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October 13, 2009

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 09-06

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS  
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS

SUBJECT: FINAL FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2009 REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES  
ALLOCATIONS

REFERENCE: CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NO. 93-566

This letter provides counties with final allocations for the FFY 2009 Refugee Social Services (RSS) grant. The Notice of Final FFY 2009 Formula Allocations to States for Refugee Social Services was released by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) on July 29, 2009, 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/>. We apologize for the lateness of this notice; however, changes to the funding for the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project noted in the Eligible Counties section below required unanticipated time and attention from us.

#### Federal Allocation Methodology

The state's final RSS allocation is \$10,402,573, which is an increase of \$328,291 from last year's final allocation. 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, 2005, through September 30, 2008. Refugee arrivals include refugees, entrants, asylees, Cuban medical professionals/parolees, Havana parolees, federally-certified trafficking victims, and special immigrants.

The ORR's Final Notice explains the basis for the estimate of each state's arrivals. ORR data for these arrivals in California is consistent with RPB data. In January 2009, ORR requested states to submit data on asylees who were granted asylum and received RSS services between October 1, 2005, and September 30, 2008. The RPB submitted asylee data which was provided by the counties and the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project in San Diego. ORR matched the state's asylee data to federal databases and included the results in the Final 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, 2003 through September 30, 2008. Based on that threshold, eleven counties are eligible for FFY 2009 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 its direct receipt of funds from the ORR for the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project in that county.

Please, note that for FFY 2010-11, San Diego County will be included as a RSS-eligible county due to changes in the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. Effective October 1, 2009, refugee families arriving in San Diego County will be referred to the county rather than to the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project for public assistance. Refugee families currently receiving cash aid and services through the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project will be transitioned to the county by January 31, 2010. The Wilson/Fish Alternative Project will continue to serve refugee single adults and families without children.

#### Wilson/Fish Alternative Project

The Wilson/Fish Alternative Project is operated in San Diego County by Catholic Charities under direct contract with the ORR. The amount of \$2,154,722 for this Project in FFY 2009 was determined by the ORR using a Wilson/Fish-specific funding formula and then deducting that amount from California's total FFY 2009 RSS allocation. As stated above, that amount is provided directly to San Diego Catholic Charities by the ORR.

#### State Allocation Methodology

The state's adjusted RSS allocation, after the Wilson/Fish deduction, is \$8,247,851. After setting aside 15 percent of the state's adjusted allocation for state administrative costs, the remaining \$7,010,673 will be allocated for social services and administrative costs to counties in accordance with 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 United States (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.
- 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 31, 2009. FFY 2009 final allocations are shown in the enclosed spreadsheet.

#### Debarment and Suspension Requirements

Federal regulations require that individuals be prohibited from receiving federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits, if they have been debarred or suspended pursuant to 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 76. Reasons for debarment/suspension may include a conviction for committing fraud or any other crime or action that shows a lack of business integrity (see 45 CFR Part 76.305 for specific debarment/suspension criteria). The

debarment/suspension requirements extend to an organization if a debarred/suspended individual is an officer, director, owner, or partner; or the individual has management or supervisory responsibility within the organization.

Counties are required to comply with the debarment and suspension provisions in 45 CFR Part 76 as a condition of receiving RSS funding. When arranging RSS-funded services through a subgrant or subcontract, counties must verify that the subgrantee or subcontractor is not excluded or disqualified from participation in federal assistance programs by:

- 1) Checking the federal General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List System, found at <http://epls.gov>, which has the most current information about persons who have been excluded or disqualified for participation in federal programs; or
- 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."*

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (916) 654-4356, or Ms. Camille Ancona, Analyst, Refugee Policy Unit, at (916) 653-7785 or [Camille.Ancona@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Camille.Ancona@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by  
Thuan Nguyen on 10/13/09**

THUAN NGUYEN, Chief  
Refugee Programs Bureau

c: CWDA

Enclosure

# FINAL REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES (RSS) ALLOCATION FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2009

*(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.93.566 - Refugee Assistance - State Administered Programs)  
(Grant Period - October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2011)*

\$ 10,402,573 Final FFY 2008 RSS Standard Funds  
 \$ (2,154,722) Funding for San Diego Wilson/Fish Project <sup>1</sup>  
**\$ 8,247,851** Final Adjusted State Allocation  
 \$ (1,237,178) State Administrative Funds (15% of Adjusted State Allocation)  
**\$ 7,010,673** Final 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 <sup>2</sup>							Final County Allocations	Final County Administrative Costs @15% maximum	Final 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	RESS0901	293	66	87	440	83	610	6.25%	\$ 438,167	\$ 65,725	\$ 372,442
Fresno	RESS0902	32	11	308	48	14	370	3.79%	\$ 265,705	\$ 39,856	\$ 225,849
Los Angeles	RESS0903	2,130	1,013	1,252	3,195	1,266	5,713	58.56%	\$ 4,105,449	\$ 615,817	\$ 3,489,632
Merced	RESS0904	2	-	98	3	-	101	1.04%	\$ 72,911	\$ 10,937	\$ 61,974
Orange	RESS0905	207	74	147	311	93	551	5.65%	\$ 396,103	\$ 59,415	\$ 336,688
Sacramento	RESS0906	281	149	463	422	186	1,071	10.98%	\$ 769,772	\$ 115,466	\$ 654,306
San Francisco	RESS0907	62	33	51	93	41	185	1.90%	\$ 133,203	\$ 19,980	\$ 113,223
San Joaquin	RESS0908	3	7	81	5	9	95	0.97%	\$ 68,004	\$ 10,201	\$ 57,803
Santa Clara	RESS0909	235	71	113	353	89	555	5.69%	\$ 398,907	\$ 59,836	\$ 339,071
Stanislaus	RESS0910	210	87	80	315	109	504	5.17%	\$ 362,452	\$ 54,368	\$ 308,084
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,455</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>5,185</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 7,010,673</b>	<b>1,051,601</b>	<b>5,959,072</b>

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> The allocation for San Diego County is diverted to a Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. The amount of funding for the project was determined by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

<sup>2</sup> One month data from Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) File Report dated July 2009.