

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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



December 31, 1980

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 80-80

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES

REFERENCE: ACL 80-29, MAY 13, 1980; ACIN, DECEMBER 1980; AND NIGHT LETTER,
NOVEMBER 26, 1980

The purpose of this letter is to confirm verbal instructions provided to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) concerning the limitation of the level and range of support services to be offered refugees under the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP). Federal limitations on the total state support service allocation now require the issuance of county allocations for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1981.

Background

All-County Letter No. 80-29 transmitted DSS' decision to permit CWDs to provide certain expanded services, in addition to Title XX mandated and optional services, to Indochinese refugees beginning in FFY 1981 (October 1, 1980 - September 30, 1981) under the 100 percent federally-funded Indochinese Refugee Assistance Program (IRAP). CWDs were requested to provide information required by DSS to coordinate the services which CWDs intended to provide with those being provided by other public and private nonprofit agencies under purchase-of-service agreements with DSS, and to ensure that expenditures for these services would not exceed available federal funding.

Because of continuing uncertainty about the level of funding which the Federal Government would provide for these services in FFY 1981 and concern about the potential impact of the implementation of the Refugee Act of 1980, (which provided the statutory basis for the extension to all refugees of benefits which have previously been available only to Indochinese refugees), it became necessary to contain CWD expansion of services to Indochinese refugees. Through meetings with County Welfare Directors of significantly impacted counties, many CWDs were informed that services to refugees should be limited to a continuation of the existing range and level of services.

Refugee Support Services

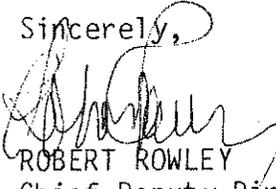
In a night letter dated November 26, 1980, DSS instructed CWDs to implement the RRP, effective December 1, 1980. Authorized by the Refugee Act of 1980, RRP is a permanent and comprehensive program which replaces IRAP and extends to all refugees, regardless of nationality, benefits which have previously been available only to Indochinese refugees under IRAP. These benefits include refugee support services.

The implementation of RRP has not resolved the uncertainty associated with the funding of support services for the Indochinese and other groups of refugees; RRP is currently being funded under a Continuing Resolution. Although DSS has received a limited allowance from the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for the operation of RRP for the first quarter of FFY 1981, the amount and timeliness of future allocations by federal authorities cannot be assured at this time. Therefore, given the continuing uncertainty regarding funding for FFY 1981, effective January 1, 1981, CWDs must limit support services to all refugees under RRP to the same range and level of support services provided through December 31, 1980.

Pending receipt of the full federal FFY 1981 allocation, DSS will issue provisional CWD allocations for the first quarter of FFY 1981 (October - December 1980); and develop a system for the allocation of refugee support service funds for the balance of the year. As part of this process, staff of the DSS ORS will be surveying CWDs to ascertain their perspective on the needs of refugees in their areas for the various types of support services, the past and current roles of CWDs in the delivery of such services, and the appropriate future role of CWDs in light of the establishment of a permanent refugee resettlement program.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Office of Refugee Services at 744 P Street, MS 4-100, Sacramento, California 95814; phone (916) 322-3141, ATSS 492-3141.

Sincerely,



ROBERT ROWLEY
Chief Deputy Director

cc: CWDA