STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
Phil Bryant, Governor
Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services
Jess H. Dickinson, Commissioner

MS Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS)
Federal Fiscal Year 2019
Refugee Resettlement State Plan

To
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
United States Department of Health and Human Services
Refugee Resettlement State Plan-2019
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I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Authority

1. Designates accountable State Agency (§400.5(a)).

It was through the 2018 regular legislative session that Governor Phil Bryant signed Senate Bill 2675 into law on April 13, 2018. This law stated that the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) shall be a sub agency within the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) and provided that the MDCPS Commissioner shall maintain complete and exclusive operational control over the functions of MDCPS, except functions that were shared with MDHS. Lastly, MDCPS continues to be the agency authorized by state statute to promulgate regulations, policies, and procedures necessary to implement the state’s child welfare system and to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being for Mississippi’s families and children. MDCPS is responsible for the Title IV-B Subpart 1 (Child Welfare Services), IV-B Subpart 2 (Promoting Safe and Stable Families), Title IV-E (Foster Care and Adoption Assistance), Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP), and Educational Training Voucher (ETV). Additionally, MDCPS is the state agency responsible for the development, administration, and supervision of the Refugee State Plan.

2. Designated State Coordinator by title per the requirements of (§400.5(d)).

Cerissa Eubanks will be designated as the Interim State Refugee Coordinator effective July 1, 2018. Please see contact information below:

Cerissa Eubanks, Director of Federal Reporting and Resettlement Services
MS Department of Child Protection Services
P.O. Box 346
Jackson, MS 39205
Phone: 601-359-4974
Email: Cerissa.Eubanks@mdcps.ms.gov

3. Organization

Jess H. Dickinson is commissioner for MDCPS. Taylor Cheeseman is the Chief of Staff for the agency. MDCPS’s organizational structure consists of three (3) Deputy Commissioners and (1) new oversight area which are as follows:

- Deputy Commissioner of Human Resources and Administration
- Deputy Commissioner of Child Welfare
- Deputy Commissioner of Child Safety
• Chief Legal Counsel, Procurement, and Federal Reporting Director

The current structure of the agency consists of the following predominant areas:

• **Human Resources and Administration**
  o Centralized Intake, Criminal Background Checks,
    Facility Operations/Emergency Management
  o Human Resources
  o Professional Development
  o Financial Services
  o Information Technology

• **Child Welfare**
  o Field Operations Divisions- East, West, and South
  o Permanency Services
  o Chafee Foster Care program for Independence Program (CFCIP) and Chafee Educational and Training Voucher Training Program (ETV)

• **Child Safety**
  o Therapeutic Services
  o Continuous Quality Improvement

• **Legal**
  o Policy
  o Legal Counsel
  o Contracts and Procurement
  o Federal Reporting and Resettlement Services

The State Refugee Coordinator is located within MDCPS, Office of Chief Legal Counsel, Procurement, and Federal Reporting. The Refugee Coordinator is responsible to the Director of Federal Reporting; the Director of Federal Reporting is responsible to the Chief Legal Counsel, Procurement, and Federal Reporting Director. The Chief Legal Counsel, Procurement, and Federal Reporting Director is responsible to the Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff is responsible to the Commissioner of MDCPS who is appointed by the Governor as his designee. MDCPS is responsible for providing child welfare services, medical assistance, and adoption assistance.

The refugee resettlement programs consist of one full time position; the State Refugee Coordinator. The State Refugee Coordinator provides to the resettlement agencies all required federal and state Refugee Resettlement policy, procedures, memorandums and ORR-state letters by electronic and manual transmitte. In addition, the state’s Refugee Coordinator is also responsible for the development of the annual resettlement state plan, program monitoring and evaluation, coordinating and verifying contract renewals and modifications, and verification of monthly cost reimbursement of the services provided by contracted agencies. The monitoring
and evaluation results are shared with ORR, when required. MDHS is responsible for providing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the food stamp program and cash assistance. As stated, MDHS is also responsible for the Cash Assistance program for adult refugees and their families.

B. Assurances

1. MDCPS assures compliance with all the provisions of Title IV, Chapter 2 of the Refugee Act (8 USC 1522), and official issuances of the Director.

