

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Refugee Resettlement Program: Proposed Notice of Allocations to States of FY 2001 Funds for Refugee Social Services

AGENCY: Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), ACF, HHS.

ACTION: Proposed notice of allocations to States of FY 2001 funds for refugee social services.

SUMMARY: This notice establishes the proposed allocations to States of FY 2001 funds for social services under the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP). In the final notice, allocation amounts could be adjusted slightly based on final adjustments in FY 2000 arrivals in some States.

This notice includes \$20.5 million in two set-aside funding allocations to: (1) Provide outreach and referral services to ensure that eligible refugees access the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and other programs for low income working populations and provide specialized interpreter training and the hiring of interpreters to enable refugees to have equal access to medical and legal services; and (2) provide outreach, referral, and social services to ensure that persons granted asylum access programs to help them attain economic self-sufficiency, as needed.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 29, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address written comments, in duplicate, to: Barbara R. Chesnik, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara R. Chesnik, Division of Refugee Self-Sufficiency, (202) 401-4558.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Amounts For Allocation

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has available \$143,621,000 in FY 2001 refugee social service funds as part of the FY 2001 appropriation for the Department of Health and Human Services (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, as enacted into law by Section 1(a)(1) of Pub. L. No. 106-554).

The FY 2001 House Appropriations Committee Report (H.R. Rept. No. 106-645) reads as follows with respect to social services funds:

The bill provides \$143,621,000 for social services, the same as the fiscal year 2000 appropriation and \$305,000 above the budget

request. Funds are distributed by formula as well as through the discretionary grant making process for special projects. The Committee agrees that \$19,000,000 is available for assistance to serve communities affected by the Cuban and Haitian entrants and refugees whose arrivals in recent years have increased. The Committee has set aside \$26,000,000 for increased support to communities with large concentrations of refugees whose cultural differences make assimilation especially difficult justifying a more intense level and longer duration of Federal assistance. Finally, the Committee has set aside \$14,000,000 to address the needs of refugees and communities impacted by recent changes in Federal assistance programs relating to welfare reform. The Committee urges ORR to assist refugees at risk of losing, or who have lost benefits including SSI, TANF and Medicaid, in obtaining citizenship.

The FY 2001 Conference Report on Appropriations (H.R. Conf. 106-1033) reads as follows concerning social services:

The agreement includes \$20,000,000 from carryover funds that are to be used under social services to increase educational support to schools with a significant proportion of refugee children and for the development of alternative cash assistance programs that involve case management approaches to improve resettlement outcomes. Such support should include intensive English language training and cultural assimilation programs.

The agreement also includes \$26,000,000 for increased support to communities with large concentrations of refugees whose cultural differences make assimilation especially difficult justifying a more intense level and longer duration of Federal assistance.

The Conference report provided \$143,621,000 in social services funds.

ORR proposes to use the \$143,621,000 appropriated for FY 2001 social services as follows:

- \$71,927,850 will be allocated under the 3-year population formula, as set forth in this notice for the purpose of providing employment services and other needed services to refugees.

- \$12,693,150 will be awarded as continuation social service discretionary grants under prior year competitive grant announcements issued separately from this notice.

- \$19,000,000 will be awarded to serve communities most heavily affected by recent Cuban and Haitian entrant and refugee arrivals. These funds will be awarded through continuation awards under a separate prior year announcement.

- \$26,000,000 will be awarded through discretionary grants for communities with large concentrations of refugees whose cultural differences make assimilation especially difficult

justifying a more intense level and longer duration of Federal assistance. Continuation awards will be made through separate prior year announcements.

- \$14,000,000 will be awarded to address the needs of refugees and communities impacted by recent changes in Federal assistance programs relating to welfare reform. Awards will be made through separate announcements.

- \$20,000,000 will be awarded in prior year funds to increase educational support to schools with a significant proportion of refugee children and for the development of alternative cash assistance programs that involve case management approaches to improve resettlement outcomes. This support will include intensive English language training and cultural assimilation programs. Continuation awards will be made through a separate prior year announcement.

