

**CALIFORNIA STATE PLAN FOR  
REFUGEE/ENTRANT  
ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES  
Addendum  
Effective May 1, 2004**

Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Program

The State of California's URM Program is operated under direct contract with Catholic Charities of San Jose (CC-SJ), a VOLAG approved by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement to operate the URM Program and licensed under California Law. In partnership with a foster family agency in San Francisco, CC-SJ will be responsible for providing all of the required services to unaccompanied refugee, asylee, and trafficking victim minors for the State of California.

In accordance with 45 CFR Section 400.115 and Welfare & Institutions Code Section 300 or Probate Code Section 1500 or 1501, the foster family agency will establish protective legal custody for the child within 30 days of the child's arrival into the location of resettlement. Primary responsibility for the child's welfare is vested in CC-SJ, which ensures that the child receives the full range of child welfare benefits and services as provided to non-refugee children in foster care. These services may include foster care maintenance payments, medical assistance, support services, and any services identified as allowable in Titles IV-B (Child Welfare Services) and IV-E (Foster Care) of the Social Security Act.

The CC-SJ will be responsible for all case planning services in accordance with 45 CFR Section 400.118. These services will include: initial assessment and development of a service plan; coordination and supervision of the activities listed in the plan; referral to service activities; and selection and placement activities to ensure the appropriate placement of the child. Case planning for the refugee URM will also include: family reunification; orientation, assessment, and counseling to facilitate the adjustment of the child to American culture; health screening and treatment, including provision for medical and dental examinations and for all necessary medical and dental treatment; preparation for participation in American society with special emphasis on English language instruction; and occupational as well as cultural training as necessary to facilitate the child's social integration and to prepare the child for independent living and economic self-sufficiency.

The URM Program is provided until the minor is emancipated, reunited with parent(s), or united with a nonparental adult who is granted legal custody or guardianship under California Law. In California, emancipation occurs when a child reaches the age of 18 years old (after 18 if they are attending high school or an equivalent level of vocational or technical training on a full-time basis and expects to finish prior to his or her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday). In addition, foster care youth are eligible to receive support up to the age of 21 years old through the Independent Living Program.

California will continue to comply with 45 CFR Part 400, Subpart H, Child Welfare Services, in providing services under the URM Program.

The State will be responsible for administration, monitoring, and oversight of the URM Program.