

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



December 14, 2005

TO: COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATIONS
STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS
VOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of potential funding for programs that assist in refugee resettlement. The Standing Announcement for Services to Recently Arrived Refugees, released on April 23, 2004, from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), invites submission of applications for various types of funding on a competitive basis. Applications must be submitted no later than February 28, 2006, for grants under the following categories:

Priority Area 1, Preferred Communities

Preferred communities are those communities that expect to receive a minimum of 100 new refugees annually or expect to receive a proposed number of cases that will need intensive case management. Priority Area 1 grants support programs for resettlement of newly arriving refugees that provide the best opportunities for assimilation into new communities, and support refugees with special needs that require more intensive case management. The ten national voluntary agencies may apply for grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$320,000 per 12 months, for a project period up to 36 months. Only the ten national voluntary agencies that currently resettle refugees under a Reception and Placement Cooperative Agreement with the United States (U.S.) Department of State or with the Department of Homeland Security may apply because no other agencies place new arrivals or determine resettlement sites.

Priority Area 2, Unanticipated Arrivals

Priority Area 2 grants address immediate needs created by unanticipated arrivals. These grants assist refugees:

- To obtain the skills which are needed for economic self-sufficiency, including job training, employment services, day care, professional refresher training, and other recertification services;
- To provide training in English when necessary; and,
- To provide health, mental health, social, educational, and other services.

Examples of situations in which applicants may request funds under Priority Area 2 are:

- (1) The existing service system has few culturally and linguistically compatible staff;
- (2) Refugee services do not currently exist; or
- (3) The service capacity is not sufficient to accommodate significant increases in arrivals.

Public and private non-profit organizations may apply for grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$210,000 for a single 17-month period to assist a minimum of 100 refugees per year.

Priority Area 3, Ethnic Community Self-Help

Priority Area 3 grants provide assistance to organized ethnic communities comprised of and representative of refugee populations and to build bridges among refugee communities and community resources. ORR is interested in applications from national, regional, or local refugee community organizations that address community building, facilitate cultural adjustment and integration of refugees, and deliver mutually supportive functions such as information exchange, civic participation, resource enhancement, orientation and support to newly arriving refugees and public education to the larger community on the background, needs and potential of refugees. Public and private non-profit organizations may apply for grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per 12 months, for a project period of up to 36 months. Examples of services that local ethnic self-help applicants may propose include:

- Organizing self-help efforts;
- Informing the refugee community about issues essential to functioning effectively in the new society;
- Assisting parents in connecting with school systems;
- Disseminating information on access to community health and mental health services;
- Pairing refugees with community volunteers;
- Enhancing refugee rural resettlement efforts; and,
- Informing and training on the roles of men and women in U.S. culture.

Potential Funding
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For more information on all priority areas, please refer to the ORR standing announcement, which may be accessed on the ORR website at:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/pdf/HHS-2004-ACF-ORR-RE-0004.pdf>.

Interested organizations should proceed in developing their grant applications and submit them directly to ORR by the February 28, 2006, closing date.

Please contact Sue Benjamin from the ORR at (202) 401-4851 or sbenjamin@acf.hhs.gov if you have any questions regarding Priority Areas 1 and 2 of the Standing Announcement. For Priority Area 3, please contact Mitiku Ashebir at ORR at (202) 205-3602 or mashebir@acf.hhs.gov. Other questions may be directed to Bonnie Rivero from the Refugee Programs Bureau at (916) 654-5964.

Sincerely,
Original Signed By:
Thuan Nguyen
On December 14, 2005
THUAN NGUYEN, Chief
Refugee Programs Bureau