

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



July 24, 2002

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 02-12

To: County Refugee Coordinators

This letter is to advise counties of their final Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2002 Refugee Employment and Social Services (RESS) Program allocations. The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) published the Final Notice of Allocations to States of FFY 2002 Funds for Refugee Social Services in the *Federal Register* on July 8, 2002. Copies of the Final Notice may be accessed on the Funding Opportunities page of the Refugee Programs Branch's (RPB) web site at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/refugeeprogram>. Counties are encouraged to carefully review the Final Notice.

According to the Final Notice, California's final RESS allocation for FFY 2002 is \$8,644,517, which is an increase of \$1,268,637 from the amount published in the Proposed Notice. The increase is the result of 1) the adjustment of the state's population estimate to include persons granted asylum and/or certified as victims of trafficking who received services in the past year and, 2) the inclusion of two set-aside allocations. The first set-aside, in the amount of \$309,208, is for the purpose of providing support for healthy families through community-based organizations. The funds are to be used to support orientation, education and counseling to help maintain healthy marriages, promote responsible fatherhood, and maintain the well-being of families. The second special set-aside allocation, in the amount of \$884,091, is for the purpose of providing planned upgrading of employment, employment retraining, and subsidized employment tied to a labor market need leading to unsubsidized employment. The Final Notice provides examples of activities that may be funded with the set-asides as well as the preferred organizations for providing services. Information on special reporting requirements for these funds will be addressed in separate correspondence.

Please note that an amount equivalent to \$999,964 will be deducted from California's allocation and directed to a Fish/Wilson Alternative Project in San Diego County. These funds have been deducted proportionately from the state's standard and set-aside allocations. The amount of funding for this project was determined by ORR according to a formula which is specific to Fish/Wilson projects.

As stated in the letter of proposed allocations, counties eligible to receive RESS funds for FFY 2002 are those which received a minimum of 500 refugee arrivals during the most recent five-year period (FFYs 1997 through 2001). Using this threshold, eleven counties were determined eligible for FFY 2002 RESS funds: Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Yolo. San Bernardino County has once again opted not to participate in the RESS Program; however, Stanislaus County will participate. As noted above, funding for San Diego County will be directed to a Fish/Wilson Alternative Project.

State Administration

Funds for state administration in the amount of \$1,146,683, which represents fifteen percent (15%) of the state's total allocation, have been deducted proportionately from the state's standard and set-aside allocations.

Standard Funds

After the adjustment to deduct Fish/Wilson project funding and setting aside funds for state administration, the remaining funds have been allocated according to the conventional formula. This formula allocates funds according to the proportion of adult refugees on aid in each of the ten eligible counties who have been in the United States (U.S.) not more than 60 months. Data used in the formula was obtained from the most recent Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) file report, dated June 2002. Counties' standard RESS allocations are shown in Column 4 of Table A on the enclosed allocation spreadsheet.

Refugee Family Well-Being Set-Aside Funds

After the adjustment to deduct Fish/Wilson project funding and setting aside funds for state administration, the remaining Refugee Family Well-Being Set-Aside funds have been allocated to eligible counties by a slightly different formula than that used to determine standard funds. Because these funds are for services targeted toward refugee families without regard to their length of residency in the U.S., the allocation methodology was based on the total number of refugee adults and children on aid in each of the ten eligible counties (without regard to time in the U.S.) as a percentage of the total number in all eligible counties. Again, data used in the formula was obtained from the June 2002 MEDS files report. Counties' Refugee Family Well-Being Set-Aside allocations are shown in Column 4 of Table B of the enclosed allocation spreadsheet.

Employment Upgrade Set-Aside Funds

After the adjustment to deduct Fish/Wilson project funding and setting aside funds for state administration, the remaining Employment Upgrade Set-Aside funds have been allocated to eligible counties by yet a different formula than that used to determine standard or Healthy Families Set-Aside funds. This formula took into account that these funds may be used to provide services to all refugees, without regard to their length of residency in the U.S. For this reason, the allocation methodology was based on the total number of adult refugees on aid in each of the ten eligible counties without regard to time in the U.S. as a percentage of the total number in all eligible counties. Again, data used in the formula was obtained from the June 2002 MEDS files report. Counties' Employment Upgrade Set-Aside allocations are shown in Column 4 of Table C of the enclosed allocation spreadsheet. Counties' total FFY 2002 RESS allocations are shown in Column C of Table D of the enclosed allocation spreadsheet.

This year, due to funding limitations, the RPB will not provide special funding nor authorize the use of existing RESS funds for the coordination of activities to celebrate Refugee Awareness Month. This decision has been made to maximize funding for employment and social services to refugees. However, the RPB encourages counties to seek alternative sources of funding to plan an event to celebrate the achievements of refugees, raise awareness of the contributions refugees have made to the community, and promote the Refugee Resettlement Program in California.

