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January 4, 2002

MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES MANUAL LETTER NO.: 256

TO: All Holders of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual

Enclosed are revisions to Article 24, Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA), of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual.

Procedure Revision**Description**

Article 24

Revisions to the Procedures for RMA due to clarifications in policy and a new category of Refugee under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

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If you have any questions concerning a specific revision, please contact Ms. Elena Lara of my staff at (916) 657-0712.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Richard Brantingham
Acting Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES MANUAL

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24A -- INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

It has been the policy of the United States (U.S.) to provide asylum and humanitarian assistance to persons subject to persecution in their homelands. This humanitarian resettlement assistance is provided through the states but is funded through the federal government. The purpose of this refugee assistance is to allow refugees to more quickly adapt to their new country, become economically self-sufficient, and ultimately participate in and contribute to their new communities.

2. BACKGROUND

Congress created the Cuban Refugee Program in 1962. This Act provided 100 percent federal refugee funding for cash assistance, medical assistance, and social services programs for needy Cuban refugees. Congress passed similar legislation for Indochinese refugees in 1975. In 1977, legislation was passed which required the transfer of refugees into the standard Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and Medicaid programs if the refugees fit those programs, and provided for the phasedown of both special refugee programs over a period of from four to six years.

The federal Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212), enacted March 17, 1980, repealed the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 completely, but left in place the Cuban Program Phasedown (formerly the Cuban Refugee Program) for all Cubans who entered the U.S. prior to October 1, 1978. Public Law 96-212 removes national origin as an eligibility factor for refugee assistance and provides for uniform treatment for all persons who are admitted to the U.S. as refugees. Cuban refugees who entered the U.S. on or after October 1, 1978 are included under this Act. The Act originally provided for special refugee funding (100 percent FFP) for a period of not more than 36 months beginning with the refugee's entry into the United States. The present time eligibility period is eight months.

The Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-422), enacted October 10, 1980, was amended (Fascell/Stone Amendment) to provide Cuban and Haitian entrants benefits similar to those provided to refugees. (Most Cuban and Haitian entrants are not eligible under the Refugee Act since they are not considered refugees). Entrants and refugees are given the same time eligibility period depending on current budget allotments.

Under Section 584, Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, incorporated as part of Fiscal Year 1988 Continuing Resolution, Public Law 100-202, certain Amerasians in Vietnam and their close family members are to be admitted through the Orderly Departure Program beginning March 20, 1988, under immigrant status. This legislation grants this group status as refugees and makes them potentially eligible to Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) funded cash assistance, medical assistance and social services.

3. FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 400 (Federal Register, Vol. 54, No. 22, 2/3/89 and Vol. 60, No. 124, 6/28/95), provides federal refugee funding, subject to availability, to states for cash and medical assistance for eligible refugees. As of July 1, 1989 and October 1, 1995, these regulations set forth the requirements for receipt of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), employment services, Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA), and refugee social services.

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The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193) took effect on August 22, 1996. Refugees as identified in 24D-12 are Qualified Aliens under this legislation and are eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal if they meet all eligibility requirements. For specific eligibility information, please refer to the chart on page 24D-2.

Under recent revisions to Title 45, CFR, Part 400 effective June 20, 2000, Refugees will continue to receive RMA/EMA benefits without redetermination or change in benefits if they are discontinued from cash assistance for any reason. If they are receiving RMA or Entrants Medical Assistance (EMA) only, and the Refugee receives increased earnings from employment, the Refugee will continue to receive RMA/EMA until the end of the eight-month eligibility period without redetermination or a change in benefits. Every eligible Refugee is guaranteed eight months of medical assistance. Other changes will be reflected in Section 24B of this Article.

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, adults and children who are certified as being victims of a severe form of trafficking are to receive the same benefits and services as Refugees.

4. PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

Under the Refugee Act, the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) administers the program nationally in order to provide financial assistance, medical assistance, and social services to all refugees in the United States regardless of national origin.

Under a refugee resettlement state plan submitted to ORR, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is designated to administer the Refugee Resettlement Program for the State of California, and the Director of DSS is the State Refugee Coordinator.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is designated to administer the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) program for the State of California. DHS receives a grant directly from ORR for purposes of administering the RMA program. The Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch oversees the RMA program. The Refugee Health Branch in the Preventive Health Division oversees the refugee preventive health program through county refugee health coordinators to ensure that every refugee, upon initial entry into the State of California, is given a complete health assessment and screening and, if needed, follow-up treatment and care. This is also funded through ORR.

Every Refugee is to be determined ineligible for SSI, TANF, or the Medi-Cal programs by the county welfare department before they may be determined eligible for the RMA/EMA program for a period of eight months. However, a refugee who is RMA/EMA eligible receives the same benefits as a Medi-Cal beneficiary.

Refugee information is reported to the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) by the county welfare departments. This information is used by CDHS to claim 100 percent federal financial participation (FFP) for medical assistance rendered to time-eligible Refugees. CDSS uses this information to claim 100 percent FFP for Refugee Cash Assistance and for allocation of Refugee Employment Services and Targeted Assistance funding.

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5. CASE MONITORING

Through an agreement with the DSS Refugee Programs Branch, they do case monitoring for the RMA program along with the case monitoring for RCA cases in the counties. Since the same documentation and similar criteria except for a few Medi-Cal requirements must be met for RMA eligibility, it was decided that it was cost effective for DSS to monitor RMA cases along with RCA cases in their normal county case monitoring reviews. DHS provided an RMA case monitoring form to DSS for this process.



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24B -- ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. DEFINITION OF REFUGEE

For purposes of determining eligibility for assistance, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 50257, states that refugees and entrants who apply for Medi-Cal under the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) or Entrant Medical Assistance (EMA) programs shall meet the definition contained in the Department of Social Services Manual of Policy and Procedures (MPP) of "refugee" (MPP Sections 69.203.1 and 69.203.2), "children of refugees" (MPP Section 69-203.3), or "entrant" (MPP Section 69-301-305).

a. REFUGEE

(1) Persons identified by federal government as Refugees:

- An individual from Cambodia, Laos, or Vietnam who was paroled under Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), and who possesses a Form I-94 indicating the parole status.
- An individual from Cuba who entered the United States (U.S.) on or after October 1, 1978, and was paroled under Section 212(d)(5) of the INA as is indicated on Form I-94.
- An individual from any country other than Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam or Cuba who was paroled under Section 212(d)(5) of the INA as a refugee or asylee.
- An individual from any country admitted as a conditional entrant, prior to April 1, 1980, under section 203(a)(7) of the INA as is indicated on Form I-94.
- An individual from any country admitted as a refugee under Section 207 of the INA as indicated on Form I-94.
- All Asylees. An Asylee is an individual from any country who has been granted asylum under Section 208 of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) as indicated on Form I-94; I-94 with admission codes AS-1, AS-2, or AS-3; I-94 with Visa 92 (or V-92); Order of an Immigration Judge Granting Asylum under Section 208 of INA; or Asylum Approval Letter from an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Asylum Office. **(NOTE: DOE for all Asylees except Kurdish and Iraqui Asylees is date asylum is granted.)**
- An individual from any country who is now a permanent resident alien as indicated by a Form I-151 or I-551 (Resident Alien forms), who previously held one of the statuses specified above.
- An individual admitted under the Amerasian Homecoming Act as an Amerasian. Only Amerasians from Vietnam are eligible. Form I-94 with code AM1, AM2, AM3; I-551 with code AM1, AM2, AM3, AM6, AM7 or AM8; Vietnamese Exit Visa, Vietnamese passport, or U.S. passport if stamped AM1, AM2, or AM3.
- An individual or child who has been certified as a Victim of a Severe Form of Trafficking under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Must have Certification letter or letter for children. **(NOTE: DOE is date of certification.)**

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- (2) Persons not identified by the federal government as refugees:
- Any person with INS status of applicant for asylum or Humanitarian/Public Interest Parolee.
 - Those persons who are actually dependent upon a repatriated U.S. citizen, except those dependents who qualify as refugees (eligible to Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)/RMA/EMA after 90 days), and who meet one of the following categories of relationship with such citizen: spouse, parents, grandparents, unmarried minor (under 18), children (adopted children and stepchildren), unmarried adult children (dependent because of handicap), spouse's parents, spouse's grandparents and minor siblings of the repatriate and spouse.
- (3) Children of Refugees eligible for RMA/EMA and identified by the federal government as refugees:
- Children born in the U.S. of refugee parents are identified as a citizen child of a refugee.
 - Children who are born of a refugee and a U.S. citizen living with the refugee parent only are identified as a citizen child of a refugee.
 - Children who are born in U.S. of a refugee and a U.S. citizen where U.S. citizen is part of household **are not** eligible.
 - Children of refugees who are relinquished for foster care placement **are not** eligible.
 - Minor refugee children with no legal relationship to an adult should be referred to local county agency to establish that relationship.
- (4) Cuban/Haitian Entrants identified as Refugees and eligible for RMA/EMA:
- Cubans and Haitians who possess an INS Form I-94 which states "Cuban/Haitian Entrant (Status Pending)."
 - Haitians who possess an INS Form I-94 which states that the person is a citizen of Haiti who has been either "Paroled" or granted "Voluntary Departure" status.
 - Cubans who possess an INS Form I-94 which meets all of the following requirements: (a) states person is citizen of Cuba; (b) person was paroled on or after April 21, 1980; and (c) does **NOT** contain words "**Outstanding Order of Exclusion**".
 - **Cuban/Haitian Nationals paroled into the U.S. from Guantanamo or Havana with special status under the immigration laws for Cuban/Haitians. I-94 with notation "Public Interest Parolee per Presidential Policy" dated October 14, 1994.**