In addition, we are proposing to add \$20,500,000 in prior year funds to the FY 2001 formula social services allocation as two set-aside allocations as follows: (1) For outreach and assistance for low-income refugees and interpreter capacity building services, and (2) as a set-aside for outreach, referral, and services for asylees, increasing the total amount available for the formula social services program in FY 2001 to \$92,427,850.

Congress provided ORR with broad carry-over authority in the FY 2000 HHS appropriations law (as enacted into law by section 1000(a)(4) of Public Law 106-113) to use unexpended FY 1998 and FY 1999 CMA funds for assistance and other activities in the refugee program provided through September 30, 2001. The appropriations law states:

That funds appropriated pursuant to section 414(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act under Public Law 105-78 for fiscal year 1998 and under Public Law 105-277 for fiscal year 1999 shall be available for the costs of assistance provided and other activities through September 30, 2001.

Refugee Social Service Funds

The population figures for the formula social services allocation include refugees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and Amerasians from Vietnam. (A State must, however, have an approved State plan for the Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program or indicate in its refugee program State plan that Cuban/Haitian entrants will be served in order to use funds on behalf of entrants as well as refugees.)

The Director is proposing to allocate \$71,927,850 to States on the basis of each State's proportion of the national

population of refugees who had been in the U.S. 3 years or less as of October 1, 2000 (including a floor amount for States which have small refugee populations).

The use of the 3-year population base in the allocation formula is required by section 412(c)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) which states that the "funds available for a fiscal year for grants and contracts [for social services] * * * shall be allocated among the States based on the total number of refugees (including children and adults) who arrived in the United States not more than 36 months before the beginning of such fiscal year and who are actually residing in each State (taking into account secondary migration) as of the beginning of the fiscal year."

As established in the FY 1991 social services notice published in the **Federal Register** of August 29, 1991, section I, "Allocation Amounts" (56 FR 42745), a variable floor amount for States which have small refugee populations is calculated as follows: If the application of the regular allocation formula yields less than \$100,000, then—

(1) A base amount of \$75,000 is provided for a State with a population of 50 or fewer refugees who have been in the U.S. 3 years or less; and

(2) For a State with more than 50 refugees who have been in the U.S. 3 years or less: (a) A floor has been calculated consisting of \$50,000 plus the regular per capita allocation for refugees above 50 up to a total of \$100,000 (in other words, the maximum under the floor formula is \$100,000); (b) if this calculation has yielded less than \$75,000, a base amount of \$75,000 is provided for the State.

The Director is also proposing to allocate an additional total of \$20.5 million from prior year carry-over funds as two set-aside allocations as follow:

(1) \$10.5 million to (a) provide referral services, including outreach, to ensure that refugees are able to access the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and other programs for low income populations; and (b) expand the capacity of communities to provide interpretation services for refugees through special training and hiring of interpreters to enable refugees to have equal access to medical, social, and certain legal services.

(2) \$10 million to provide outreach, referrals, and social services to individuals granted asylum. The need for outreach to asylees is greatest immediately after asylum is granted and the services for asylees may be provided only during the 5-year period following the date that asylum was granted.

Outreach, referral and interpretation services are not subject to the 5-year limitation and may be provided to refugees and asylees regardless of their length of time in the U.S. *See* 45 CFR 400.152(b).

Regarding the first set-aside allocation, eligible refugee families often are not aware of, or do not know how to access, other Federal support programs available to low income working families in the community. We believe that these programs, including SCHIP, Food Stamps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Medicaid, Head Start, low-income housing, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), child care assistance, adult day care for aged dependents, and other support programs for low-income families, are important for the well-being of working refugees, particularly refugee families, and are necessary to help these refugees maintain employment and move toward full self-sufficiency.

