

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 29, 2007

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 07-09

TO: COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES (RSS) ALLOCATIONS FOR
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2007

This letter provides counties with proposed allocations for the FFY 2007 RSS Program. The Notice of Proposed FFY 2007 Formula Allocations to States for Social Services was announced by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) on June 26, 2007 and may be accessed on the Funding Opportunities page of the Refugee Programs Bureau's (RPB) web site at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/>.

Federal Allocation Methodology

The State's proposed RSS allocation is \$8,542,430, which is a decrease of \$374,660 from last year's final allocation of \$8,917,090. The ORR determined each state's allocation based on its refugee arrivals in proportion to total arrivals (adjusted for secondary migration) for the period of October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2006. The ORR's Notice explains the basis for the estimate of each state's arrivals of refugees, entrants, asylees, Havana Parolees, and trafficking victims. The ORR data for these groups in California is in line with RPB data. In March 2007, ORR requested states submit data on asylees who were granted asylum and received RSS services between October 1, 2003 and September 30, 2006. The RPB submitted asylee data which was provided by the counties. ORR matched the State's asylee data to federal databases and included the results in the Notice. In May 2007, ORR provided the states an additional opportunity to submit asylee data. ORR plans to match that data and include the results in the Notice of Final Allocations. Counties should be aware that the results of ORR's data matching may affect the State's final allocation.

Eligible Counties

The RPB explored lowering the arrivals threshold used to determine RSS eligible counties to 400 refugee arrivals from the current level of 500, due to low refugee arrival numbers. The RPB consulted with the County Refugee Coordinators and the County Welfare Directors Association. After careful consideration on the input received, the threshold will be lowered to 400 refugee arrivals during the period October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2006. Twelve counties are eligible for FFY 2007 RSS funds: Alameda, Fresno, Los Angeles, Merced, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Yolo. However, San Diego County does not receive RSS funding from the State due to the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. Additionally, Stanislaus County decided not to participate in the RSS Program for FFY 2007.

Wilson/Fish Alternative Project

The Wilson/Fish Alternative Project is operated in San Diego County through Catholic Charities under direct contract with ORR. The funding for this project is taken by ORR

from the State's RSS allocation. The amount of funding for the project has not yet been determined by ORR; however, the RPB prepared the proposed FFY 2007 RSS allocations using the amount that was awarded last year, which was \$1,114,636. If the amount for this year's Wilson/Fish Alternative Project differs from last year's, allocations for the counties will be affected.

State Allocation Methodology

After setting aside 15 percent of the State's allocation for State administrative costs, funds are allocated to counties according to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 13276, which became effective January 1, 2006. RSS funds are allocated based on the number of refugees on aid in each eligible county and on differential weights given to refugees according to the length of time a refugee is in the U.S.:

- 1) A weight of 1.50 is applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. one year or less;
- 2) A weight of 1.25 is applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. two years or less but more than one year; and,
- 3) A weight of 1.00 is applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. five years or less but more than two years.

Data used in the allocation process was obtained from the most recent Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) Report, dated May 2007. Proposed allocations are shown in the enclosed spreadsheet.

Counties are cautioned to use the proposed RSS allocations for planning purposes only. Final allocations are subject to federal funds availability and may be less than amounts indicated in the Proposed Notice. The RPB anticipates that the Final Notice will be published by ORR in the next several weeks. In addition, the final allocations will be based on the most recent MEDS data available at the time the Final Notice is published by ORR.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed allocations or other information in this letter, please contact Ms. Janet Sandlin, Manager of the Refugee Policy Unit at (916) 654-1246 or via e-mail at Janet.Sandlin@dss.ca.gov, or Ms. Camille Ancona, Analyst, Refugee Policy Unit at (916) 653-7785 or via e-mail at Camille.Ancona@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


THUAN NGUYEN, Chief
Refugee Programs Bureau

Enclosure

PROPOSED REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES (RSS) ALLOCATION FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2007

\$ 8,542,430 Proposed FFY 2007 RSS Standard Funds
 \$ (1,114,636) Estimated Funding for San Diego Wilson/Fish Project ¹
\$ 7,427,794 Adjusted Proposed State Allocation
 \$ (1,114,169) State Administrative Funds (15% of Adjusted Proposed State Allocation)
\$ 6,313,625 Funds to be Allocated to Counties

(1) County	(2) Allocation Number	(3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9)				(10) Proposed County Allocations	(11) Proposed County Administrative Costs @15% maximum	(12) Proposed County RSS Service Dollars			
		(3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9)							Proposed County Allocations	Proposed County Administrative Costs @15% maximum	Proposed County RSS Service Dollars
		Adult refugees receiving RCA/CalWORKs who have been in the U.S. 60 months or less ²									
Totals by Time in the U.S.		Weights		Weighted Total (cols 5 + 6 + 7)	% of Weighted Total	Proposed County Allocations	Proposed County Administrative Costs @15% maximum	Proposed County RSS Service Dollars			
<1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	(<1) X 1.5						(1-2) X 1.25		
Alameda	RESS0701	54	60	71	81	75	227	3.1638%	\$ 199,750	\$ 29,963	\$ 169,787
Fresno	RESS0702	34	164	278	51	205	534	7.4425%	\$ 469,892	\$ 70,484	\$ 399,408
Los Angeles	RESS0703	1,388	411	981	2,082	514	3,577	49.8537%	\$ 3,147,576	\$ 472,136	\$ 2,675,440
Merced	RESS0704	4	68	116	6	85	207	2.8850%	\$ 182,149	\$ 27,322	\$ 154,827
Orange	RESS0705	92	173	81	138	216	435	6.0627%	\$ 382,776	\$ 57,416	\$ 325,360
Sacramento	RESS0706	296	361	467	444	451	1,362	18.9826%	\$ 1,198,490	\$ 179,774	\$ 1,018,716
San Francisco	RESS0707	43	24	37	65	30	132	1.8397%	\$ 116,152	\$ 17,423	\$ 98,729
San Joaquin	RESS0708	7	63	89	11	79	179	2.4948%	\$ 157,512	\$ 23,627	\$ 133,885
Santa Clara	RESS0709	146	93	71	219	116	406	5.6585%	\$ 357,256	\$ 53,588	\$ 303,668
Yolo	RESS0710	36	25	31	54	31	116	1.6167%	\$ 102,072	\$ 15,311	\$ 86,761
Total		2,100	1,442	2,222	3,151	1,802	7,175	100.0000%	\$ 6,313,625	\$ 947,044	\$ 5,366,581

Notes:

- ¹ The allocation for San Diego County will be diverted to a Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. The exact amount of funding for the project has not yet been determined by ORR, therefore, an amount using last year's Wilson/Fish award has been inserted for estimation purposes.
- ² One month data from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File Report dated May 2007.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.93.566