



FACT SHEET



United States Repatriation Program

Background

The United States (U.S.) Repatriation Program, established in 1935 by the federal Social Security Act, assists U.S. citizens and their dependents to return to the U.S. when they become destitute or ill in a foreign country. The citizens are identified by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) as having returned, or been brought from a foreign country, to the U.S. and are helped to resume their lives as quickly as possible.

Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Federal, state, local, and nonprofit agencies are involved in providing repatriation services:

- The DOS certifies citizens that are eligible for the Repatriation Program.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is responsible for arranging and paying for services once the repatriate has arrived in the U.S.
- The International Social Service (ISS) - United States of America Branch, Inc., a nonprofit agency under contract with ORR, is responsible for notifying the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the affected California county that a DOS certified repatriate is arriving from overseas, what his or her needs are, and arranging payment for the services provided.
- California county social service agencies provide direct services to the repatriates.
- The CDSS coordinates payment of services and resolves issues between ISS and California counties.

Program Services

Repatriates are provided with cash aid and services, which include, but are not limited to:

- Food, lodging and incidentals;
- Domestic travel assistance;
- Medical/psychiatric care;
- Assistance to unaccompanied minors;
- Resettlement and maintenance cash aid for up to 90 days (certain temporary assistance may be provided beyond 90 days upon a finding by the DHHS Secretary that the circumstances involved necessitate or justify it); and,
- Other assistance or services approved by ISS.

Repatriation Program services and cash assistance are 100 percent federally funded. However, assistance given under this program is a loan which must be repaid to the U.S. government. Individuals requesting Repatriation Program assistance are required to sign a repayment agreement.

Group/Emergency Repatriation

The Group/Emergency Repatriation Program provides emergency evacuation of U.S. citizens overseas due to conditions of war, threat of war, invasion, natural disaster, or Presidential Declaration of National Emergency. At this time, California is not a U.S. Department of Defense or DOS designated port of entry for group/emergency evacuees.

For more information regarding the Repatriation Program, please visit the Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB) web site at www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram; contact the RPB by e-mail at RPB@dss.ca.gov; or telephone at (916) 654-4356; or visit the ORR web site at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/repatriation.htm