The organizations funded by the first set-aside amount are expected to conduct outreach into the community to identify low-income refugees and to help these refugees enroll in and to be familiar with the services available and the participation requirements of these programs. We expect States to fund community-based organizations, to the maximum extent possible, to provide hands-on assistance, which means having the application forms available and helping refugees to fill out the application, accompanying the refugee to the eligibility office, assisting in the communication between the family and the eligibility worker, closely following the application process until the family has been found eligible, and then helping the family effectively use the service or support program in which they have been enrolled. For example, there may be different levels of medical coverage available to a family, depending on the ages of the children and the income level of the family, each with different requirements. It is important for the caseworkers/advocates funded through this initiative to understand the program requirements (such as a co-payment structure) in order to help the family make decisions and fully participate.

The organizations funded under this set-aside should develop effective ways to provide an on-going link between these services, the population they serve, and the targeted low income programs. Methods might include: partnering with schools to identify refugee children who may be eligible for SCHIP by virtue of their eligibility for

the school lunch program; connecting with local Head Start programs to help identify refugee children who are eligible for SCHIP and other health care programs; arranging to have Medicaid eligibility workers visit the Mutual Assistance Association (MAA) or other participating organization on a scheduled basis; and working with other groups serving low income families, such as hospitals, WIC programs, low-income housing programs, and food assistance programs to make these services widely known to the refugee community being served.

It is also important that States provide as high a standard as possible in language interpretation to non-English speaking and to Limited-English-Proficient (LEP) refugees, particularly with regard to medical and legal issues. We are therefore including funding in the first set-aside for States to improve the availability and quality of interpreter services for refugees in their communities. The set-aside funds are to be used by States: (1) To fund specialized interpreter training for medical, legal, and social services; and (2) to pay for the hiring and employment of these trained interpreters by MAAs, voluntary agencies, and other community-based organizations serving refugees, to the maximum extent possible, in order to increase the number of skilled interpreters in the community.

Interpretation requires a great deal of skill—interpreters need to be fluent in English and the language spoken by the refugee. They must have the ability to quickly understand the message and terminology, if technical, in one language and to express it as quickly and correctly in another language. In addition to fluency in two languages, interpreters must have the skills to handle confidential client information and to deal with a variety of professionals in the medical, legal, law enforcement, social services, and other fields. All interpreters should be working under a recognized code of ethics.

States should use qualified training programs or trainers to provide the interpreter training. Several strategies may be employed, e.g., the direct training of interpreters in a group setting, paying the course tuition and associated expenses for individuals at a community college or university, and the training of trainers in order to establish and maintain an efficient training capacity in the community. To the extent possible, we would expect States to use an established curriculum rather than incurring costs to develop a new one. Funding of interpreter services

should be directed to areas of greatest need and to the most linguistically isolated communities.

States must determine a community's capacity to ensure refugee access to medical and other services, and then examine how best to fund and maintain interpreter services for refugees based upon the need and size of refugee population. For example, an interpreter bank with dedicated interpreters may be a preferred option if the needs of the community can justify full-time interpreters. However, because the provision of interpreter services may not fully occupy funded staff in some locations or in certain languages, States may choose to train bilingual caseworkers at voluntary resettlement agencies, MAAs and refugee service providers. These workers are frequently called upon to interpret and should receive interpreter training. States may also consider cross-training of interpreters so that they may also assist, for example, in enrolling clients in SCHIP, Medicaid, or other services for low-income clients, and/or serve as case managers or in other staff positions. Staff with both bilingual interpreter skills and knowledge of the family services network, such as child protective services and the domestic violence system, are also highly desirable.

We also encourage States to set up creative ways to maintain and expand the availability of interpreter services in the community, such as seeking reimbursement for services from the courts, hospitals, and agencies which may be able to pay for interpreter services but have been otherwise hindered in providing these services by the lack of available and appropriately trained individuals. Fees from low-income refugee clients, however, may not be sought.