2. MDCPS assures compliance with meeting the requirements in 45 CFR Part 400.

3. MDCPS assures compliance with all other applicable federal statutes and regulations in effect during the time that it is receiving grant funding.

4. MDCPS assures compliance with amending its State Plan to comply with ORR standards, goals, and priorities established by the Director, as needed.

5. MDCPS assures compliance with providing services to all ORR-eligible populations without regard to race, religion, nationality, sex, or political opinion.

6. MDCPS assures it shall convene planning meetings of public/private sector at least quarterly, unless exempted by ORR (§400.5(h)).

7. MDCPS assures compliance with providing all ORR-eligible populations with the benefits and services described in the State Plan.

II. ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES

A. Coordination of Cash and Medical Assistance

MDCPS in collaboration with the Division of Medicaid (DOM) and MDHS state office staff work together monthly to coordinate statewide Cash and Medical Assistance for ORR-eligible population. This coordination consists of eligibility determination for household size and benefit allotment. MDCPS and MDHS work together on a monthly and quarterly basis to verify and track all refugee cash assistance payments. This information is also provided to the resettlement agency for their records. Additionally, MDCPS has a Memorandum of Understanding with DOM for coordinating the performance of the services to be provided for Refugee Medical Assistance through DOM's Office of Eligibility.

The State Refugee Coordinator coordinates with DOM’s eligibility staff to provide medical and prescription services for reimbursement to adult refugees and their families once eligible for assistance. The resettlement agency assists the ORR eligible populations with completing and reviewing the application packets for cash assistance and employment to ensure that all required and requested documents are submitted with the applications. If needed, Interpreter services are also provided with any scheduled appointments for Refugee Cash Assistance and
any scheduled job interviews. The resettlement agency provides additional assistance on an as needed basis to obtain employment and to help refugees keep their employment.

B. Language training and employment services (§400.5(c)).

Language training and employability services are provided through a contractual agreement with Catholic Social and Community Services. The resettlement agency assists the refugees and their families by developing a plan for family self-sufficiency and employability. The services include job workshops and job skill development, referrals to job opportunities, job placement and follow-up services. The resettlement agency also coordinates with employers to complete employability assessment services which include aptitude and skills testing. The resettlement agency and employer coordinates on the job training when the employment site is expected to result in full time or permanent employment. Additionally, English language instructions are provided with an emphasis on English as it relates to obtaining and retaining a job.

The resettlement agency offers vocational training including driver’s education and welding training, when provided as part of an individual’s employability plan. Day care for children and transportation assistance is provided as needed for participants when registered with an employability service. The resettlement agency also provides translation and interpreter services when necessary in connection with employment or participation in an employability service.

C. Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) 45 CFR Part §400.45

1. MDHS makes available to the general public Volume III, TANF Policy Manual, via the agency’s website: www.mdhs.ms.gov. A full description of the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) program is contained in Chapter 16 of Volume III. The policy describes requirements for participation, eligibility standards, and the amount and duration of cash payments. All applicants for assistance are provided with the rights and responsibilities of programs administered by the MDHS Division of Economic Assistance (DEA). As necessary, translation of this information will be provided by the Division’s foreign language lab.

2. MDCPS assures that the state will follow the mediation and fair hearing standards and procedures outlined at 45 CFR 400.83.

3. Full time students in institutions of higher learning are not eligible for refugee cash assistance. Refugees enrolled at least half-time in training programs approved, funded, or operated by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) would qualify for a student exemption. Other exemptions consist of the following:

   - A person younger than 16 years of age or a person 60 year of age or older.
   - A person mentally or physically unfit for employment
A household member responsible for the care of an incapacitated person
A parent or other household member who is responsible for the care of a dependent child under 6
A student enrolled at least half-time in any recognized school (including high school or high school equivalency) training program, or institution of higher education or institution of post-secondary education (including distance learning classes provided the student is enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education).

