



CDSS

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

August 26, 2008

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 08-09

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES (RSS) ALLOCATIONS FOR
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2008 – CATALOG OF FEDERAL
DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NO. 93-566

This letter provides counties with proposed allocations for the FFY 2008 RSS Program. The Notice of Proposed FFY 2008 Formula Allocations to States for Social Services was announced by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) on July 2, 2008, 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 \$10,074,282, which is an increase of \$1,519,126 from last year's final allocation of \$8,555,156. 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, 2004, through September 30, 2007. The ORR's Notice explains the basis for the estimate of each state's arrivals of refugees, entrants, asylees, Cuban medical parolees, Havana parolees, and trafficking victims. The ORR data for these groups in California is consistent with RPB data. In January 2008, ORR requested states to submit data on asylees who were granted asylum and received RSS services between October 1, 2004, and September 30, 2007. 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 Proposed Notice.

Eligible Counties

Counties are eligible to receive RSS funds if they have received at least 400 refugee arrivals during the period of October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2007. Eleven counties are eligible for FFY 2008 RSS funds: Alameda, Fresno, Los Angeles, Merced, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus. However, San Diego County does not receive RSS funding from the state due to the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project.

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 in FFY 2008 has not yet been determined by ORR; however, the RPB has prepared the proposed FFY 2008 RSS allocations using the amount that was awarded last year, which was \$1,197,722.

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. RSS funds are allocated based on the number of refugees on aid in each eligible county, weighted according to the length of time that the refugees are in the U.S., as follows:

- 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 July 2008. 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.

Debarment and Suspension Requirements

Federal regulation requires that an individual who is debarred or suspended be excluded from federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits (45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 76). This extends to an organization if the debarred/suspended individual is an officer, director, owner, partner, or has management or supervision responsibility of the organization. These requirements prohibit the receipt of federal funds by individuals or organizations that have been convicted for committing fraud or any other crime or action that shows a lack of business integrity (see 45 CFR 76.305 for the specific causes for debarment/suspension).

As a condition for receiving RSS funding, counties are required to comply with the debarment and suspension requirements. Counties, when arranging services through a sub-grant or subcontract with RSS funds, must verify that the individual or organization is not excluded or disqualified from participation in federal assistance programs by:

- 1) Checking the federal General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), which has the most current information about persons who have been excluded or disqualified for participation in federal programs. The list can be found at <http://epls.gov>; and
- 2) Adding a clause to the contract/agreement in which the contractor agrees to certify that he/she and his/her principals are not debarred or suspended from federal financial assistance programs and services. Example: *"For federally funded agreements in the amount of \$25,000 or more, the Contractor certifies that he/she and his/her principals are not debarred or suspended from federal financial assistance programs and activities."*

If you have any questions regarding the proposed allocations, 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

c: Graham Knaus, County Welfare Directors Association

Enclosure

PROPOSED REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES (RSS) ALLOCATION FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2008

*(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.93.566 - Refugee Assistance - State Administered Programs)
(Grant Period - October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2010)*

\$ 10,074,282 Proposed FFY 2007 RSS Standard Funds
 \$ (1,197,722) Estimated Funding for San Diego Wilson/Fish Project ¹
\$ 8,876,560 Proposed Adjusted State Allocation
 \$ (1,331,484) Estimated State Administrative Funds (15% of Adjusted State Allocation)
\$ 7,545,076 Proposed Funds to be Allocated to Counties

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
County	Allocation Number	Adult refugees receiving RCA/CalWORKs who have been in the U.S. 60 months or less ²							Proposed County Allocations	Proposed County Administrative Costs @15% maximum	Proposed County RSS Service Dollars
		Totals by Time in the U.S.			Weights						
		<1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	(<1) X 1.5	(1-2) X 1.25	Weighted Total (cols 5 + 6 + 7)	% of Weighted Total			
Alameda	RESS0801	101	50	97	152	63	312	3.844%	\$ 290,033	\$ 43,505	\$ 246,528
Fresno	RESS0802	20	22	366	30	28	424	5.224%	\$ 394,155	\$ 59,123	\$ 335,032
Los Angeles	RESS0803	1,786	874	876	2,679	1,093	4,648	57.263%	\$ 4,320,537	\$ 648,081	\$ 3,672,456
Merced	RESS0804	-	2	144	-	3	147	1.811%	\$ 136,641	\$ 20,496	\$ 116,145
Orange	RESS0805	145	61	167	218	76	461	5.679%	\$ 428,485	\$ 64,273	\$ 364,212
Sacramento	RESS0806	215	205	530	323	256	1,109	13.663%	\$ 1,030,884	\$ 154,633	\$ 876,251
San Francisco	RESS0807	31	41	40	47	51	138	1.700%	\$ 128,266	\$ 19,240	\$ 109,026
San Joaquin	RESS0808	5	2	118	8	3	129	1.589%	\$ 119,891	\$ 17,984	\$ 101,907
Santa Clara	RESS0809	106	63	125	159	79	363	4.472%	\$ 337,416	\$ 50,612	\$ 286,804
Stanislaus	RESS0810	145	96	48	218	120	386	4.755%	\$ 358,768	\$ 53,815	\$ 304,953
Total		2,554	1,416	2,511	3,834	1,772	8,117	100.000%	\$ 7,545,076	1,131,762	6,413,314

Notes:

¹ The allocation for San Diego County is diverted to a Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. The exact amount of funding for the project has not yet been determined by ORR.

² One month data from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File Report dated July 2008.