

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



May 7, 2003

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 03-10

TO: COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL SERVICES (RESS) AND TARGETED ASSISTANCE (TA) WAIVERS

The Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) granted a waiver for RESS monies to be used to fund services to refugees who have been in the United States for longer than 60 months. This waiver is due to expire on September 30, 2003. In order to continue to provide services to refugees who have been in the country for longer than 60 months, California intends to ask ORR to extend this waiver for another year. To make the strongest case possible for the waiver to remain in place, we are asking you to provide the following information regarding refugees and asylees:

1. A description of economic conditions in your county.
2. Number of refugees/asylees over 60 months.
3. Number of refugees/asylees that were assisted under the current waiver.
4. An explanation of how services would benefit the refugees/asylees over 60 months.
5. Reasons why other funds cannot be used to address their needs, specifically why CalWORKs funds cannot be used.
6. Success stories of refugees/asylees who have been assisted under the current waiver.

The Refugee Programs Branch (RPB) will also pursue a waiver of TA regulations that limit services to those refugees who have been in the United States less than 60 months on behalf of each individual county that makes a request. If your county will be receiving a TA allocation for fiscal year 2003/04 and determines that there is a need for a waiver, please provide RPB with a justification outlining the compelling reason(s) why the waiver should be granted. Please also address why your RESS funding will not be adequate to serve the over 60-month population.

Please send the RESS and TA waiver information by June 6, 2003 to:

Refugee Programs Branch: Attention of Bonnie Brady  
California Department of Social Services  
744 "P" Street, MS 6-646  
Sacramento, California 95814

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Brady or my staff at (916) 654-1461.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by  
Phyllis Iwasaki for Thuan Nguyen  
on 5/7/03*

THUAN NGUYEN, Chief  
Refugee Programs Branch