4. Eligibility and payment levels. 45 CFR 400.66

The State of Mississippi elects the option to provide the publicly Administered Refugee Cash Assistance Program. MDHS operates the Refugee Cash Assistance Program consistent with the provisions of the TANF program. When a refugee requests financial assistance for himself/herself or for a group of minor children for whom he/she is responsible, the MDHS-EA-900 application should be accepted and registered in the usual manner in the county office. Any refugee family group potentially eligible for TANF must be tested for TANF or referred for a determination of eligibility for assistance from other programs. Persons age 65 or older, blind or disabled individuals must be referred to the local Social Security office to apply for SSI benefits (if eligible, these persons may receive refugee cash assistance until eligibility for cash assistance under the SSI program is determined, provided the conditions of eligibility for refugee cash assistance continue to be met). Eligibility for SNAP and/or TANF should be determined before a refugee assistance request is processed. If the individual refugee or refugee family is eligible for any of the regular programs administered through Economic Assistance, benefits should be authorized at the local office and no other action will be required. In some instances, the refugee applicant may be eligible for SNAP, but ineligible for TANF.

If so, the SNAP application should be processed as normal by the county office. For processing of the request for Refugee Cash Assistance, the county office must scan the MDHS-EA-900 application and copies of all documents verifying refugee status to the case record and notify State Operations/Policy Unit. The policy unit will review the application to determine eligibility for RCA based on need standard requirements for TANF using the MDHS-EA-323. If approved, the refugee household will be eligible for RCA payments for an eight-month period beginning the month of the initial application for benefits in the local office. The policy unit will submit a money payment request to MDHS, Budgets and Accounting in State Office for processing and mailing of the RCA payment. State Operations will notify the applicant household of the approval or denial of the request by regular mail.

Each refugee age 18 or over will have his/her application processed as an individual unless he/she is the parent of minor children. One application will be processed for parents and minor children. A minor child who was born to a refugee family after entry into the United States can be included
in the refugee assistance group of the parent although the child is actually a citizen of the United States. RCA payments are determined the same as TANF benefit levels regarding grant maximums based on household size. If it is determined that a refugee has an urgent need for cash assistance, the application for cash assistance should be processed as quickly as possible and the initial payment issued to the refugee on an emergency basis.

**Reporting Changes** - Refugee households are certified as Change Reporting households. Each refugee household is responsible for reporting changes to the county office. These changes should be forwarded to the MDHS Policy Unit as needed. The following changes must be reported within 10 days of the date the change becomes known to the household:

- Residence and resulting shelter costs;
- Legal child support obligation
- Change of more than $100 in the amount of unearned income;
- Change of more than $100 in monthly earned income from the amount used to calculate the household’s benefit amount;
- Change in the source of income (example: change in employment), it if results in a change in income.

TANF households must report when it becomes clear that a child will be out of the home for more than 30 days, and when the head of household moves out of state. Both changes must be reported within 5 days. Although the refugee household is eligible for cash assistance for an eight-month period, a regular redetermination of eligibility must be completed on each financial assistance case after six months. Upon determination that the amount of the RCA payment will be changed or that the refugee is no longer eligible for financial assistance, MDHS State Operations will notify the refugee in writing of this change.

5. **Eligibility Factors consist of the following:**

- **Eligibility Factors** – The financial assistance program for refugees is intended to provide temporary assistance when the sponsor is unable to meet all the needs of the refugee until the refugee (1) is able to find employment and become self-supporting or (2) receives financial assistance through the regular TANF or SSI programs. The same criteria for technical eligibility in TANF apply to applicants for refugee assistance, with the exceptions of deprivation and specified degree of relationship. Children in the refugee household do not have to be deprived of a parent or be living with a specified relative in order to receive refugee assistance. Single individuals applying for refugee assistance may be eligible for benefits by meeting all other eligibility factors.

- **Residence** - The refugee/refugee household must reside in the state of Mississippi with the intent to remain here. The residence of children is determined by the parent or the adult responsible for them.
• **Age/Relationship** - Age and relationship may be verified by using the I-94 or other documents in the refugee possession which reflect age and relationship and appear reasonable under the circumstances. When the refugee has no written record of any kind to use as a support document, the refugee’s statement regarding family relationship should be accepted unless there is reason to doubt the validity of such a declaration.

• **Financial Need** - All income and resources available to the refugee family group must be considered and measured against the standards for financial need which are applicable to the TANF program. Income and resources that may be available from the refugee sponsor or sponsoring agency must be considered and documented.

• **Resources** - The resource maximums used in determining eligibility for TANF are used for applicants for refugee assistance. Do not consider against the maximum amount the resources which are not available to the refugee or refugee family group, such as those left in the country from which the refugee(s) came. Also, do not consider the resources of the sponsor available to the refugee/refugee group unless the sponsor has actually given them to the refugee.

