

for program planners. This guide is available on the ORR Web site under the Programs section at: (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/marriagegrants.htm>).

The organizations funded by the set-aside amount are expected to have ties to the ethnic communities they serve and to conduct outreach into the community to identify refugee families in need of services. We strongly encourage States to fund, to the extent possible, Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs), ethnic community-based organizations, and indigenous faith-based organizations with refugee experience to provide family support, outreach, education, orientation, and counseling. ORR defines an MAA as an organization with the following qualifications: (a) The organization is legally incorporated as a nonprofit organization; and (b) not less than 51 percent of the composition of the Board of Directors or governing board of the mutual assistance association is comprised of refugees or former refugees, including both refugee men and women.

States wishing to participate in these marriage enhancing programs must notify ORR within 30 days of the publication date of this notice that they will use the set-aside funds exclusively for the relationship skill-building and marriage enhancement activities described above. States that fail to notify ORR by that date of their intention to establish healthy marriage programs are not eligible the set-aside. Funds listed in the accompanying table for States that do not notify ORR that they will establish marriage enhancement programs will be made available to the States that are willing to establish such programs.

To be eligible for the Healthy Marriage Set-aside funds, States should notify ORR of their intention to use the set-aside funds exclusively to establish healthy marriage program through a brief letter or by E-mail. Correspondence should be directed to Loren Bussert, Division of Budget, Policy, and Data Analysis (DBPDA), Office of Refugee Resettlement, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW., Washington, DC 20447; or by E-mail at L.Bussert@acf.hhs.gov.

Service Priorities

In accordance with in 45 CFR 400.147, States are required to provide social services to refugees in the following order of priority, except in certain individual extreme circumstances: (a) All newly arriving refugees during their first year in the U.S. who apply for services; (b) refugees who are receiving cash assistance; (c)

unemployed refugees who are not receiving cash assistance; and (d) employed refugees in need of services to retain employment or to attain economic independence. In order for refugees to move quickly off Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), States should, to the extent possible, ensure that all newly arriving refugees receive refugee-specific services designed to address the employment barriers that refugees typically face.

ORR encourages States to re-examine the range of services they currently offer to refugees. Those States that have had success in helping refugees achieve early employment may find it to be a good time to expand beyond provision of basic employment services and address the broader needs that refugees have in order to enhance their ability to maintain financial security and to successfully integrate into the community. Other States may need to reassess the delivery of employment services in light of local economic conditions and develop new strategies to better serve the newly arriving refugee groups.

States should also be aware that ORR will make social services formula funds available to pay for social services that are provided to refugees who participate in Wilson/Fish projects which can be administered by public or private nonprofit agencies, including community-based organizations. 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 standing notice in the **Federal Register** with respect to applications for such projects (64 FR 19793 (April 22, 1999)).

States are encouraged to consider eligible sub-recipients for formula social service funds to include public or private nonprofit agencies including, faith-based, refugee, or community organizations.

As stated earlier, to be eligible for the Healthy Marriage Set-aside, States should notify ORR within 30 days of publication of this notice of proposed allocations through a brief assurance statement in writing or by E-mail that they will use the set-aside funds

exclusively for the relationship skills-building and marriage enhancement activities. States that use the set-aside funds will be expected to report on the activities conducted with these funds in the narrative section of the Quarterly Progress Report (QPR).

States that fail to notify ORR within 30 days of publication of this proposed notice of their intention to establish healthy marriage programs are not eligible for the set-aside. Funds listed in the accompanying table for States that do not notify ORR that they will establish marriage enhancement programs will be made available through reallocations to the States that are willing to establish such programs in the Final Notice and distributed in the fourth quarter social services formula awards.

II. (Reserved for Discussion in the Final Notice of Submitted Comments in Response to the Proposed Notice)

III. Allocation Formulas

Of the funds available for FY 2003 for social services, \$71,092,907 is proposed to be allocated to States in accordance with the formula specified in A. 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, parolees, and Amerasians from Viet Nam, as shown by the ORR Refugee Data System, and victims of severe forms of trafficking as shown by the certification and eligibility letters issued by ORR, 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. The resulting per capita amount is multiplied by—
3. The number of persons in item 2, above, in the State as of October 1, 2002, adjusted for estimated secondary migration.

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

IV. Basis of Population Estimates

The population estimates for the proposed allocation of funds in FY 2003 for the formula social service allocation are based on data on refugee arrivals from the ORR Refugee Arrivals Data System, adjusted as of October 1, 2002, for estimated secondary migration. The data base includes refugees of all nationalities, Amerasians from Viet Nam, and Cuban and Haitian entrants. Data on trafficking victims are taken