

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



January 9, 1986

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-01-86

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: OVERVIEW DESCRIPTION OF OREGON'S DEMONSTRATION PROJECT - REFUGEE
EARLY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT (REEP)
REFERENCE:

California has always been interested in knowing about other demonstration projects that are being implemented in other states. Recently, we received from the State of Oregon an overview description of their demonstration project to provide early employment for refugees. We felt the counties would be interested in seeing this information about their project so they too could be aware of what is happening in other states. Attached is a brief description of their project.

Carl B. Williams

CARL B. WILLIAMS
Acting Deputy Director
Employment and Community Services

Attachment

cc: CWDA
ORR-SF

REFUGEE EARLY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

We would like to share information with you about an innovative effort to provide early employment for refugee two parent families, couples without children, and single individuals during their initial 18 months in the United States.

The Refugee Early Employment Project (REEP) is a combined effort of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, State of Oregon, and the Portland Area Refugee Consortium. REEP, which includes cash and medical assistance, job services and coordinated efforts with English as a Second Language programs, is a three year demonstration project affecting the refugees noted above in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties of Oregon.

The purpose of REEP is to demonstrate that the following changes in assistance efforts will lead to increased self sufficiency of refugees and reduced dependence on cash assistance.

1. Intensifying job placement efforts resulting in estimated placement of 75% of employable refugees within their initial 18 months in the United States.
2. Insuring health coverage for participants and family members during the 18 months until coverage by an employer exceeds REEP coverage or until the family or individual's income exceeds program standards. Individuals and couples without children may earn up to \$500 a month and families may earn up to 150% over standard per month and retain coverage.
3. Providing increases in payment standards for refugees participating in work experience, on-the-job training, or employment. The standard will be adjusted upward by \$50 for each family member in those stages, \$50 for singles living with others, and \$100 for individuals living alone.
4. Providing \$10 cash incentives for each participant attending classes each month with no unexcused absences.
5. Providing an opportunity for participants to earn one half day of "vacation" time per month to use as needed.
6. Providing incentives as noted above and a timely and fair penalty process for non-cooperation which quickly responds to demonstrated cooperation. Penalties range from warnings to loss of incentives earned to loss of portions or all of cash assistance payments for individuals who show a repeated unwillingness to cooperate with employment efforts.
7. Providing access to training opportunities and job placements for all participants.
8. Providing increased involvement of the refugee and general community in insuring the success of efforts toward self sufficiency for refugees.

PLEASE NOTE: As a part of these efforts the determination of cash assistance eligibility, cash assistance payments, and medical enrollment will be transferred from Adult and Family Services to the three local resettlement agencies which include Lutheran Family Services, United States Catholic Conference, and SOAR/Church World Service. For access to these services the appropriate resettlement agency (VOLAG) should be contacted.

Lutheran Family Services
605 SE 39th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97214
(503) 233-0042

SOAR/Church World Service
5404 NE Alameda Drive
Portland, Oregon 97213
(503) 284-3002

United States Catholic Conference
5404 NE Alameda Drive
Portland, Oregon 97212
(503) 249-5892

JOB SERVICES

Job Services will continue to be provided by the International Refugee Center of Oregon (IRCO) located in Northeast Portland, IRCO will provide or coordinate pre-employment training, work registration, vocational training, work experience, on-the-job training, employment counseling, job referral, and job placement services. Employment plans will be developed in conjunction with REEP participants and case managers of the resettlement agencies. Access to Job Services is by referral from resettlement agencies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A. Those refugees not eligible for REEP include single parent families, two parent households where one parent has been incapacitated for at least 60 days, single disabled individuals, single individuals over 65, caretaker relatives and SSI applicants. These individuals will continue to be served by Adult and Family Services. In addition, those individuals whose income is over standard are also not eligible.
- B. Participation in the REEP Project is not required. However, no other opportunity exists in the three county service area for cash and medical assistance for refugees who are not eligible for regular AFS programs.
- C. Non-mandatory participants in the job service portion of REEP include pregnant women, the parent who personally cares for a child under 3, and individuals needed at home for ill relatives for less than 60 days.
- D. REEP payment standards are similar to those of Adult and Family Services except that single individuals will receive less than they would under AFS. However, a group of single individuals will still receive more than a family of the same size.
- E. Adult and Family Services will continue to provide food stamp services.

- F. An emergency fund will be available to respond to emergency needs.
- G. In regard to job service approved training, high school will not be considered approved training for those individuals 19 and over unless they can graduate within 9 months of entering school. 17 and 18 year olds who wish to attend high school will be considered on a case by case basis.

REEP Organizations and Tasks

Funding	Office of Refugee Resettlement
Contractor	State of Oregon
Fiscal Agent	Portland Community College
Job Service	International Refugee Center
Cash Assistance & Medical Enrollment	Lutheran Family Services
	United States Catholic Conference
	SOAR/Church World Service
ESL	Community Colleges
Management	Center for Urban Education
Health Care	Multicare of Multnomah County
Cooperating Agency	Adult and Family Services - West Branch

For additional information about this project please contact:

Refugee Early Employment Project
Center for Urban Education
245 SW Bancroft
Portland, Oregon 97201
(503) 221-0984

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 324-1576



December 10, 1985

PROJECT DIRECTOR LETTER 85-16

TO: ALL PROJECT DIRECTORS
ALL TARGETED ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON THE REFUGEE EARLY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

Enclosed for your information is a brief description of the Refugee Early Employment Project, a combined effort of the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, State of Oregon and the Portland Area Refugee Consortium. This three-year demonstration project is an effort to provide early employment for refugee two-parent families, couples without children, as well as single persons during their initial 18 months in the United States.

Sincerely,

Walter Barnes
Walter Barnes, Chief
Office of Refugee Services

Enclosure



Region IX
50 United Nations Plaza
San Francisco, CA 94102

November 19, 1985

11/20/85 Assigned to:
Barnes
Take whatever action considered
appropriate.

Sharon M. Fujii

TO: State Coordinators
FROM: Regional Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement
SUBJECT: Overview Description of Oregon Demonstration Project -
Refugee Early Employment Project - REEP

Attached is a brief description of the Oregon Demonstration Project
for your information.

Sharon M. Fujii
Sharon M. Fujii

Attachment *Barnes*

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- B. Participation in the REEP Project is not required. However no other opportunity exists in the three county service area for cash and medical assistance for refugees who are not eligible for regular AFS programs.
- C. Non mandatory participants in the job service portion of REEP include pregnant women, the parent who personally cares for a child under 3, and individuals needed at home for ill relatives for less than 60 days.
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Health Care.....	Multicare of Multnomah County
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