Regarding the second set-aside allocation, individuals granted asylum do not have voluntary agency caseworkers to bring them into the network of refugee program and benefits. They often are unaware of the benefits to which they are entitled. Outreach activities under the second set-aside allocation should be conducted with the goal of providing information to asylees or of providing information to the agencies and organizations that traditionally have contact with asylees and may be able to assist them in accessing needed services and benefits. For example, outreach through organizations and agencies may include training seminars on benefits eligibility conducted for attorneys that represent asylum seekers, monthly liaison meetings with the District Office

of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to establish effective contacts, or provision of benefits and eligibility materials to local English as a Second Language (ESL) programs for distribution to students. This set-aside amount may also be used to provide social services to asylees. Although the formula social services funds are available to serve asylees, States may augment this funding using these set-aside funds for those agencies who are already serving, or expect to serve, refugees and asylees. Or, States may elect to hold a separate competition for the funds, depending upon State administrative procedures and programmatic need. As for refugees, services to asylees are those covered in 45 CFR 400.154 and 400.155.

A State that can demonstrate that the total amount of set-aside funds awarded is not needed to provide the services described above may submit a written request to the Director to use a portion of the funds for another non-employment service. This request must fully describe how the need for the specified set-aside services is already being met in the State, as well as a description of the additional service proposed, why it is needed, and how it will be provided.

In using the set-aside amount, funds should be directed to refugee specific organizations, where possible, such as refugee MAAs, qualified community based organizations with refugee experience, voluntary resettlement agencies, or refugee service providers.

Population To Be Served and Allowable Services

Eligibility for refugee social services includes persons who meet all requirements of 45 CFR 400.43 (as amended by 65 FR 15409 (March 22, 2000)). (Note: ORR State Letter No. 00-12 clarifies that effective June 15, 2000, persons granted asylum are eligible for refugee benefits and services from the date that asylum was granted.)

Services to refugees must be provided in accordance with the rules of 45 CFR Part 400 Subpart I—Refugee Social Services. Although the allocation formula is based on the 3-year refugee population, States are not required to limit social service programs to refugees who have been in the U.S. only 3 years. However, under 45 CFR 400.152, States may not provide services funded by this notice, except for referral and interpreter services and citizenship and naturalization preparation services, to refugees who have been in the United States for more than 60 months (5 years).

Allowable social services are those indicated in 45 CFR 400.154 and 400.155. Additional services not included in these sections which the State may wish to provide must be submitted to and approved by the Director of ORR (§ 400.155(h)).

Service Priorities

In the past, a number of States have focused primarily on serving refugee cash assistance (RCA) recipients because of the need to help these refugees become employed and self-sufficient within the 8-month RCA eligibility period. Now, with the passage of welfare reform, refugee recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) also face a time limit for cash assistance and need appropriate services as quickly as possible to become employed and self-sufficient. In order for refugees to move quickly off TANF, we believe it is crucial for these refugees to receive refugee-specific services that are designed to address the employment barriers that refugees typically face.

Some States are doing remarkably well in helping refugees achieve self-sufficiency. For this reason, this may be a good time for these States to re-examine the range of services they currently offer to refugees and expand beyond employment services to address the broader needs that refugees have in order to successfully integrate into the community.

States should also expect that these funds will be made available to pay for social services which are provided to refugees who participate in Wilson/Fish projects. Section 412(e)(7)(A) of the INA provides that:

The Secretary [of HHS] shall develop and implement alternative projects for refugees who have been in the United States less than thirty-six months, under which refugees are provided interim support, medical services, support [social] services, and case management, as needed, in a manner that encourages self-sufficiency, reduces welfare dependency, and fosters greater coordination among the resettlement agencies and service providers.

This provision is generally known as the Wilson/Fish Amendment. The Department has already issued a separate notice in the **Federal Register** with respect to applications for such projects (64 FR 19793 (April 22, 1999)).

II. (Reserved for Discussion of Comments in Final Notice)

III. Allocation Formulas

Of the funds available for FY 2001 for social services, \$71,927,850 is allocated to States in accordance with the formula specified in A. below. In addition, \$20.5

million in set-aside funds are allocated in accordance with the formulas specified in B. and C. below.

A. A State's allowable formula allocation is calculated as follows:

1. The total amount of funds determined by the Director to be available for this purpose; divided by—
2. The total number of refugees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and Amerasians from Vietnam who arrived in the United States not more than 3 years prior to the beginning of the fiscal year for which the funds are appropriated, as shown by the ORR Refugee Data System. The resulting per capita amount is multiplied by—
3. The number of persons in item 2, above, in the State as of October 1, 2000, adjusted for estimated secondary migration.