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Refugees and Entrants must be determined ineligible for California Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CaWORKs), Healthy Families, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) - based Medi-Cal or Medi-Cal Only before they can be placed in RMA/EMA.

a. Specific Requirements under RMA/EMA:

- (1) **Each member of the family** must be considered ineligible for the public assistance programs listed above before RMA/EMA benefits can be granted. If any individual in a family unit is eligible for medical assistance under Medi-Cal, then medical assistance under Medi-Cal must be granted and not RMA/EMA. If a refugee is ineligible for Medi-Cal because there is no linkage, then place the refugee in RMA/EMA because linkage is not a requirement for RMA/EMA. For example, under sections 1902(a)(10) and 1902(l) of the Social Security Act, certain children under age 19 may be eligible for Medi-Cal even though their parents are eligible for RMA/EMA. Medical assistance may not be provided to such children under RMA/EMA if they are eligible under Medi-Cal.
- (2) Refugee Children must be considered ineligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families medical assistance before being placed on RMA/EMA. For example, if a mother and child arrive in the U.S. one year or more after the father, and the father is employed, the child might either be eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families, but the mother may not be eligible for zero share of cost (SOC) Medi-Cal because of the father's income. Place the child in Medi-Cal or Healthy Families, if eligible, and the mother on RMA/EMA if she is ineligible for Medi-Cal or has a SOC.
- (3) Refugees must meet the financial eligibility requirements of the Medi-Cal program, or in those cases where a Refugee does not meet the income maintenance need level for zero SOC Medi-Cal, the individual may be placed on RMA/EMA if he or she is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). These Refugees are eligible for RMA with a zero SOC for the eight-month time eligibility period. If they are above the 200 percent of FPL, then they may receive RMA/EMA with a SOC for the eight-month time eligibility period.
- (4) Eligibility for RMA/EMA must be determined as of the date of application. This means whatever income/resources the Refugee has on the date he/she applies and signs the application for benefits; **NOT** the date of the interview, the date of processing the application, nor any date other than date of initial application. If the Refugee gains employment during the month of application, **after** the application date, the earnings **cannot** be counted as income.
- (5) In meeting the financial eligibility requirements for RMA/EMA, **do not consider the following as income::**
 - (a) Any resources remaining in the Refugee's country of origin,
 - (b) A sponsor's income and resources,
 - (c) In-kind services and/or shelter provided to Refugees by a sponsor or resettlement agency,
 - (d) Income earned after the date of application.

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- (e) Refugee Cash Assistance from a voluntary agency, the county welfare department, or from the federal Department of State or Department of Justice Reception and Placement programs.
- (6) County welfare departments must allow Refugee applicants who do not meet the financial eligibility standards for RMA/EMA to spend down as is done for Medi-Cal.
- (7) Refugees in receipt of RCA are automatically eligible for RMA/EMA until the end of the eight-month eligibility period. RCA can be cash assistance from the county welfare department, from a voluntary settlement agency, or can be a cash grant from the federal Department of State or Department of Justice Reception and Placement programs.
- (8) Receipt of RCA is not necessary for Refugees to be eligible for RMA/EMA. Refugees may apply for RMA/EMA benefits without receiving RCA.
- (9) Loss of RCA does not mean Loss of RMA/EMA. If a Refugee loses or is terminated from RCA for any reason, RMA/EMA must be continued without redetermination or change in benefits until the end of the eight-month time eligibility period.
- (10) If a Refugee on Medi-Cal receives increased earnings from employment and loses Medi-Cal coverage, counties must transfer the Refugee to zero SOC RMA/EMA until the end of the eight-month time eligibility period. If the Refugee is eligible for Transitional Medi-Cal (TMC) and the six-month TMC period is longer than the time remaining on RMA/EMA, then place the Refugee on TMC; i.e., whichever time period is longer.

b. Refugees ineligible for RMA/EMA:

Refugees who are full-time students in an institution of higher education (MPP Section 69-206.51) unless it is part of an employability plan developed by a county welfare department or its designee (MPP Sections 69-206.52, 69-206.53, or 69-206.54), or is part of a plan for an unaccompanied minor (69-213.23 or 69-213.62).

3. REFUGEES UNDER THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT (PRWORA) AND THE BALANCED BUDGET ACT (BBA)

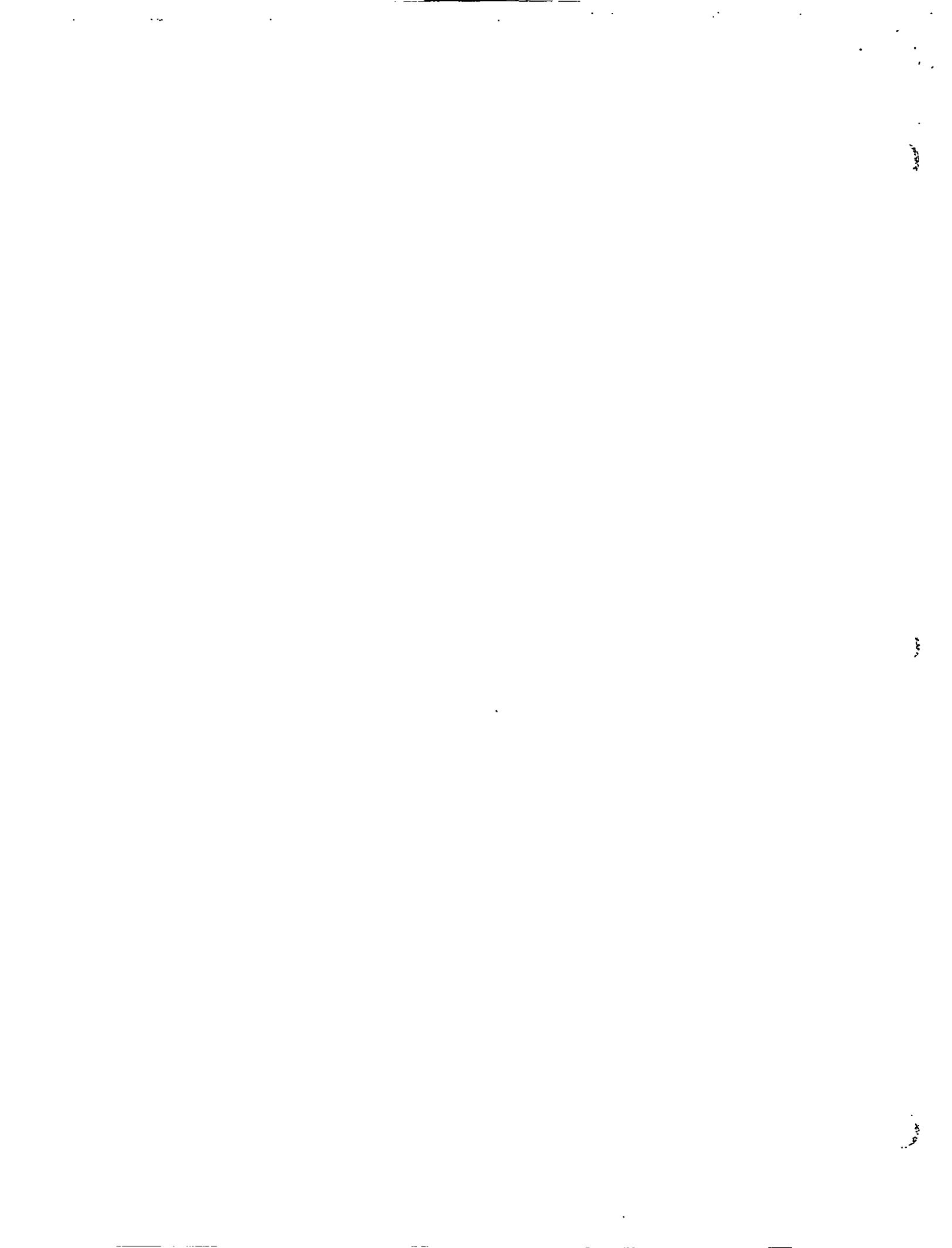
Refugees as identified on the chart on page 24D-1 of these procedures, who are otherwise eligible, are eligible for benefits under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and the Balanced Budget Act. These refugees are also eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/CalWORKs, Targeted Assistance, and Refugee Employment Services. Please refer to the proper social and employment services agency in your county.