• **Income** - The standards used for TANF families in determining financial need based on income are applicable for refugees. Form MDHS-EA-232, TANF Budget Computation Sheet, should be used to determine need based on income. All income which is available to the refugee/refugee group should be included. Eligibility and money payment amount are determined by testing gross income and allowing the appropriate amounts for work expenses and child care when earned income is involved. Other possible income sources include cash contributions from the sponsor and income from the voluntary agency that placed the refugee/refugee group with the sponsor. However, a sponsor’s income may not be considered as accessible to the refugee solely because the person is serving as a sponsor. In addition, any cash grant received by the applicant under the Department of State or Department of Justice Reception and Placement programs must not be considered as income for the refugee.

• **Work Requirements** - As a condition for receipt of refugee cash assistance, a non-exempt refugee must be registered for work with the local employment service. Such refugees must apply for, accept, or continue with an appropriate offer of employment or employment related training, and participate in any available and appropriate social service program providing job or language training in the area in which the refugee resides. Refugees who have been approved for SNAP benefits through the county office
may have been already been registered for work. If so, no further action regarding work registration for refugees is required. Refugees are not subject to TANF work requirements.

- **Differentials and Incentive Payments** - Mississippi does not have any type of differentials or incentive payments at this time. Refugees who have been approved for SNAP through the MDHS county office may have already registered for work. §400.76 (b)

- **English Language Instruction** - English as a Second Language classes, General Equivalency Diploma classes and Test of English for Foreign Language (TOEFL) preparation are all part of the adult education program. Development classes are offered on a beginner, intermediate and advance level and provided during the day and evening times. All are designed to relate to obtaining and retaining a job to meet requirement §400.55. The SNAP/TANF application, Rights and Responsibilities form, program brochures, interim reports, and child support enforcement form are available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The MAVERICS system notices are also in Spanish. Translators are used for communication with applicants when these system notices are used. County offices arrange translator services through the Language Lab located in the Division of Economic Assistance. Lastly, notifications are provided in the refugee languages at the resettlement agency to the refugees.

Applicants who meet certain criteria are eligible for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) benefits for an 8-month period. Applicants for these benefits must provide documentation from USCIS to verify their refugee status, and must be included in at least one of the following categories in order to receive benefits below:

- Paroled as a refugee or asylee under § 212 (d) (5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)
- Admitted as a refugee under § 207 of the INA
- Granted asylum under § 208 of the INA
- Cuban and Haitian entrants, in accordance with requirements in 45 CFR, part 401
- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders
- Victims of Trafficking

MDCPS will provide assurances that the state will consider resources and income as outlined at 45 CFR 400.66(b)-(d).
Financial assistance for refugees through RCA, regardless of family composition will be based on Mississippi’s TANF need standards with income taken into consideration on same basis as non-refugee recipients §400.66((a) (1). Refugee household’s eligibility is based on the following elements; residency, age/relationship, enumeration, citizenship/alien status and income. Individuals who are eligible for TANF are automatically eligible for Medicaid §400.65(b)

RCA payments are determined the same as TANF benefit levels regarding grant maximums based on household size. Determination of initial and on-going eligibility, are based on income and qualifying deductions as used by Mississippi TANF guidelines. §400.66 (a) (1). The description for both TANF and RCA payments are the same in Mississippi, legal maximums for TANF and RCA; $110.00 for first person, additional $36 for second person, $24.00 addition for third or ongoing persons. §400.66 (a) (2). This consists of:

- 1 Person $110.00
- 2 Persons $146.00
- 3 Persons $170.00
- 4 Persons $194.00
- 5 Persons $218.00

Refugee Cash Assistance is available to refugees under the Refugee Resettlement Program. Refugees cannot receive both Refugee Cash Assistance and TANF benefits. Refugee Cash Assistance is determined based on Mississippi’s TANF standards. A family unit is considered as one or more adults and children, blood related or by law, that reside in the same household. When adults other than spouses reside together, each one will be considered a separate household. A refugee’s income and resources will be considered on the same bases as TANF and payments are the same as Mississippi TANF payment levels.

