County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
12860 CROSSROADS PARKWAY SOUTH • CITY OF INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA 91746
Tel (562) 908-8400 • Fax (562) 908-0459

BRYCE YOKOMIZO
Director

LISA NUÑEZ
Chief Deputy

Board of Supervisors
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May 2, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION TO EXTEND
EIGHT REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM CONTRACTS
MONTH-TO-MONTH
(ALL DISTRICTS – 3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to prepare and execute contract amendments to the eight Refugee Employment Program (REP) contracts as set forth in Attachment A. The amendments extend the contracts on a month-to-month basis effective July 1, 2006, until new contracts are in place. The month-to-month extension is not to exceed a maximum of six months. The approval of County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) will be obtained prior to executing such amendments, and the Director will notify the CAO in writing within ten business days after execution.

The total estimated monthly cost of these contracts is $339,947, fully funded through the Office of Refugee Resettlement grant. Each amendment's monthly cost is included in Attachment A for the provision of REP services to refugee participants. There is no net County cost (NCC) impact. Funding for the eight REP contracts is included in the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Adopted Budget.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The recommended action will allow DPSS to complete a competitive solicitation process to execute new contracts to continue vital REP services. California Department of Social Services approved extending the existing REP contracts on a month-to-month basis, until new contracts are in place. The REP provides refugees with culturally and linguistically sensitive employment and specialized services to assist them through the initial adjustment period following their arrival into the United States and with the eventual goal of attaining self-sufficiency. The contracts are currently scheduled to expire June 30, 2006.

Several issues had to be resolved before the solicitation process could continue, such as, obtaining State approval to allow DPSS to utilize a firm-fixed fee cost methodology for the new contracts. This resulted in a delay in releasing the Request for Proposals (RFP).

The RFP was released on March 1, 2006. The RFP includes the support and intervention services that are needed to address employment barriers and acculturation issues specific to the refugee population that are not included in the existing contracts. This will result in higher quality proposals to better serve and provide greater access to this unique population. DPSS will return to the Board to seek approval of contracts with the successful bidders.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action is consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal #5, Children and Families' Well-Being; improve the well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County as measured by the achievements in the five outcome areas adopted by the Board: good health; economic well-being; safety and survival; social and emotional well-being; and educational/workforce readiness.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total estimated monthly cost of these contracts is $339,947, fully funded through the Office of Refugee Resettlement grant. There is no NCC impact. Funding for the eight REP contracts is included in the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Adopted Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

As the contracts require the development and utilization of resources, training and logistical support which are not routinely performed by County staff, they continue to be non-Prop A services.

The award of these contracts will not result in unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and will be in full compliance with Federal, State, and County regulations.

Amendments will be approved as to form by the Chief Administrative Office and County Counsel prior to execution.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended action will not infringe on the role of the County in its relationship to its residents and the County's ability to respond to emergencies will not be impacted. There is no change in risk exposure to the County.

CONCLUSION

The Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return one adopted, stamped Board letter to the Director of DPSS.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

BY:sh

Enclosure

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Attachment A

DPSS REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM CONTRACTS
ESTIMATED MONTHLY COSTS

	CONTRACTOR		COST
1	Armenian Evangelical Social Services Center		$64,407.33
2	Armenian Relief Society		$59,425.25
3	Community Enhancement Services		$94,326.92
4	Center for Family Self-Sufficiency		$6,009.33
5	Catholic Charities of Los Angeles		$6,745.83
6	Economic & Employment Development Center		$15,000.00
7	Jewish Vocational Services		$45,249.92
8	Los Angeles Unified School District		$48,782.42
	TOTAL		**$339,947.00**