4. RESETTLEMENT AGENCY IDENTIFICATION

- a. Voluntary resettlement agencies have Reception and Placement (R&P) contracts with the United States Department of State. They are supposed to:
 - (1) Ensure that newly arriving refugees are provided appropriate and adequate sponsorship.

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- (2) Assist these newly arriving refugees for at least 90 days after their arrival in the U.S.
 - (3) Assist them to become self-sufficient as soon as possible.
 - (4) Services to be provided are:
 - o Reception Services: Meeting refugees at the airport and providing decent housing, essential furnishings, food, and clothing.
 - o Counseling and Referral Services: Orientation to life in America, and referral for health screening and employment services.
- b. Under federal RMA regulations, refugees who are applying for medical assistance must provide the name of the resettlement agency to the county welfare department.
- (1) The county may then contact the resettlement agency and ask what assistance is being provided.
 - (2) The county may then enter the name and address of the agency in the case file.
 - (3) The county should record the amount of the resettlement cash grant, if any, in the case file.
 - (4) Do not consider in-kind services and shelter provided to a refugee by a resettlement agency as income.



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List of Voluntary Agencies in U.S.:

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Jewish Family and Children's Services
1600 Scott Street
San Francisco, California 94115
(415) 567-8860
Fax: (415) 922-5938

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Jewish Family Service of Orange City
2029 West Orangewood Avenue
Orange, California 92668
(714) 939-1111
Fax: (714) 939-1772

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Jewish Family Service of Greater Santa Clara
14855 Oka Road
Los Gatos, California 95030
(408) 356-7576
Fax: (408) 356-8736

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Jewish Family Services of Palm Springs
255 North El Cielo, No. 430-A
Palm Springs, California 92262
(619) 325-7281
Fax: (619) 325-2188

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Jewish Family Service of Sacramento
1333 Howe Avenue, Suite 103
Sacramento, California 95825
(916) 921-1921
Fax: (916) 921-1922

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
3715 Sixth Avenue
San Diego, California 92103
(619) 291-0473
Fax: (619) 291-2419

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Southeast Asian Community Center
875 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco, California 94109
(415) 885-2743
Fax: (415) 885-3253

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Santa Barbara Jewish Federation
104 West Anapamu, Suite A
Santa Barbara, California 93190
(619) 963-0244
Fax: (619) 963-1124

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Jewish Family Service
7620 Foothill Road
Ventura, California 93004
(805) 659-5144

International Rescue Committee
3727 West 6th Street, Suite 619
Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 386-6700
Fax: (213) 386-7916

International Rescue Committee
(East Asia)
3000 T Street, Suite 204
Sacramento, California 96816
(916) 739-0122

International Rescue Committee
(Former Soviet Union)
7238 Cromwell Way
Sacramento, California 95822
(916) 421-2163
Fax: (619) 284-2084

International Rescue Committee
4535 30th Street, Suite 110
San Diego, California 92116
(619) 641-7510
Fax: (619) 641-7520

International Rescue Committee
1370 Mission Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, California 94103
(415) 863-3777
Fax: (415) 863-9264

International Rescue Committee
900 East Gish Road, Suite E and F
San Jose, California 95112
(408) 453-3536
Fax: (408) 453-1088

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International Rescue Committee
1801 West 17th Street
Santa Ana, California 92706
(714) 953-6912
Fax: (714) 547-8738

International Institute of San Francisco
657 Mission Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, California 94105
(415) 538-8100
Fax: (415) 538-8111

International Institute of Los Angeles
14701 Friar Street
Van Nuys, California 91411
(818) 988-1332
Fax: (818) 988-1387

St. Anselm's Cross-Cultural
Community Center
13091 Galway Street
Garden Grove, California 92844
(714) 537-0608
Fax: (714) 537-7606

St. Anselm's Cross Cultural
Community Center
5250 Santa Monica Blvd., Rm. 305
Los Angeles, California 90029
(213) 667-0489
Fax: (213) 667-2271

Sacramento Refugee Ministry
2117 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825
(916) 568-5020
Fax: (916) 568-7268

U.S. Catholic Charities (USCC)
11100 Valley Boulevard, No. 207
El Monte, California 91731
(818) 442-0587
Fax: (818) 251-3444

USCC
Refugee Services
149 North Fulton Street
Fresno, California 93701
(209) 264-6400
Fax: (209) 237-7144

USCC
Catholic Charities
10505 Hawthorne Boulevard
Lennox, California 90304
(310) 672-2208
Fax: (310) 251-3444

USCC
Immigration and Refugee Department
1400 West 9th Street
Los Angeles, California 90015
(213) 251-3489
Fax: (213) 251-3444

USCC
Catholic Charities
1810 Canal Street
Merced, California 95340
(209) 383-0283
Fax: (209) 383-3975

USCC
1232 33rd Avenue
Oakland, California 94601
(510) 532-2515
Fax: (510) 532-3837

USCC
Catholic Social Services
5890 Newman Court
Sacramento, California 95819
(916) 452-1445
Fax: (916) 452-4099

USCC
Catholic Charities
1450 North D Street
San Bernardino, California 92405
(909) 388-1239
Fax: (909) 384-1130

USCC
Catholic Charities
814 Mission Street, 6th Floor
San Francisco, California 94103
(415) 442-5217
Fax: (415) 281-1230

USCC
Catholic Charities
4575-A Mission George Place
San Diego, California 92120
(619) 287-9454
Fax: (619) 287-6328

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USCC

Catholic Charities
2625 Zanker Road, 2nd Floor
San Jose, California 95134
(408) 944-0362
Fax: (408) 944-0347

USCC

Catholic Charities
1506 Brookhollow, Suite 112
Santa Ana, California 92705
(714) 662-7500
Fax: (714) 545-7163

USCC

Refugee Resettlement Office
516 Morgan Street
Santa Rosa, California 95401
(707) 578-6000
Fax: (707) 578-3710

USCC

Refugee Resettlement Office
1106 North El Dorado Street
Stockton, California 95202
(209) 948-2557
Fax: (209) 948-2559

World Relief

Sacramento Resettlement Office
4748 Engle Road
Carmichael, California 95608
(916) 978-2650
Fax: (916) 978-2658

World Relief

Fresno Resettlement Office
845 West Weldon Avenue
Fresno, California 93705
(209) 233-5323
Fax: (209) 233-5323

World Relief

Garden Grove Resettlement Office
7461 Garden Grove Boulevard, Suite B
Garden Grove, California 92641
(714) 890-0665
Fax: (714) 890-0366

World Relief

Glendale SubOffice
422 Wing Street, No. 1
Glendale, California 9120-5
(818) 243-7818
Fax: (818) 243-7840

World Relief

Modesto SubOffice
824 Cadillac Drive
Modesto, California 95351
(209) 577-2779
Fax: (209) 577-2779

World Relief

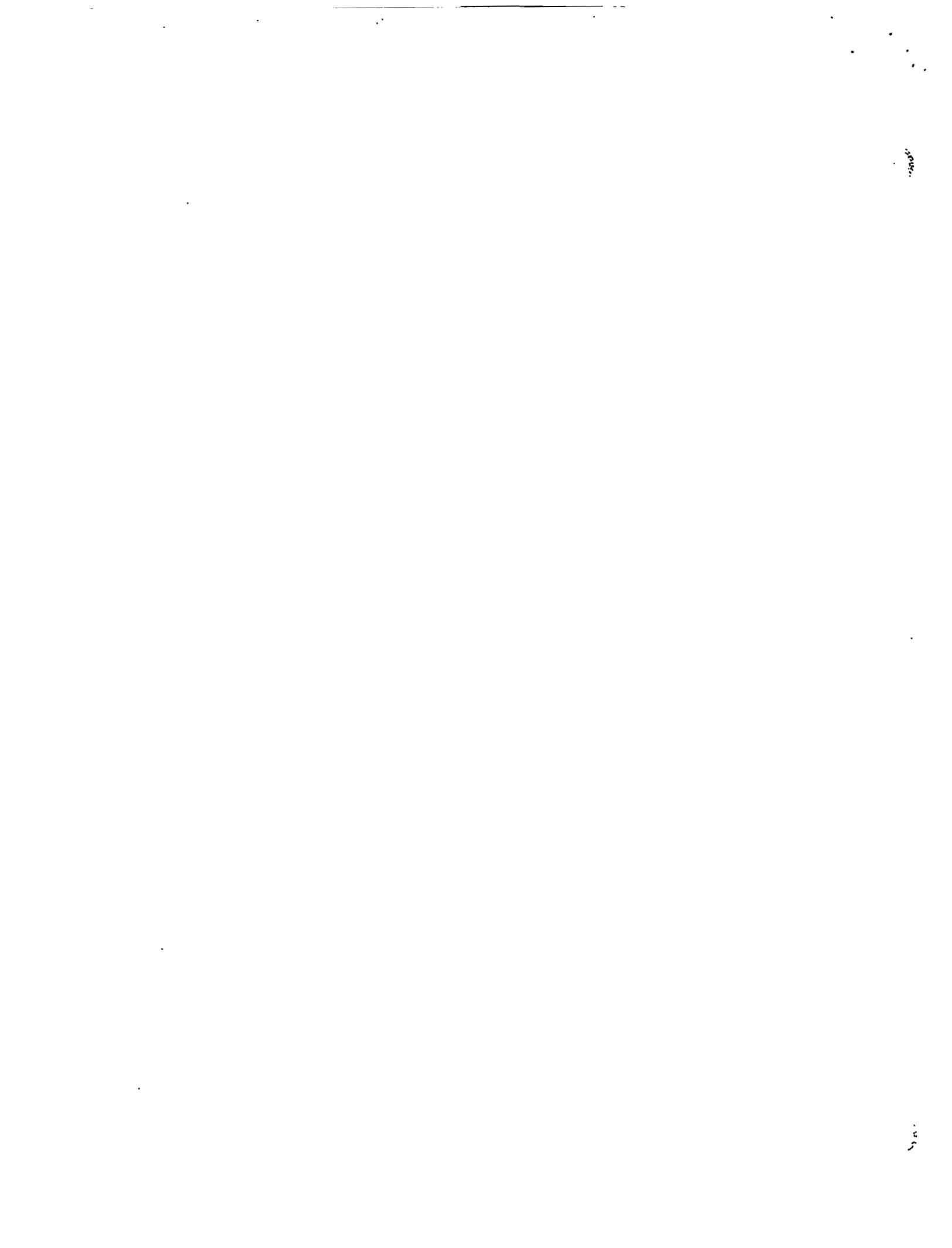
San Francisco Resettlement Office
1095 Market Street, Suite 719
San Francisco, California 94103
(415) 431-5194
Fax: (415) 431-5198