Refugee households are certified as Simplified Reporting (SR) households. Each refugee household is responsible for reporting changes to the MDHS county office only at application/re-evaluation interviews. These changes should be forwarded to the MDHS Policy Unit as needed. All households would only report a change if it causes the household to meet or exceed 185% of the poverty level. This change should be reported by the 10th of the month following the month of the change. If these changes are below the 185% poverty level, the refugee will only be required to report these changes at his/her next re-evaluation interview.

For refugees determined ineligible for cash assistance under the TANF Program, the State or its designee must determine eligibility for refugee cash assistance in accordance with § 400.53 and § 400.59.

Eligibility for RCA is limited to those who:
• Are new arrivals who have resided in the U.S. less than the RCA eligibility period determined by the ORR Director in accordance with § 400.211;
• Are ineligible for TANF, SSI, OAA, AB, APTD and AABD programs;
• Meet immigration status and identification requirements in subpart D of this or are the dependent children of and part of the same family until as, individuals who meet the requirements in subpart D, subject to the limitation in § 200.208 with respect to non-refugee children; and
• Are not full-time students in intuitions of higher education, as defined by the ORR Director.

A refugee may be eligible for cash assistance under this subpart during a period to be determined by the ORR Director in accordance with § 400.211. Upon determining the amount of the RCA payment will be changed or if the refugee is no longer eligible for financial assistance, the Refugee Coordinator will notify the refugee in writing of this change and to comply with the requirements of the Refugee Social Services (RSS) 45 CFR Part §400.140. The MDHS will determine what specific exemptions, if any, are appropriate for the recipients of a time limited RCA program. They are as follows:

• The refugee is responsible for reporting to the MDHS county staff any changes in income, resources, living arrangements, etc., which will change the amount or status of his/her assistance.
• Any changes reported by a refugee must be relayed by the MDHS county office to MDCPS State Office/State Refugee Coordinator. Such changes could include obtaining employment, increased earnings, receipt of other financial assistance, persons moving in or out of the home, or obtaining resources. In accepting the initial application for assistance, the county office is responsible for explaining to the refugee the requirement to report such changes.

6. Notification to local resettlement agency. 45 CFR 400.68

When refugees apply for RCA at local MDHS offices, notice of application, approval/denial, certification period, and amount of benefits will be promptly relayed to the agency’s refugee coordinator, who will in turn notify the local resettlement agency. The application process will be completed within thirty (30) days of RCA application. MDCPS State Refugee Coordinator and MDHS, Field Operations work together on a monthly and quarterly basis to verify and track all refugee cash assistance payments. This information is also provided to the resettlement agency for their records.

Upon receipt of an application for RCA, the agency’s refugee coordinator will work with the resettlement agency regarding changes in employment to verify if the refugee applicant has either voluntarily quit a job or received an appropriate offer of employment within 30
consecutive days immediately prior to the date of the RCA application. The refugee coordinator will in turn relay this information to the MDHS, Field Operations. Such action will assist Field Operations in determining the refugee's adherence to RCA work requirements, as described in Chapter 16 of the Volume III, TANF Policy Manual. The resettlement agency works with community contractors to assist in finding jobs for the eligible populations served by the Refugee grant. The contractors offer job fairs in which the local companies hold at the worksites. They assist with resumes', accompany to job interviews and orientations if needed. They also have contracts with professional organizations in the hotel, Casinos and food service areas. The resettlement agency's case manager informs the participants at intake of any known job availabilities.

7. **RCA program administration. 45 CFR 400.13**

RCA eligibility and benefit distribution are done by MDHS, Division of Field Operations. (SL# 12-13, SL# 13-03). The process for a refugee requesting financial assistance for himself/herself or for a group of minor children for whom he/she is responsible, the MDHS-EA-900 application should be accepted and registered in the usual manner in the county office. Any refugee family group potentially eligible for TANF must be tested for TANF or referred for a determination of eligibility for assistance from other programs. Persons age 65 or older, blind or disabled individuals must be referred to the local Social Security office to apply for SSI benefits (if eligible, these persons may receive refugee cash assistance until eligibility for cash assistance under the SSI program is determined, provided the conditions of eligibility for refugee cash assistance continue to be met). Eligibility for SNAP and/or TANF should be determined before a refugee assistance request is processed.

