



FACT SHEET



County Refugee Coordinators

Background

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB) supervises county administration of the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) within the parameters of federal regulations, state statutes, and the State Plan for Refugee/Entrant Assistance and Services. The RPB issues program regulations and guidelines, provides policy direction, and ensures coordination of public resources for refugee resettlement in partnership with the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement and local county governments.

County Boards of Supervisors determine which agency within the county governmental structure will be responsible for administering the RRP. Most often the County Welfare Department (CWD) is the designated agency.

CWDs accept applications from refugees for various assistance programs and services, including Refugee Cash Assistance, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Food Stamps, etc. They determine eligibility for these programs, deliver benefits and services, and, when appropriate, refer refugees to services provided by other agencies and organizations. CWDs in counties designated as "refugee-impacted" also provide services under the Refugee Social Services (RSS) and Targeted Assistance (TA) Programs, either directly or through contracts with Mutual Assistance Associations, faith- or community-based organizations or other agencies.

Refugee-Impacted Counties

Counties that have received 400 or more refugee arrivals during the most recent five year period are considered "refugee-impacted." Currently, the following counties are designated as refugee-impacted:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| - Alameda | - San Diego |
| - Fresno | - San Francisco |
| - Los Angeles | - San Joaquin |
| - Merced | - Santa Clara |
| - Orange | - Stanislaus |
| - Sacramento | - Yolo |

In each refugee-impacted county a representative is appointed to serve as the County Refugee Coordinator (CRC). In most cases, CRCs are employed by CWDs.

Responsibilities

The CRC is responsible for planning, coordinating and overseeing the delivery of public social services in the county to assist refugees in becoming economically self-sufficient. The CRC has knowledge and experience in both refugee policies and issues and public assistance programs and services. The CRC works with local governmental and non-governmental organizations to ensure necessary services are available to refugees. The CRC manages RSS and TA funds allocated to counties by the RPB.

CRCs regularly participate in local refugee forums and community meetings to address concerns in an ongoing effort to improve the provision of services for the refugee population.

The RPB holds quarterly meetings with all CRCs to share information on issues and developments affecting the California RRP. In addition, the CRCs select a representative from among themselves to serve as a member of the State Advisory Council on Refugee Assistance and Services.

Contact Information

For a current listing of the CRCs in each refugee-impacted county in California, please refer to the CRC page on the RPB web site at:

www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/PG1530.htm