The calculation above yields the formula allocation for each State. Minimum allocations for small States are taken into account.

B. A State's allowable first set-aside allocation is calculated as follows:

1. The total amount of funds determined by the Director to be available for this purpose; divided by—
2. The total number of refugees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and Amerasians from Vietnam who arrived in the United States not more than 3 years prior to the beginning of the fiscal year for which the funds are appropriated, as shown by the ORR Refugee Data System. The resulting per capita amount is multiplied by—
3. The number of persons in item 2 above, in the State as of October 1, 2000, adjusted for estimated secondary migration.

C. A State's allowable second set-aside allocation is calculated as follows:

1. The total amount of funds determined by the Director to be available for this purpose; divided by—
2. The total number of asylees who were granted asylum in FY 2000 by the INS asylum corps (22,809), the asylum judges of the Executive Office of Immigration Review (12,763), and the Bureau of Immigration Appeals (1,402).

The calculations in B. and C. above yields the set-aside formula allocations for each State.

Adding the results for A., B., and C. above yields the total formula allocation for each State.

IV. Basis of Population Estimates

The population estimates for the allocation of funds in FY 2001 for the proposed formula social service allocation and the first set-aside are based on data on refugee arrivals from the ORR Refugee Data System, adjusted as of October 1, 2000, for estimated secondary migration. The data base includes refugees of all nationalities—Amerasians from Vietnam, and Cuban and Haitian entrants.

For fiscal year 2001, ORR's proposed formula social service allocations for the States are based on the numbers of refugees, Amerasians, and entrants in the ORR data base. The numbers are based upon the arrivals during the preceding three fiscal years: 1998, 1999, and 2000.

The estimates of secondary migration were based on data submitted by all participating States on Form ORR-11 on secondary migrants who have resided in the U.S. for 36 months or less, as of September 30, 2000. The total migration reported by each State was summed, yielding in- and out-migration figures and a net migration figure for each State. The net migration figure was applied to the State's total arrival figure, resulting in a revised population estimate.

Estimates were developed separately for refugees and entrants and then combined into a total estimated 3-year refugee/entrant population for each State. Eligible Amerasians are included in the refugee figures. Havana parolees (HP's) are enumerated in a separate column in Table 1, below because they are tabulated separately from other entrants. For FY 2000 and FY 1999, Havana parolee arrivals for all States are based on actual data. For FY 1998, Florida's HP's (10,183) are based on actual data, while HP's in other States (3,258) are prorated according to the State's proportion of the three-year entrant populations.

If a State does not agree with ORR's population estimate and wishes ORR to reconsider its numbers, it should submit written evidence to ORR, including a list of refugees identified by name, alien number, date of birth, and date of arrival. Listings of refugees who are not identified by their alien number will not be considered. Such evidence should be submitted separately from comments on

the proposed allocation formula no later than 30 days from the date of publication of this notice and should be addressed to: Loren Bussert, Division of Refugee Self-Sufficiency, Office of Refugee Resettlement, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447, Telephone: (202) 401-4732.

The proposed second set-aside is based on the number of asylees granted asylum in FY 2000, according to data received from the Department of Justice for cases approved by the Asylum Corps, the immigration judges of the Executive Office of Immigration Review, and the Bureau of Immigration Appeals. These data show the asylee's zip code of record. Because we are asking States to set up systems to identify and serve those asylees in need of services, we have added this second set-aside amount to the total allocation for States. During the next year, ORR intends to revise the ORR-11 and seek OMB approval to capture the number of asylees and secondary migrants accessing services at the county level. ORR will adjust the social services formula 3-year population based on these data.

Table 1, below, shows the estimated 3-year populations, as of October 1, 2000, of refugees (col. 1), entrants (col. 2), Havana parolees (col. 3); total refugee/entrant population, (col. 4); the proposed formula amounts which the population estimates yield, (col. 5); the proposed allocation amounts after allowing for the minimum amounts (col. 6); first proposed set aside allocation, (col. 7); the 1 year asylee population (col. 8); the second proposed set-aside amount, (col. 9); and the total proposed allocation (col. 10).