If the individual refugee or refugee family is eligible for any of the regular programs administered through Economic Assistance, benefits should be authorized at the local office and no other action will be required. In some instances, the refugee applicant may be eligible for SNAP, but ineligible for TANF. If so, the SNAP application should be processed as normal by the county office. For processing of the request for Refugee Cash Assistance, the county office must scan the MDHS-EA-900 application and copies of all documents verifying refugee status to the case record and notify the State. This information is reviewed to determine eligibility for RCA based on need standard requirements for TANF using the MDHS-EA-323. If approved, the refugee household will be eligible for RCA payments for an eight-month period beginning the month of the initial application for benefits in the local office. MDHS will submit a money payment request to Budgets and Accounting in State Office for processing and mailing of the RCA payment by regular mail or direct deposit. MDHS also notifies the applicant and the State Refugee Coordinator in writing of the approval or denial of the request. Also, MDHS county staff allocated to RCA and TANF benefits are full time state employees. The staff is full time but less than 10% of time is allocated to RCA. Lastly, MDCPS is not charging CMA as an indirect cost rate.
D. Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) 45 CFR Part §400.90

1. Application and Determinations of Eligibility. 45 CFR 400.93 and 400.94.

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid and the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) has one single application for all insurance affordability programs. Application for any of the insurance affordability programs may be filed onsite at a local regional Medicaid office or online through the Division of Medicaid or the FFM at Healthcare.gov. In Mississippi, affordable health care programs include Mississippi Medicaid health benefits (Medicaid and CHIP) and health coverage through a federally facilitated marketplace (FFM). Individuals or families with income above the poverty level and below 400 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) can purchase insurance through the FFM with premium tax credits that lower the cost of insurance. Certain households will also qualify for cost-sharing reductions for out-of-pocket expenses for insurance through the FFM. In order to qualify for insurance through the marketplace, an individual must not be eligible for Medicaid, CHIP or affordable job-based health coverage, as determined by the FFM.

Individuals who apply for health coverage through the FFM will be assessed for Medicaid and/or CHIP eligibility. If Medicaid or CHIP eligibility is a possibility for any family member, the marketplace will electronically transfer the individual’s account to the Division of Medicaid for a formal Medicaid decision. No separate application is needed to apply for Mississippi health benefits.

Immigrants must provide all applicable documentation to ensure that DOM makes a valid determination of eligibility. Additionally, immigrants can receive language assistance by requesting to use DOM’s interpreter services. Immigrants that are unable to provide proof of eligible immigration status of a valid Social Security Number will be ineligible for Medicaid or CHIP. An immigrant applying only for emergency Medicaid does not have to provide his or her Social Security Number, information on citizenship or immigration status. Immigrants who are not eligible for Medicaid due to their immigration status may be eligible for emergency services only. Emergency Medicaid means:

a. all other eligibility requirements are met except immigration status,
b. the emergency cannot be related to an organ transplant or routine prenatal or postpartum care,
c. the services covered relate directly to the injury, illness or delivery causing the emergency. Once the medical condition is stabilized it is no longer an emergency, even if it remains serious.

Eligibility is based on AFDC policy as described in Chapter 16 of the Volume III, TANF Policy Manual. Eligibility is based on household size and income levels. After determination is made, the Refugee coordinator will send a notification to the participant and/or family to inform them of their Medicaid number and eligibility period. The Refugee coordinator will electronically send a copy to the case manager at Resettlement agency.
2. Consideration of eligibility for RMA. 45 CFR 400.100 through 400.104
Eligibility will be determined based on AFDC policy as described in Chapter 16 of the Volume III, TANF Policy Manual. The State assures the above-mentioned procedure will consider TANF income and resource guidelines in determining eligibility for RMA.

MDCPS assures continued coverage to the participants will be provided to eligible refugee populations.

3. Scope of medical services. 45 CFR 400.105 and 400.106
MDCPS assures that RMA will cover at least the same services in the same manner and to the same extent as Medicaid. MDCPS does not provide any additional coverage. The state will continue to collaborate with MDHS, Mississippi Access to Care (MAC) which helps the agency identify free or reduced medical services for ORR-eligible populations. These centers are very accessible and are located across the state.