World Relief

San Jose SubOffice
218 Kirk Avenue
San Jose, California 95127
(408) 729-3786
Fax: (408) 729-3086

World Relief

Stock SubOffice
829 Rosemarie, Suite G
Stockton, California 95207
(209) 952-1414
Fax: (209) 952-5848



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5. AID CODES

Aid codes are used to classify and report specific benefits provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Aid codes for refugees are:

<u>CODE</u>	<u>BENEFITS</u>	<u>SHARE/COST</u>	<u>PROGRAM DESCRIPTION</u>
01	FULL	NO	Refugee Cash Assistance (Federal Financial Participation (FFP)). Includes unaccompanied children. Covers all eligible refugees during their first eight months in the U.S. Unaccompanied children are not subject to the eight-month/limitation provision.
OA	FULL	NO	Refugee Cash Assistance (FFP). Includes unaccompanied children. Covers all eligible refugees during their first eight months in the U.S. This population is the same as Aid Code 01 except they are exempt from CalWORKs grant reductions on behalf of the Assistance Payments Demonstration Project/California Work pays Demonstration Project.
02	FULL	YES/NO	Refugee Medical Assistance/Entrant Medical Assistance (FFP). Covers refugees and entrants who need Medi-Cal and who do not qualify for or want cash assistance.
08	FULL	NO	Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA)(FFP). Provides ECA benefits to Cuban/Haitian entrants, including unaccompanied children who are eligible, during their first eight months in the U.S. (For entrants, the month begins with their date of parole.) Unaccompanied children are not subject to the eight-month limitation provision.

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6. TRANSITIONAL REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Pursuant to Title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 400, as amended on June 20, 2000, Refugees on RMA/EMA are entitled to RMA/EMA benefits until the end of their eight-month time eligibility period with no redetermination or change in benefits even if they lose RCA cash benefits because of increased earnings from employment or for any other reason. Therefore, there is no longer a separate Transitional Refugee Medical Assistance program.

For Refugee family assistance units in RCA, if the head of the family loses RCA benefits for any reason, place the family unit in RMA with no redetermination or change in benefits for the remaining time eligibility period. Each individual family member retains his or her own time eligibility period from date of entry.

For refugees in a matching grant program where a voluntary resettlement agency provides cash and medical benefits for up to four months with direct Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) funding, if the refugee is employed at the end of the four months, he or she now can automatically be placed on zero SOC RMA until the end of the eight-month eligibility period. If a Refugee loses RCA from any program (matching grant, Fish-Wilson, or RCA from any agency) for any reason, that Refugee is entitled to RMA/EMA benefits for the remaining time eligibility period without a redetermination or change in coverage.

Refugees who are discontinued from CalWORKs and are no longer eligible for Section 1931(b) Medi-Cal benefits, or refugees who were discontinued from Section 1931(b)-Only benefits may be eligible for up to two years of no cost Medi-Cal or four months of no cost Medi-Cal if they meet the eligibility requirements of either the TMC or Four Months Continuing Program as described in Article 5B of these Procedures.

7. TIME ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

ORR sets forth the requirements for receipt of RCA and RMA. When this program first began in 1980 all refugees were entitled to 36 months of 100 percent of refugee resettlement funding for cash and medical assistance. Now, Congress has only appropriated 100 percent funding for eight months of eligibility. This funding is only available for refugees in RCA Aid Code 01, RMA Aid Code 02, and EMA Aid Code 08, which is for Cuban/Haitian Entrants. All other refugees in SSI, CalWORKs, and Medi-Cal are paid for through the normal 50/50 General Fund/Federal Fund Match.

Under federal and state regulation, eligibility for RMA or EMA programs shall be limited to the shorter of the following periods:

- a. The refugee's first eight months of U.S. residency, beginning with the month of entry, or the Entrant's (including Entrant children born in U.S. resettlement camps) first eight months of parole (release from INS custody).
- b. The time period for which the Department of Health Services (DHS) determines that sufficient federal funds are available under the Refugee Resettlement Program and Cuban and Haitian Entrant Program.

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8. REDETERMINATION

When Refugees in aid codes 01, 0A, 02, and 08 have their eligibility for Medicaid benefits redetermined prior to the end of their eight-month RMA/EMA eligibility period, this redetermination must comply with the federal Medicaid regulations for redetermination. Federal regulations require Medi-Cal benefits be maintained until the beneficiary's eligibility for ongoing benefits can be determined.

The county should conduct an examination of the file to see if there is any other eligibility for Medi-Cal. If there is not enough information in the file to make a determination, additional information can then be requested from the recipient. Refugees in aid codes 01, 0A, or 08 will be eligible for Aid Code 38 Medi-Cal benefits until the Medi-Cal redetermination is completed. Refugees in RMA Aid Code 02 must be placed in another aid code while awaiting redetermination if it occurs after eight months of Refugee aid.

Refugees receiving SSI benefits receive full-scope Medi-Cal. If a refugee is discontinued from SSI, the appropriate procedures are:

- Medi-Cal benefits be maintained at current level until a redetermination demonstrates the beneficiary is not eligible for Medi-Cal only benefits.
- Complete required redetermination for beneficiaries losing categorical linkage to Medi-Cal.
- Use information on SDX from Social Security Administration (SSA) to transfer these individuals into the medically needy aid codes: 14, 24, or 64 with an Eligibility Status Code of "-6" on Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS). The INQX screen will show an "N13" termination code and the INQM screen will display Medi-Cal termination date.
- Send information notice at end of month of termination to notify beneficiaries that their Medi-Cal eligibility is now the responsibility of the State and not SSA.
- Send renewal packet and cover letter based on individual's former SSI redetermination month on MEDS INQM screen.

9. NOTICE OF ACTION

When sending a Notice of Action (NOA) to a Refugee, the notice must distinguish clearly that it relates to RMA. Counties are to indicate on the NOA that assistance is granted, denied, or terminated, and the NOA must specify the program to make sure it is a Notice for RMA or Medi-Cal. If the recipient is determined ineligible for Medi-Cal, but eligible for RMA, the NOA must so state. Counties should follow requirements for NOA's per Title 22, CCR, Sections 50179 and 50179.5. This will meet the requirements of federal regulation 45 CFR 400.93 for RMA.

Suggested NOA Language:

1. The reason for this denial/discontinuance is that you are at the end of your eight-month eligibility period for RMA and you are not eligible for any other Medi-Cal program. Reference: 45 CFR Part 400.
2. The reason for this notice is that you are at the end of your eight-month eligibility period for RMA, and you have been evaluated for benefits under other Medi-Cal programs. Effective (DD/MM/YY), you are eligible/ineligible for Medi-Cal benefits because of _____. Reference: 45 CFR Part 400.