V. Proposed Allocation Amounts

Funding subsequent to the publication of this notice will be contingent upon the submittal and approval of a State annual services plan that is developed on the basis of a local consultative process, as required by 45 CFR 400.11(b)(2) in the ORR regulations.

The following amounts are for allocation for refugee social services in FY 2000:

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED THREE-YEAR REFUGEE/ENTRANT/PAROLEE POPULATIONS OF STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE REFUGEE PROGRAM—PROPOSED SET-ASIDES, AND PROPOSED SOCIAL SERVICE FORMULA AMOUNT AND ALLOCATION FOR FY 2001

State	Refugees ¹	Entrants	Havana Parolees ²	Total population	Proposed formula amount	Proposed allocation	Proposed set-aside (\$10.5 million)	Asylees ³	Proposed asylee set-aside (\$10 million)	Total proposed allocation
Alabama	456	5	59	520	\$126,497	\$126,497	\$18,568	33	\$8,925	\$153,990
Alaska ⁴	0	0	0	0				0		
Arizona	7,402	433	190	8,025	1,953,272	1,953,272	286,717	306	82,761	2,322,750
Arkansas	29	9	8	46	11,286	75,000	1,657	21	5,680	82,337
California	29,322	53	379	29,754	7,242,172	7,242,172	1,063,065	13,573	3,670,958	11,976,195
Colorado	3,316	3	5	3,324	809,058	809,058	118,760	262	70,861	998,679
Connecticut	3,427	28	102	3,557	865,737	865,737	127,080	194	52,469	1,045,286
Delaware	122	11	1	134	32,609	75,000	4,787	50	13,523	93,310
Dist. of Columbia	968	1	9	978	238,032	238,032	34,940	296	80,056	353,028
Florida	13,465	11,984	34,836	60,285	14,673,438	14,673,438	2,153,886	5,313	1,436,956	18,264,280
Georgia	11,189	33	118	11,340	2,760,068	2,760,068	405,145	559	151,187	3,316,400
Hawaii	93	0	0	93	22,754	75,000	3,340	24	6,491	84,831
Idaho ⁵	2,076	0	3	2,079	506,031	506,031	74,279	5	1,352	581,662
Illinois	10,808	14	190	11,012	2,680,373	2,680,373	393,447	526	142,262	3,216,082
Indiana	1,831	4	13	1,848	449,909	449,909	66,041	101	27,316	543,266
Iowa	5,271	0	3	5,274	1,283,691	1,283,691	188,430	41	11,089	1,483,210
Kansas	727	1	8	736	179,233	179,233	26,309	44	11,900	217,442
Kentucky ⁶	3,596	1,171	396	5,163	1,256,780	1,256,780	184,480	34	9,196	1,450,456
Louisiana	1,486	104	78	1,668	406,080	406,080	59,608	41	11,089	476,777
Maine	869	0	0	869	211,516	211,516	31,048	14	3,786	246,350
Maryland	3,073	10	34	3,117	758,763	758,763	111,377	1,582	427,868	1,298,008
Massachusetts	6,360	102	78	6,540	1,591,910	1,591,910	233,673	682	184,454	2,010,037
Michigan	7,777	713	191	8,681	2,113,084	2,113,084	310,175	411	111,159	2,534,418
Minnesota	10,212	2	7	10,221	2,487,900	2,487,900	365,194	555	150,105	3,003,199
Mississippi	68	5	8	81	19,680	75,000	2,889	34	9,196	87,085
Missouri	8,312	6	22	8,340	2,029,937	2,029,937	297,971	26	7,032	2,334,940
Montana	12	0	2	14	3,408	75,000	500	1	270	75,770
Nebraska	2,641	3	22	2,666	649,024	649,024	95,269	36	9,737	754,030
Nevada ⁶	1,192	734	341	2,267	551,717	551,717	80,986	181	48,953	681,656
New Hampshire	1,718	0	0	1,718	418,163	418,163	61,381	25	6,762	486,306
New Jersey	4,363	265	818	5,446	1,325,618	1,325,618	194,585	765	206,902	1,727,105
New Mexico	433	330	229	992	241,393	241,393	35,434	10	2,705	279,532
New York	22,435	1,113	526	24,074	5,859,658	5,859,658	860,128	6,865	1,856,710	8,576,496
North Carolina	4,662	15	57	4,734	1,152,281	1,152,281	169,141	219	59,231	1,380,653
North Dakota	1,545	0	0	1,545	376,055	376,055	55,200	0		431,255
Ohio	4,613	5	28	4,646	1,130,930	1,130,930	166,007	203	54,903	1,351,840
Oklahoma	403	0	8	411	100,135	100,135	14,699	62	16,769	131,603
Oregon	4,667	460	170	5,297	1,289,303	1,289,303	189,254	132	35,701	1,514,258
Pennsylvania	7,710	166	158	8,034	1,955,475	1,955,475	287,040	656	177,422	2,419,937
Rhode Island	596	1	8	605	147,362	147,362	21,631	87	23,530	192,523
South Carolina	189	1	21	211	51,337	89,166	7,536	37	10,007	106,709
South Dakota ⁶	1,257	0	0	1,257	305,955	305,955	44,911	10	2,705	353,571
Tennessee	3,180	7	118	3,305	804,448	804,448	118,083	267	72,213	994,744
Texas	13,246	831	459	14,536	3,538,020	3,538,020	519,339	788	213,123	4,270,482
Utah	3,422	0	2	3,424	833,524	833,524	122,351	48	12,982	968,857
Vermont	981	0	0	981	238,777	238,777	35,050	9	2,434	276,261
Virginia	4,836	111	72	5,019	1,221,716	1,221,716	179,333	1,340	362,417	1,763,466
Washington	17,297	0	36	17,333	4,218,836	4,218,836	619,275	382	103,316	4,941,427
West Virginia	8	0	0	8	1,947	75,000	286	4	1,082	76,368
Wisconsin	1,665	2	4	1,671	406,813	406,813	59,715	120	32,455	498,983
Wyoming ⁴										
Total	235,326	18,736	39,822	293,884	71,531,705	71,927,850	10,500,000	36,974	10,000,000	92,427,850

