a control group which will be identified as part of the evaluation process.

Meetings have been scheduled to seek county input on the proposed RDP. It is recommended that the Income Maintenance Refugee Program manager and/or their first line supervisor attend this meeting. If possible please confirm your county's intent to attend by July 11, 1984.

The meetings are scheduled for:

<u>Sacramento</u>	<u>Oakland</u>	<u>San Diego</u>
Monday, July 16, 1984	Wednesday, July 18, 1984	Friday, July 20, 1984
Cal Trans	EDD	San Diego SDSS
1120 N Street, Rm. 1420	1925 Brush Street, Large	5201 Ruffin Road
TIME: 10:00 a.m. -	Conference Room	Training Section (Borrego
3:00 p.m.	TIME: 10:00 a.m. -	Room)
	3:00 p.m.	TIME: 10:00 a.m. -
		3:00 p.m.

We will keep you apprised of further developments, as legislation and/or program directives from ORR become available. If you have any questions regarding this letter or the consultation meetings, please contact Judy Colbert or Maria Hernandez at (916) 322-3141.


 JOHN J. QATSHA
 Chief Deputy Director