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For Example: NOA FOR DENIAL/DISCONTINUANCE:

State of California - Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Health Services

**MEDI-CAL
NOTICE OF ACTION
DENIAL/DISCONTINUANCE FOR THE
REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (RMA)
ENTRANT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (EMA)**

(COUNTY STAMP)

Notice date: _____
Case number: _____
Worker name/number: _____
Worker telephone number: _____
This affects _____

As of _____ your eligibility for the Refugee/Entrant Medical Assistance program is denied/discontinued because:

- You are at the end of your eight-month eligibility period for RMA/EMA and you are not eligible for any other Medi-Cal program.
- You are at the end of your eight-month eligibility period for RMA/EMA, and you have been evaluated for benefits under other Medi-Cal programs. You are eligible for Medi-Cal benefits under one of these other programs. You will receive a separate Notice of Action regarding the approval of these benefits.
- Your property of \$ _____ is more than the property limit for an individual/family of _____.
Your property used in this determination is _____. Enclosed please find the Medi-Cal General Property Limitations (MC Information Notice 007) which provides information for you to spend down your property in order to qualify for Medi-Cal or RMA/EMA.
- Other _____

DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR PLASTIC BENEFITS IDENTIFICATION CARD (BIC). You can use it again if you become or are eligible for another Medi-Cal program.

The Regulation which requires this action is Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 400 and 401.



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NOA FOR APPROVAL OF BENEFITS:

State of California - Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Health Services

**MEDI-CAL
NOTICE OF ACTION
APPROVAL FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE
REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (RMA)
ENTRANT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (EMA)**

(COUNTY STAMP)

Notice date: _____
Case number: _____
Worker name/number: _____
Worker telephone number: _____
This affects: _____

Your application dated _____ for the Refugee/Entrant Medical Assistance program has been approved.

Effective _____, you are entitled to receive medical services as follows:

- You are eligible for this program at no cost.
- Your income exceeds the 200% Federal Poverty Level limit of \$ _____ for an individual/family of _____. Therefore, you are eligible for this program with a monthly share of cost of \$ _____.

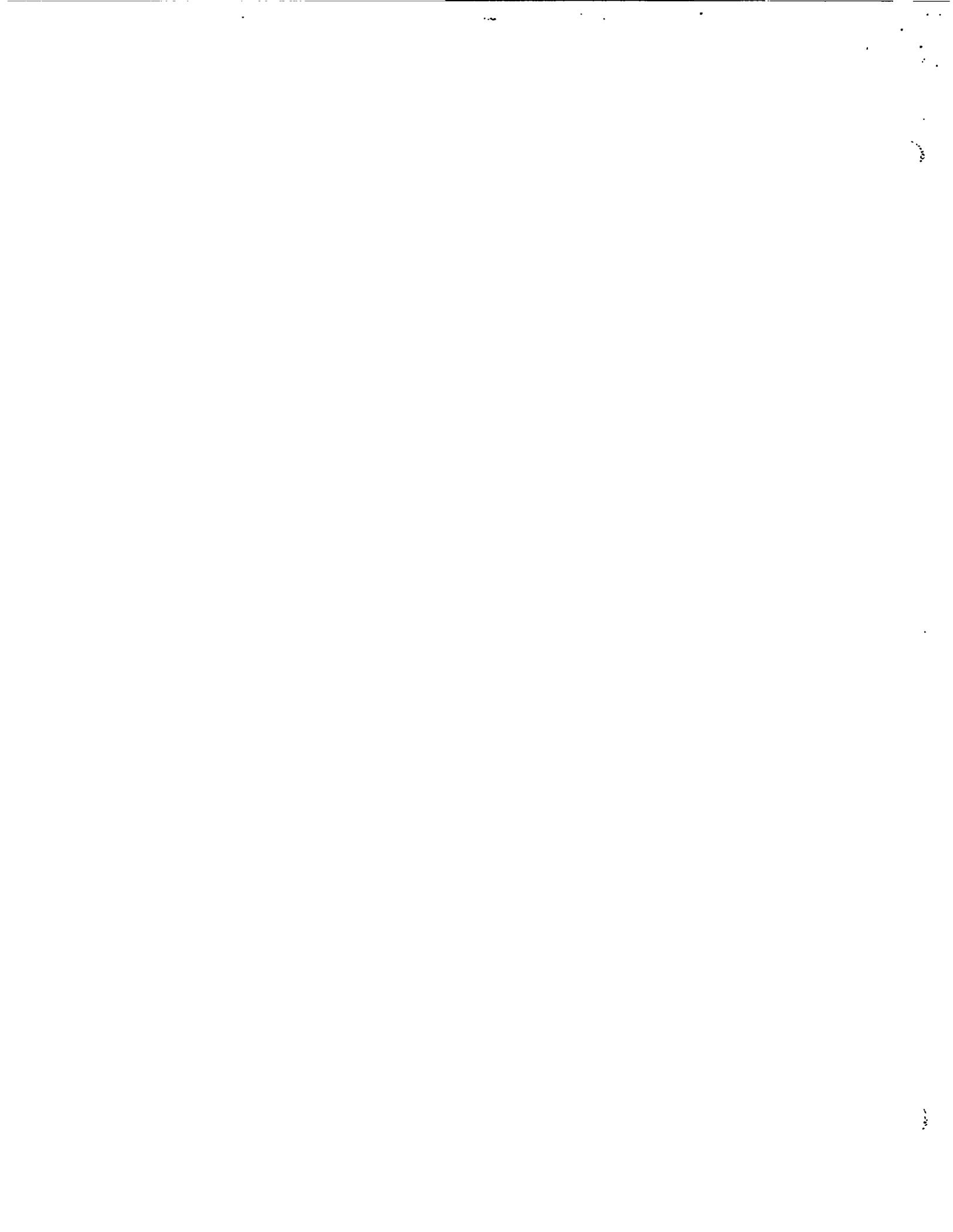
Income used to determine share of cost:

Net non-exempt income \$ _____
Less Maintenance Need \$ _____
Share of Cost \$ _____

Please notify your worker within 10 days if there are any changes in your living situation, income or property or other information you gave us.

You will get a plastic Benefits Identification Card (BIC) in the mail soon. Always present your BIC to your medical provider whenever you need care. This card is good as long as you are eligible for Medi-Cal or RMA/EMA benefits. **DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR PLASTIC I.D. CARD (BIC).**

The Regulation which requires this action is Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 400 and 401.



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10. TUBERCULOSIS (TB) PROGRAM

Refugees in Aid Codes 01 (RCA), 02 (RMA), and 08 (Entrants) are those refugees who are ineligible for regular assistance programs such as SSI, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and Medi-Cal. When these individuals finish their eight-month time eligibility period for RMA or EMA, they usually go on to county General Assistance programs if they are still unemployed and have no health coverage. They are single adults or married adults with no children. These individuals would benefit from the new TB Medi-Cal program once their eight-month time eligibility period under RCA, RMA, or EMA has expired if they are infected with TB.

Eligibility Requirements for TB Program:

- a. Be infected with TB. This factor links a person to Medi-Cal.
- b. Not be a Medi-Cal beneficiary whose coverage is mandated by federal laws.
- c. Be a U.S. citizen or a person who has satisfactory immigration status.
- d. Have income and resources which do not exceed the maximum amount for a disabled individual under the SSI program. Income cannot exceed an amount referred to as the TB income standard. (See details under Article 5N, Part E of the MEPM.) Property can be no more than \$2,000 for an individual including a child. However, when two parents are present when determining a child's property eligibility, the parents are allowed \$3,000 as a deduction from their property before it is deemed to the TB child.
- e. Meet all other Medi-Cal requirements. This factor addresses non-linking Medi-Cal requirements such as cooperation, verification, status reporting, etc.
- f. Eligibility for the TB program shall begin the first month eligibility is approved. A person with TB may be eligible for up to three months of retroactive benefits.
- g. TB infected individuals under this program shall be eligible for outpatient TB-related services **only**.
- h. Individuals eligible under this program shall have no SOC.

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11. MANAGED CARE

Legislation passed in 1991 and 1992 provided DHS with the authority for automatic enrollment of Medi-Cal beneficiaries into managed care, which in essence is to arrange and encourage access to health care through enrollment in organized, managed care plans of the type available to the general public. Managed care has been characterized as a planned, comprehensive approach to the provision of health care that combines clinical services and administrative procedures within an integrated, coordinated system that is carefully constructed to provide timely access to primary care and other necessary services in a cost-effective manner. This expansion of managed care into Medi-Cal is being done to improve access to quality medical care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and to control costs.

Under managed care, the covered aid groups will generally be CalWORKs, Section 1931 Medi-Cal with no SOC, and medically indigent children. Optional aid groups are those Medi-Cal beneficiaries receiving SSI grants, and SSI-linked Medi-Cal medically needy with no SOC. Foster care children will be included in managed care on a county-by-county basis.

Since refugees may fall into the above categories eligible for managed care, there will be refugees in the managed care program. These refugees will be entitled to cultural and interpreter services if the ethnic population of a specific culture is above 3,000 in a specific area. The Refugee Health Branch of DHS is working with the Managed Care Division to ensure that access to quality medical care will be available to refugees and to ensure that there is an informational link between the county refugee health coordinators and the managed care plans regarding every refugee's health care needs beginning with their initial health assessment to continuing and preventive health care under the managed care program.

The Mental Health Managed Care Program has been implemented. This new program will have a single Mental Health Plan for each county, which will administer the Mental Health needs for that county. The purpose of this program is to improve access and encourage better management of benefits in the interface between the physical and mental health providers. All Medi-Cal and RMA beneficiaries are eligible for specialty mental health services under this program (Please see Article 6 of MEPM for particulars).