Should you have questions on the allocations or other information in this letter, please contact Phyllis Iwasaki, Manager of the Community Development and Fiscal Services Bureau, at (916) 654-2387 or Brad Elftmann of her staff at (916) 654-7250.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Thuan Nguyen on 7/25/02

THUAN NGUYEN, Chief
Refugee Programs Branch

Enclosure

**FINAL REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND
SOCIAL SERVICES (RESS) ALLOCATIONS
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2002**

\$ 7,451,218	Standard RESS Allocation
\$ 309,208	Refugee Family Well-Being Set-Aside Allocation
\$ 884,091	Employment Upgrade Set-Aside Allocation
\$ 8,644,517	Total California RESS Allocation
\$ (999,964)	Funding for San Diego Fish/Wilson Project ²
\$ 7,644,553	Adjusted Total California RESS Allocation
\$ (1,146,683)	State Administration Funds (15% of State's Allocation)
\$ 6,304,535	RESS Funds to be Allocated to Counties

T A B L E - A

Standard RESS Funds			
(1) County	(2) Number	(3) % of Total	(4) County Standard RESS Allocation
Alameda	314	3.550%	\$ 192,916
Contra Costa	67	0.757%	\$ 41,137
Fresno	149	1.684%	\$ 91,513
Los Angeles	4,467	50.497%	\$ 2,744,134
Orange	686	7.755%	\$ 421,426
Sacramento	2,170	24.531%	\$ 1,333,076
San Francisco	163	1.843%	\$ 100,153
Santa Clara	476	5.381%	\$ 292,417
Stanislaus	155	1.752%	\$ 95,208
Yolo	199	2.250%	\$ 122,271
Total	8,846	100.000%	\$ 5,434,251

T A B L E - B

Refugee Family Well-Being Set-Aside Funds			
(1) County	(2) Number	(3) % of Total	(4) County Healthy Families Set-Aside Allocation
Alameda	6,874	9.9834%	\$ 22,513
Contra Costa	1,130	1.6412%	\$ 3,701
Fresno	13,144	19.0897%	\$ 43,049
Los Angeles	13,943	20.2501%	\$ 45,665
Orange	7,072	10.2710%	\$ 23,162
Sacramento	19,047	27.6629%	\$ 62,382
San Francisco	1,339	1.9447%	\$ 4,385
Santa Clara	4,116	5.9779%	\$ 13,481
Stanislaus	1,237	1.7966%	\$ 4,051
Yolo	952	1.3826%	\$ 3,118
Total	68,854	100.0001%	\$ 225,507

T A B L E - C

Employment Upgrade Set-Aside Funds			
(1) County	(2) Number	(3) % of Total	(4) County Employment Upgrade Set-Aside Allocation
Alameda	2,530	9.5016%	\$ 61,264
Contra Costa	345	1.2957%	\$ 8,356
Fresno	2,025	7.6051%	\$ 49,036
Los Angeles	9,127	34.2772%	\$ 221,012
Orange	2,926	10.9888%	\$ 70,853
Sacramento	6,378	23.9531%	\$ 154,444
San Francisco	783	2.9406%	\$ 18,960
Santa Clara	1,711	6.4258%	\$ 41,432
Stanislaus	434	1.6299%	\$ 10,509
Yolo	368	1.3821%	\$ 8,911
Total	26,627	99.9999%	\$ 644,777

T A B L E - D

Total County RESS Allocation				
(A) County	(B) Allocation Number	(C) Total County RESS Allocation	(D) County Administrative Costs Cap @ 15% Maximum	(E)
				Service Dollars Col. C - Col. D
		Sum of Cols. 4 from Tables A, B & C		
Alameda	RESS0201	\$ 276,693	41,504	\$ 235,189
Contra Costa	RESS0202	\$ 53,194	7,979	\$ 45,215
Fresno	RESS0203	\$ 183,598	27,540	\$ 156,058
Los Angeles	RESS0204	\$ 3,010,811	451,622	\$ 2,559,189
Orange	RESS0205	\$ 515,441	77,316	\$ 438,125
Sacramento	RESS0206	\$ 1,549,902	232,485	\$ 1,317,417
San Francisco	RESS0207	\$ 123,498	18,525	\$ 104,973
Santa Clara	RESS0208	\$ 347,330	52,100	\$ 295,230
Stanislaus	RESS0209	\$ 109,768	16,465	\$ 93,303
Yolo	RESS0210	\$ 134,300	20,145	\$ 114,155
Total		\$ 6,304,535	\$ 945,681	\$ 5,358,854

Notes:

¹ Data from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File Reports, dated June 2002.

² The allocation for San Diego County will be awarded to a Fish/Wilson Alternative Project. The amount of funding for this project was determined by ORR.

Service Period: 10/1/02 - 9/30/04

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.: 93.566