¹ Includes: refugees and Amerasian immigrants from Vietnam adjusted for secondary migration.

² For FY 1999 and FY 2000, Havana Parolee arrivals for all States are based on actual data. For FY 1998, Florida's HP's are based on actual data, while Havana Parolees in other States are prorated according to the State's proportion of the three-year entrant population.

³ Includes individuals granted asylum in FY 2000 by the INS asylum corps (22,809), the immigration judges of the Executive Office of Immigration Review (12,763), and the Bureau of Immigration Appeals (1,402). These numbers were not used for the social services allocation. See narrative for their use in the \$10 million asylee set-aside.

⁴ Alaska and Wyoming no longer participate in the Refugee Program.

⁵ The allocation for Idaho is expected to be awarded to the State replacement designee.

⁶ The allocations for South Dakota, Kentucky, and Nevada are expected to be awarded to Wilson/Fish projects.

VI. Paperwork Reduction Act

This notice does not create any reporting or recordkeeping requirements requiring OMB clearance.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 93.566 Refugee Assistance—State Administered Programs)

Dated: April 20, 2001.

Carmel Clay-Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement.

[FR Doc. 01-10443 Filed 4-26-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Refugee Resettlement Program; Proposed Availability of Formula Allocation Funding for FY 2001 Targeted Assistance Grants for Services to Refugees in Local Areas of High Need

AGENCY: Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), ACF, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed availability of formula allocation funding for FY 2001 targeted assistance grants to States for services to refugees in local areas of high need.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the proposed availability of funds and award procedures for FY 2001 targeted assistance grants for services to refugees under the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP). These grants are for service provision in localities with large refugee populations, high refugee concentrations, and high use of public assistance, and where specific needs exist for supplementation of currently available resources.