12. SYSTEMATIC ALIEN VERIFICATION FOR ENTITLEMENTS (SAVE)

The immigration status of RMA or RCA applicants is verified via the SAVE System if they claim satisfactory immigration status. However, because of delays in INS ability to input data into the system on newly arriving refugees, California has been granted a waiver for a period of 12 months from the date of entry of a refugee. Therefore, when verifying the immigration status of a refugee, only primary verification will be required at the time of application. Secondary verification will be delayed until the time of the first redetermination or 12 months.

This waiver applies only to the secondary SAVE verification requirement. The waiver applies only to Refugees applying for CalWORKs and Medi-Cal benefits, who have just entered the country, and for whom it is unlikely the SAVE system will have information. The waiver does not apply if a refugee has been on RCA or RMA, or has been in the country for six or more months.

13. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR REFUGEES

There is a federal vaccination requirement for all Refugees and Aliens who file for an adjustment of status or an immigrant visa application on or after September 30, 1996. Under this requirement these Refugees and aliens must show they have been vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases such as mumps, measles, rubella, polio, tetanus, diphtheria toxoids, pertussis, influenza Type B,

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hepatitis B, and any other vaccinations recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices. Their current recommendations also include the varicella, haemophilus influenzae Type B, and pneumococcal vaccines.

Refugees have to comply with this requirement only if they apply for an adjustment of status one year after their Date of Entry into the U.S. Refugees generally need only a "vaccination sign-off" to fulfill this requirement.

When a Refugee obtains an Adjustment of Status to Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR), **DO NOT** remove the Refugee Tracking Indicator Code on MEDS. Refugees should remain identified as Refugees on MEDS because they are still eligible for five years of Refugee Benefits until they become citizens. Counties also receive Targeted Assistance and Refugee Employment Social Services funding based on the number of Refugees in their county. This is 100 percent federal funding.

14. THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law No. 106-386), adult victims of severe forms of trafficking who have been certified by the Office of Refugee Resettlement are eligible for the same benefits and services as provided to Refugees. Children under 18 years of age do not need to be certified, but will have a letter from ORR stating that they are victims of trafficking who should be treated as refugees for receipt of benefits and services.

Definition:

Severe Forms of Trafficking is defined in the Act as:

- (A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- (B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or slavery.

ORR, after consultation with the Attorney General, may certify a victim who

- (I) is willing to assist in every reasonable way in the investigation and prosecution of severe forms of trafficking in persons; and
- (II) (aa) has made a bona fide application for a visa under section 101(a)(15)(T) of the Immigration and Nationality Act . . . that has not been denied; or
(bb) is a person whose continued presence in the U. S. the Attorney General is ensuring in order to effectuate prosecution of traffickers in persons.

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Certification:

Adults must be granted a Certificate by ORR that they are victims of severe forms of trafficking. Children under 18 years of age who are victims of severe forms of trafficking as described above will receive letters from ORR stating that the child is a victim under the Act. No further evaluation is necessary. They will be eligible for the same benefits and services as Refugees. However, no INS documentation is required for these individuals. The Certification letter or letter of certification for children is proof of a status that confers eligibility for Refugee benefits. Applicants must submit the original certification or letter, and a photocopy should be retained in the case file.

ORR will make all certification determinations and issue letters of certification for victims of severe forms of trafficking. No other agency is authorized to issue these certifications.

Eligibility Determination:

When a "Victim of a Severe Form of Trafficking" applies for benefits, the county welfare department (CWD) should follow their normal procedures for refugees, except CWDs should:

1. Accept the original Certification letter or letter for children in place of INS documentation. INS documentation is not required for these individuals.
2. Call the Trafficking Verification Line at (202) 401-5510 to confirm the validity of the Certification letter or letter for children and to notify ORR of the benefits for which the individual has applied. (Please do not contact the SAVE System concerning victims of severe forms of trafficking.)
3. Use the Date of Certification as the Date of Entry for these individuals. Use R as the Refugee Indicator Code.
4. Record the expiration date of the Certification letter or letter for children. The expiration date is eight months from the initial date of certification. A redetermination of trafficking certification must be conducted to determine if the individual will continue to meet the certification requirements. ORR intends to issue follow-up certification letters.

Other Applicants:

ORR is in the process of developing procedures under which an individual may apply for certification as a Victim of Severe Forms of Trafficking. Until a formal application process is implemented, the most expeditious method for establishing certification would be to contact the federal Department of Justice, Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division at (202) 616-3807.

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SAMPLE CERTIFICATION LETTER:



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

HHS Tracking Number
5555555555

Ms. Susie Doe
c/o Jim Thomas, Refugee Social Worker
Smith County Community Service Office
123 Main St.
Bellevue, WA 55555-5555

CERTIFICATION LETTER

Dear Ms. Doe:

This letter confirms that you have been certified by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) pursuant to section 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Your certification date is _____. This certification is valid for eight months from the date of this letter. The expiration date is _____.

With this certification, you are eligible for benefits and services under any Federal or State program or activity funded or administered by any Federal agency to the same extent as an individual who is admitted to the United States as a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, provided you meet other eligibility criteria. This certification does not confer immigration status.

You should present this letter when you apply for benefits or services. Benefit-issuing agencies should call the trafficking verification line at (202) 401-5510 to verify the validity of this document and to inform HHS of the benefits for which you have applied.

Sincerely,

Carmel Clay-Thompson
Acting Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement



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SAMPLE CERTIFICATION LETTER FOR CHILDREN:



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

HHS Tracking Number
5555555555

Ms. Susie Doe
c/o Jim Thomas, Refugee Social Worker
Smith County Community Service Office
123 Main St.
Bellevue, WA 55555-5555

Dear Ms. Doe:

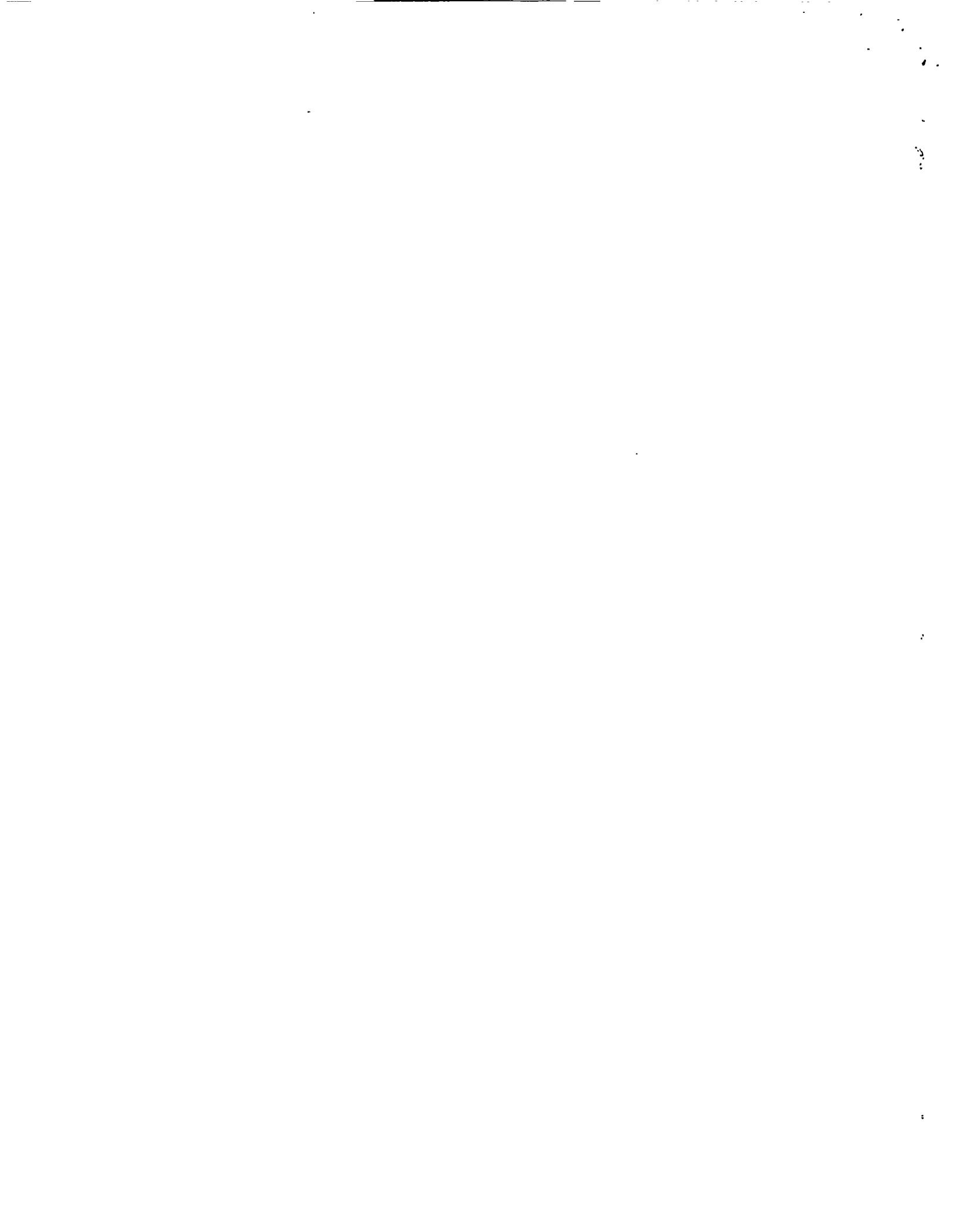
This letter confirms that, pursuant to section 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, you are eligible for benefits and services under any Federal or State program or activity funded or administered by any Federal agency to the same extent as an individual who is admitted to the United States as a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, provided you meet other eligibility criteria.

