

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 5

SUBJECT: APPROVE SUBMISSION OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2024-2026 REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES PLAN, ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR THE REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES PLAN, ACCEPT ADDITIONAL UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ACT FUNDING, AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENTS, AND APPLY FOR FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On August 6, 2019 (9), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved and adopted the Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2020-2022 Refugee Employment Services Plan and associated resolution. The proposed Refugee Support Services (RSS) plan for FFY 2024-2026, was developed with feedback from community stakeholders, including current participants in RSS programs, and providers serving refugees and newly arrived immigrants.

The County of San Diego (County) receives federal funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement administered through California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB). Funding provides employment and supportive services designed to help refugees and newly arrived immigrants in the region thrive, achieve self-sufficiency, and integrate into society. The County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (HSEC-OIRA) has developed the FFY 2024-2026 RSS Plan to meet federal requirements which includes feedback provided by local stakeholders, refugee residents, and service providers.

HSEC-OIRA also received two new funding opportunities from CDSS to support refugees who were displaced due to the war in Ukraine. This funding will be used to provide housing and utilities assistance, childcare referrals and assistance, English language training, and support with job searches.

Today's item requests the Board approve submission of the FFY 2024-2026 RSS Plan to CDSS RPB and adopt the associated resolution; authorize the Agency Director, HHS or designee to execute agreements and take any other action necessary as required for acceptance of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act funding; authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a competitive solicitation for services to assist refugees displaced by the war in Ukraine; and authorize the Agency Director, HHS or designee, to apply for future funding opportunities for programs or projects in alignment with the goal of expanding the economic inclusion of refugees and immigrants in the region.

Today's actions support the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically for communities in the County that have been historically under resourced as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities by supporting programs that remove barriers to employment and resources for refugee populations, thereby supporting regional economic inclusion and equity. This will be accomplished by pursuing additional funding opportunities to expand programs to increase refugee inclusion in economic growth in the region.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Approve submission of the Federal Fiscal Years 2024-2026 Refugee Support Services Plan to the California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau and authorize submittal of revisions by the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, when required by changes in funding or services.
2. Adopt the Resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES PLAN FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024 THROUGH FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026.
3. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to execute agreements and take any other actions necessary as required by the California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau for the acceptance of approximately \$4.6 million of Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act Refugee Support Services funding, which includes allocations for the Housing Assistance for Ukrainians Program and for the Ukrainian Refugee Support Services Supplemental Funding.
4. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a competitive solicitation for services to assist refugees displaced by the war in Ukraine, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract or contracts for an initial term of up to one year, with four one-year options, and up to an additional six months if needed; and to amend the contract to reflect changes in program, funding or service requirements, subject to the availability of funds and the approval of the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency.
5. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for future funding, including grants, supplemental funding and other funding opportunities for programs or projects in alignment with the goal of expanding the economic inclusion of refugees and immigrants in the region.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (HSEC-OIRA) prioritizes engaging with stakeholders that are representatives of the refugee community. HSEC-OIRA requires qualitative surveys from all providers assisting the refugee population, language translation, and interpretation efforts to increase bilateral communication with the refugee population and collaboration with internal and external partners to identify successes and progress.

Between May 12, 2023, and June 16, 2023, HSEC-OIRA gathered community feedback by surveying Refugee Support Services program participants and providers of refugee services. HSEC-OIRA collected over 150 responses. The results of the surveys indicated most clients were happy overall with the services they received, and the most important services requested by participants were English language training, referrals to childcare, job search assistance, referrals to transportation, learning how to use computers, acculturation, and assistance with creating resumes. HSEC-OIRA will work with its providers on ways to bolster needed services and opportunities to improve areas identified in the survey results. HSEC-OIRA will also continue pursuing additional funding opportunities to expand programs to increase refugee inclusion in economic growth in the region.

According to the California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB), San Diego County (county) is a designated refugee-impacted county. Current data available from RPB indicates 3,980 newly arriving refugees and Special Immigrant Visa holders resettled in the county between October 1, 2018, and June 30, 2023, making San Diego the third largest recipient of refugee arrivals in California, behind Sacramento and Los Angeles counties, during this period. These statistics do not include secondary migration, where refugees who initially arrive in another county or state, relocate to the county for any reason.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's actions support the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal #1 engaging the community in meaningful ways, Sustainability Goal # 2 providing just and equitable access, and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region by engaging with the community through collaborative partnerships, regional listening sessions, forums, workgroups, steering committees, and conducting surveys to collect community input. The information collected was incorporated into designing Refugee Support Service programs to better serve the needs of refugee and immigrant communities. These programs aim to remove barriers and provide opportunities for equitable access to resources. To facilitate just and equitable access to these programs, language translation and interpretation services are utilized to increase access to vital information, services, and resources in a culturally competent manner. Opportunities for equitable access to resources assist with protecting the health and well-being of everyone in the region.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for Refugee Support Services, Services for Older Refugees, Afghanistan Refugee Support Services and Afghanistan Services to Older Refugees are included in the FY 2023-25 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of approximately \$3.0 million in FY 2023-24 and \$3.5 million in FY 2024-25. The funding source is the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB) and includes one-time funding allocations from the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Funding for new allocations for Ukrainian Refugee Support Services and Housing Assistance for Ukrainians are included in the FY 2023-25 Operational Plan for Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of approximately \$2.1 million in FY 2023-24 and \$2.1 million in FY 2024-25. The total allocation for FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26 is approximately \$4.6 million. The funding source is CDSS RPB and are one-time funding allocations from the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, adopting Resolution No. 23-117, entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES PLAN FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024 THROUGH FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 4 Seat Vacant)

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter