



MEMORANDUM

TO:	HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
THROUGH:	TRENT RHORER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM:	ANNA PINEDA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
DATE:	FEBRUARY 7, 2025
SUBJECT:	COUNTY REFUGEE SERVICES PLAN UPDATE FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Department of Benefits and Family Support requests approval of the County’s Refugee Services Plan Update for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. State-designated “Refugee Impacted Counties” are required by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to submit a Refugee Services Plan every three years and to modify this plan with an update each year. The current Refugee Services Plan covers October 1, 2023–September 30, 2026.

Background

Refugees are eligible to apply for the same public benefits as U.S. citizens. Single refugee adults or couples who are not eligible for public benefits may be eligible to receive Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA). The RCA Program and related administrative costs are 100% federally-funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

RCA beneficiaries participate in employment services during the 12 months of their grant. These services are typically funded by Refugee Social Services (RSS). The RSS funding is awarded to the California Department of Social Services by ORR based on refugee arrivals during the most recent three federal fiscal years. CDSS then allocates RSS funding to eligible counties based on the number of refugees receiving cash assistance in the county.



Services to be Provided

After RCA eligibility is determined by HSA staff, participants are referred to Employment Specialists for employment services. A vocational assessment is performed and an employment plan is created, and RSS-funded employment services are offered to participants for a maximum of 12 months. Community-based providers help engage participants in services such as English Language Training and various vocational trainings. Services will also include work-related acculturation, job readiness, job placement and retention.

ATTACHMENTS

San Francisco County Refugee Services Plan