This notice continues the eligibility of those 50 counties located in 29 States that previously qualified for and received targeted assistance program (TAP) grants beginning in FY 1999 as a result of the three-year qualification process. The FY 2001 TAP formula allocations are based on the same formula as in FY 1999, updated to reflect arrivals during the five-year period from FY 1996 through FY 2000.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 29, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address written comments, in duplicate, to: Gayle A. Smith, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, D.C. 20447.

Application Deadline: The deadline for applications will be established by

the final notice. Applications should not be sent in response to this notice of proposed allocations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gayle Smith, Director, Division of Refugee Self-Sufficiency, (202) 205-3590, e-mail: gsmith@acf.dhhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Purpose and Scope

This notice announces the proposed availability of funds for grants for targeted assistance for services to refugees in counties where, because of factors such as unusually large refugee populations, high refugee concentrations, and high use of public assistance, there exists and can be demonstrated a specific need for supplementation of resources for services to this population.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has available \$49,477,000 in FY 2001 funds for the targeted assistance program (TAP) as part of the FY 2001 appropriation for the Department of Health and Human Services (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, as enacted into law by section 1(a)(1) of Pub. L. No. 106-554).

The Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) proposes to use the \$49,477,000 in targeted assistance funds as follows:

- \$44,529,300 will be allocated to States under the five-year population formula, as set forth in this notice.
- \$4,947,700 (10 percent of the total) will be used to award discretionary grants to States under separate continuation grant awards.

The purpose of targeted assistance grants is to provide, through a process of local planning and implementation, direct services intended to result in the economic self-sufficiency and reduced welfare dependency of refugees through job placements.

The targeted assistance program reflects the requirements of section 412(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), which provides that targeted assistance grants shall be made available "(i) primarily for the purpose of facilitating refugee employment and achievement of self-sufficiency, (ii) in a manner that does not supplant other refugee program funds and that assures that not less than 95 percent of the amount of the grant award is made available to the county or other local entity."

II. Authorization

Targeted assistance projects are funded under the authority of section 412(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended by

the Refugee Assistance Extension Act of 1986 (Pub. L. No. 99-605), 8 U.S.C. 1522(c); section 501(a) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Pub. L. No. 96-422), 8 U.S.C. 1522 note, insofar as it incorporates by reference with respect to Cuban and Haitian entrants the authorities pertaining to assistance for refugees established by section 412(c)(2) of the INA, as cited above; section 584(c) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1988, as included in the FY 1988 Continuing Resolution (Pub. L. No. 100-202), insofar as it incorporates by reference with respect to certain Amerasians from Vietnam the authorities pertaining to assistance for refugees established by section 412(c)(2) of the INA, as cited above, including certain Amerasians from Vietnam who are U.S. citizens, as provided under title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Acts, 1989 (Pub. L. No. 100-461), 1990 (Pub. L. No. 101-167), and 1991 (Pub. L. No. 101-513).

III. Use of Funds

Targeted assistance funding must be used to assist refugee families to achieve economic independence in accordance with regulations at 45 CFR part 400. The term "refugee" includes persons who meet all requirements of 45 CFR 400.43 (as amended by 65 FR 15409 (March 22, 2000)). In addition to the statutory requirement that TAP funds be used "primarily for the purpose of facilitating refugee employment" (section 412(c)(2)(B)(i)), funds awarded under this program are intended to help fulfill the Congressional intent that "employable refugees should be placed on jobs as soon as possible after their arrival in the United States" (section 412(a)(1)(B)(i) of the INA). Therefore, in accordance with 45 CFR 400.313, targeted assistance funds must be used primarily for employability services designed to enable refugees to obtain jobs with less than one year's participation in the targeted assistance program in order to achieve economic self-sufficiency as soon as possible. Under 45 CFR 400.316, a State may provide the same scope of services under targeted assistance as may be provided to refugees under 45 CFR 400.154 and 45 CFR 400.155, with the exception of 45 CFR 400.155(h). Targeted assistance services may continue to be provided after a refugee has entered a job to help the refugee retain employment or move to a better job. Targeted assistance funds may not be used for long-term training programs such as vocational training that last for