Your initial eligibility date is _____. This eligibility is valid for eight months from the date of this letter. The expiration date is _____.

You should present this letter when you apply for benefits or services. Benefit-issuing agencies should call the trafficking verification line at (202) 401-5510 to verify the validity of this document and to inform HHS of the benefits for which you have applied.

Sincerely,

Carmel Clay-Thompson
Acting Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement



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24E -- REFUGEE/ALIEN TRACKING SYSTEM

1. PURPOSE

To report and track specific information on all Refugees who enter the U.S. and who seek welfare assistance. This would include Refugees who are in Aid Codes 0A, 01, 02, and 08, who are eligible for eight months of federal funding, those who are eligible for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Medi-Cal, those who are time-expired who reapply for aid and are not yet citizens, and citizen children born to Refugee parents.

Counties have been required to report Refugee information on Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) through the Refugee/Alien Tracking System. This information is used by the Department of Health Services to claim 100 percent federal financial participation (FFP) for medical assistance rendered to time-eligible refugees. The Department of Social Services (DSS) uses this information to claim 100 percent FFP for Refugee Cash Assistance and for allocation of Refugee Employment Services and Targeted Assistance funds. In order to claim this FFP, specific information such as the refugee's status and date of entry into the U.S. is required by the federal government.

Because the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act and the Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act both classify refugees as Qualified, it is necessary to identify and track them for FFP claiming. The Refugee/Alien Tracking System has been revised to allow tracking of all refugees and all aliens in California. The following pages have been revised to reflect those changes. Refugees are Qualified Aliens under this legislation, and new codes for Refugees appear on the chart in Section 24D. The new codes were implemented in the December 1997 Month of Eligibility, and counties should be using the new codes.

2. REFUGEE/ALIEN TRACKING SYSTEM

Counties were required to report the Refugee Name, Social Security number, Refugee Indicator Code (New: C, L, Z, X, R, E, 8, 5), County Identification Number (ID), and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Entry Date on the MC 255. In March of 1996, counties were to report this information directly on MEDS in conjunction with their normal eligibility reporting and were to take advantage of the fact that MEDS maintains a single record irrespective of changes in the County ID. On March 1, 1996, the Refugee Tracking System (RTS) became part of the MEDS system. This was accomplished through a one-time conversion of the old RTS into the MEDS database. All information previously reported to the RTS was posted to MEDS. The MC 255 Form is now obsolete.

Refugee and Alien information will be placed directly into MEDS. The county will receive a Renewal Alert for any individual eligible in Aid Codes 0A, 01, 02, or 08 for whom MEDS does not have a Refugee Indicator and INS Entry Date. Daily alerts will be issued when eligibility is reported in one of those aid codes and the two required fields are not present either on MEDS or on the transaction.

The REFUGEE/ALIEN INDICATOR CODES used for the Refugee/Alien Tracking System have been revised and expanded so that all aliens can be identified by their Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) classification, or, in certain cases, by their unique circumstances, such as the battered aliens, and those who are in the U.S. Armed Forces. The New Refugee Indicator Codes are:

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C CONDITIONAL ENTRANT
L ASYLEE
Z KURDISH OR IRAQI ASYLEE
X INDOCHINESE REFUGEE
R OTHER REFUGEE (Including Victims of Trafficking) |
E AMERASIAN
8 CUBAN/HAITIAN
5 CITIZEN CHILDREN BORN TO REFUGEE PARENTS

(NOTE: Indochinese Refugees are now identified by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement under the ethnic group Southeast Asian which are the Vietnamese, Hmong, Laotian, Mien, Cambodian and Burmese Refugees.)

3. CHANGES TO MEDS TRANSACTIONS

The six data elements to be used for MEDS transactions for the Refugee/Alien Tracking System process are:

Alien Registration Number	-	ALIEN-NO
Country of Origin	-	COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN
Refugee/Alien Indicator	-	REF/ALIEN-IND
Alien Eligibility Code	-	ALIEN-ELIG-CODE
INS Entry Date	-	INS-ENTRY-DATE

4. SPECIFIC CHANGES TO MEDS SCREENS

The new data elements will be added to the following MEDS screens:

INQO	EW95	EW15	EW20	EW30
------	------	------	------	------

Rename Refugee/Alien to REF/ALIEN -IND on the following screens:

INQO	INQP	EW0-5	EW15	EW20
EW30	EW34	EW50	EW55	BI35

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5. AGED ALIENS WHO ARE INELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE

Aged aliens that are not eligible for Medicare Buy-In will no longer be coded with a "9" in the "Refugee/Alien Indicator" field on MEDS. Counties will code these aliens by their INA classification. Counties shall continue to follow California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 50777 regarding the requirement to apply for Medicare. MEDS will track the five-year residency requirement for Medicare and Buy-In eligibility by "looking" at the alien's Date of Entry and Date of Birth. A Date of Entry, Date of Birth, and Refugee/Alien Indicator Code must be reported to MEDS in order for MEDS to correctly track Medicare Buy-In eligibility.

6. OTHER QUALIFIED AND NOT QUALIFIED ALIENS NOT REFUGEES

REFUGEE/ALIEN Indicator value 0 will no longer be used. Please refer to the table on page 24E-6 for information about the new Refugee/Alien Indicator Codes. Aliens will have a code of K, D, W, Y, S and V with a secondary code, in some cases, of 4, 5, 6, or 9. For statistical data extraction and determination of benefits (including FFP availability), counties must enter the new code, the Alien Registration Number, and the INS Entry Date.

7. INS ENTRY DATE

The INS Entry Date must be entered for every Refugee. The information on the I-94 or I-551 should be sufficient for coding with the Refugee/Alien Indicator. The INS Date of Entry for Refugees is the date they entered the U.S. and is the date shown on SAVE. The Date of Entry for Asylees is the date asylum is granted. The date for Victims of Trafficking Refugees is the date of certification. (Refer to Page 24B-1 for specific documentation requirements.)

8. ALIEN REGISTRATION NUMBER

The Alien Registration Number must be entered for ALL Refugees.

9. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Counties should enter the COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN for all Refugees and Aliens. This information is used to generate statistical reports and health trend data

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10. REFUGEE CHILDREN

Children who are born in the U. S. of Refugee parents are citizens, but they are considered refugees by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement for both time-eligibility and for statistical purposes in determining federal funding allocations for Refugee Employment Services and Targeted Assistance which benefit refugee-impacted counties as identified by the Department of Social Services. Refugee Citizen Children are considered Refugees until they reach the age of 21 or until the date their parents become citizens. If one of the parents living in the home is a citizen, the citizen child is not to be considered a Refugee. The Country of Origin for these Citizen Children would be the same as parents.

Counties must report all Refugee Citizen Children with a Refugee Code of 5 (five). The INS Entry Date for the children in Aid Codes 0A, 01, 02, or 08 is the same as the parents, but if one parent arrived later than the other, the child is to be given the INS Entry Date of the later parent and the same eligibility period. For all other Refugee Citizen Children in CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, or SSI aid codes, the INS Entry Date is no longer optional. This Entry Date is mandatory for the Final Allocation of Targeted Assistance. When it is reported, use the INS Entry Date as above.

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NEW CODES

MEDS SCREENS/DATA ELEMENT DICTIONARY/ERROR MESSAGES

The following pages will contain chart of new Refugee/Alien Indicator Codes, samples of new MEDS screens, Data Element Dictionary pages, and the error messages which will be received if edit messages are not done properly.



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		NEW CODES	
ALIEN CLASSIFICATION	OLD Codes	Refugee/Alien Indicator	Alien Eligibility Code
Battered/Subjected to extreme cruelty (that meet the conditions necessary to be considered a Qualified Alien)		K, C, S, U, V, W, Y	9*
Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) <u>not</u> active duty/veteran or spouse/child	0 or 9	K	
LPR Active Duty/Veteran or spouse/dependent child	0 or 9	K	Active duty/veteran 4 Spouse 5 Child 6
Deportation Withheld admitted under INA Sec. 243(h) or 241(b)(3)	0 or 9	D	
Conditional Entrant admitted under INA Sec. 203(a)(7)	7	C	
Other Asylee admitted under INA Sec. 208 Date of entry is date asylum is granted	7	L	
Kurdish/Iraqi Asylee admitted under INA Sec. 208 Date of entry is date asylum is granted	7	Z	
Indochinese Refugee admitted under INA Sec. 207 and <u>not</u> Amerasian.	1	X	
Other Refugee admitted under INA Sec. 207 or Refugees who are Certified to be Victims of Trafficking, and <u>not</u> Indochinese Refugee or Amerasian Refugee. Date of Entry for Victims of Trafficking is Date of Certification.	7	R	
Amerasian Refugee admitted under INA Sec. 207	7	E	
Cuban/Haitian Entrant	8	8	
Citizen Child of Refugee	5	5	
Parolee admitted under INA Sec. 212(d)(5) w/period of parole <u>over</u> one year	7	W	
Parolee admitted under INA Sec. 212(d)(5) w/period of parole <u>less than</u> one year	7	Y	
Other Documented Full Scope Aliens ***	0 or 9	S	
Undocumented PRUCOL Aliens (Full Scope)	0 or 9	T	
Visitor/Student/VISA and other Aliens with Temporary Documentation (Emergency and Pregnancy-Related Services Only)	0 or 9	V	
Undocumented Aliens (Emergency and Pregnancy-Related Services Only)	0 or 9	U	

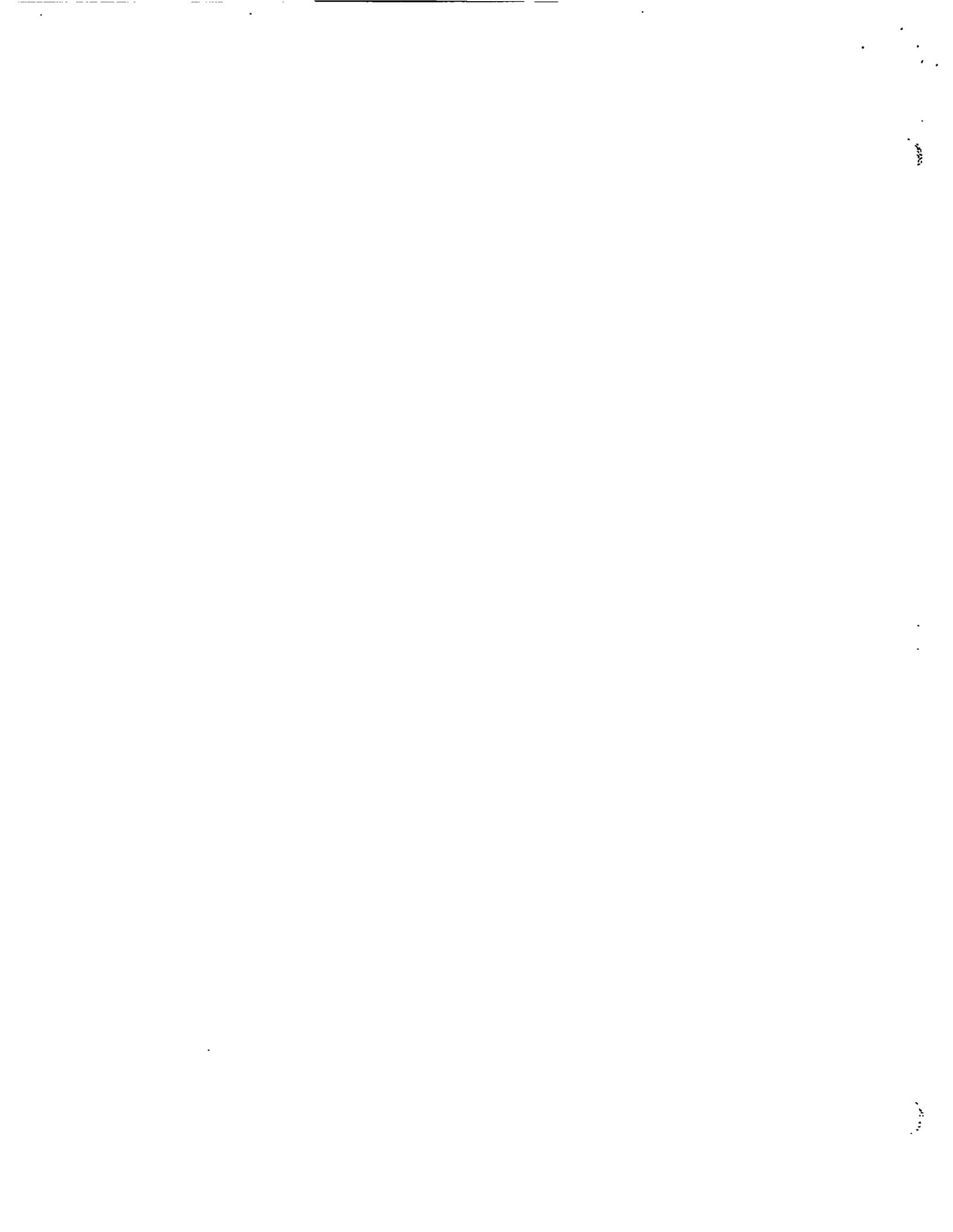
*An entry of 9 should not be reported if the alien can be coded with a 4, 5 or 6 or 8 in the alien eligibility code field.

***Other aliens, defined for identification and tracking purposes only, include aliens verified by INS through G-845 process as:

Voluntary Departure (INA 242(b))
Stay of Deportation (INA 106)
Suspension of Deportation (INA 244)
Lawful Temporary Resident
Extended Voluntary Departure

Indefinite Stay of Deportation
Application for Adjustment Status
Indefinite Voluntary Departure
Registry Alien (INA 249)

Deferred Action Status
Order of Supervision (INA 242)
Immediate Relative Petition
In U.S. w/Permission of INS



MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES MANUAL

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APPENDIX II - DATA ELEMENT DICTIONARY

DED NO. 2009

When either a refugee aid code or a refugee alien indicator other than A, B, U, 5 or 0 is reported to MEDS, the Immigration and Naturalization Services entry date must also be reported if it is not already present on MEDS. Additionally, if the Alien registration number is known it should be reported.

Counties began using the new codes on December 1, 1997. Applicants will be coded with the new values when counties process the application. Beneficiaries will need to be reviewed and have their values changed (if necessary) at annual redetermination. Only citizen children of refugees and Cuban/Haitain entrants can remain in their current codes.

The values 0, 1, 7, and 9 are obsolete as of December 1998. The value 0 had been requested by counties to identify aliens who did not fall into any other categories. Since the values have been expanded and changed, the new values will accommodate the various groups of aliens previously reported using 0. Counties requested a full set of new values so they could easily tell whether or not a client's refugee/alien status had been reevaluated. The values 1 and 7 have previously been used to identify Conditional Entrants, Asylees, Indochinese and other Refugees, Parolees, and Amerasian. These various groups of aliens have now been given more specific indicators in order to identify them for the refugee DED NO. 2009 program and as Qualified and Not Qualified Aliens. The value 9 was previously used to identify aliens who were over 65 but not eligible for Medicare because they had not met their five-year residency requirement. The Medicare Buy-In unit is able to continue to suppress the potential Medicare Buy-In alert message issued by MEDS renewal by using the date of entry of the alien and the date of birth.

REVISION NUMBER: 14

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MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES MANUAL

MEDS NETWORK
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APPENDIX II - DATA ELEMENT DICTIONARY

DED NO. 2033

MEDS NETWORK NAME: ALIEN-ELIG-CODE
NARRATIVE NAME: Alien Eligibility Code
AKA NAMES:
SOURCE: County, SDX

LENGTH: 1

DEFINITION:

The Alien Eligibility Code is used by Social Security Administration and the counties to identify those aliens who may be affected by the requirements in the Welfare Reform Act of August 1996.

VALUES:

- 1* Refugee admitted under section 207 of the INA.
- 2* Deportation Withheld under section 243(h) or 241(b)(3) of the INA.
- 3* Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR) with 40 work quarters.
- 4 LPR Alien on active duty in the military or an honorable discharged veteran.
- 5 LPR spouse or unremarried surviving spouse of active duty military/veteran.
- 6 LPR dependent child of active duty military/veteran.
- 9 Aliens who have been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty and meet the conditions necessary to be considered a Qualified Alien.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

*These values are SDX input only and will not be accepted on a county transaction.

The values 4, 5, and 6 are only valid when sent with an alien indicator of K on a county transaction. An LPR who is an Amerasian and meets the military criteria should be coded as a 4, 5, or 6 rather than an 8. Values 4, 5, or 6 may appear with a value other than K on an SSI/SSP client; if an SSI client with this coding becomes a county client, the county will need to re-evaluate the alien indicator and alien eligibility code to determine what the appropriate coding should be.

The value 9 is valid when sent with any alien indicator code; however, it is specifically intended to be used with the alien indicator code of K, C, or S. EXCEPTION: K with a value of 4, 5, or 6 should never be changed to a value of 9.

REVISION NUMBER: 14

REVISION DATE: 10/31/97

SECTION NO.: 50257

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