4. RMA program administration. 45 CFR 400.13
MDCPS does not provide a RMA health insurance delivery system. All refugees are given the opportunity to apply for medical assistance upon arrival at the local and regional DOM's offices. Upon notice of disqualification from DOM which is provided to the refugee, the resettlement agency will contact the Refugee Coordinator with the request for Medical Assistance eligibility determination for RMA in accordance with §400.93 and §400.94. Additionally, the state does not have a Refugee Health Coordinator.

The eligibility standards are the same as the TANF requirements for Refugee Medicaid. Refugees are required to report changes in their income and address within ten days of any applicable changes. The refugees receive screenings with their personal providers of choice. Their vision, hearing and physical examinations are covered by Medicaid. Refugee youth's immunization shots are also covered by Mississippi Medicaid.

MDCPS has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) that identifies the service coordination and reimbursement of refugee health care services. The Mississippi DOM is made available to all refugees. Refugees must request and complete an application and meet all requirements by the Division of Medicaid. Mississippi Medicaid health care services cover doctor visits, pharmacy supplies, emergency rooms and hospital stay and various additional services. Once eligibility has been determined, MDCPS coordinates with DOM the provision medical and prescription services to adult refugees and their families. The RMA grant is used to reimburse the Division of Medicaid for services provided.

The State Refugee Coordinator is responsible for coordinating RMS reimbursement to DOM. RMA reimbursement process consist of DOM submitting to the SRC two (2) semi-annual invoices with utilization reports as supportive documentation. These reimbursement
invoices and utilization reports are submitted to the Refugee Coordinator in January and July of each year. DOM utilization reports identify medical and dental services, costs and rate adjustments, clients and dates of services. This report is verified by the SRC in conjunction with the resettlement agencies for payment to ensure that reimbursement is compliant with ORR regulations.

When determining the estimates for RMS, the state reviews the average monthly costs and the total number of recipients served in the prior year. Additionally, RMA is determined by combining that total amount of reimbursements for each individual client, divided by the months for which services were received. A combined total of all client monthly averages is divided by the number of clients served.

E. Refugee Medical Screening Program (RMS) 45 CFR Part §400.107

1. Coordination of RMS program. 45 CFR 400.5(f)
Mississippi does not have a medical screening program/provider for refugees. Once the refugee has been identified as needing care by the resettlement agency, the resettlement agency assists the refugees with identifying a provider for treatment and observation. The resettlement agency also follows up with the refugee to see if further assistance is needed. The refugee resettlement case manager provides monthly reports to the state to identify number of clients served in need of screening services. The SRC, Catholic Social and other state entities continue to collaborate on identifying free or reduced medical services for ORR-eligible populations. Furthermore, the State Refugee Coordinator does not have access to the CDC’s Electronic Database Notification (EDN). The State Refugee Coordinator partners with the MS State Department of Health, Office of Tuberculosis (TB) and Refugee regarding the information from EDN. Although the SRC does not have direct access, the collaboration between the two-state agencies provides the access indirectly. Lastly, the refugee population goes to their local health departments for some screenings and this information is verified on the state level between the SRC and Office of TB and Refugees. Very few Refugees have private providers.

2. Medical Screening
MDCPS does not have a medical screening program or a State Refugee Health Coordinator (SRHC). The state is currently accessing medical providers that are currently working with this population. At this time, the state will not request to operate a medical screening program with RMA funding.

3. Scope of RMS services. 45 CFR 400.107
MDCPS assures that the RMS program is operated in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Director.
4. RMS program administration. 45 CFR 400.13
   There are no RMS program costs.

F. Refugee Social Services (RSS) 45 CFR Part §400 subpart I
   The resettlement agency in coordination with the Gulf Coast Community College and the Bureau
   of Marine Resources provides Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor training to refugees as commercial
   shrimpers and fishermen. A large number of refugees on the coast work in the fishing industry.
   The resettlement agency also offers the following social services:

   • **English Language Instruction** – English as a Second Language classes, General
     Equivalency Diploma classes and Test of English for Foreign Language (TOEFL)
     preparation are all part of the adult education program. Beginning, intermediate and
     advanced classes are offered in both the day and evening. All are designed to relate to
     obtaining and retaining a job.

   • **Translation and interpreter services** – The contracted agency assists clients with
     United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Outreach services. The
     regular services include English Language Training and Citizenship Preparation classes
     to help clients prepare for the USCIS test and interview; guidance in compiling the
     necessary personal documents required by USCIS; taking photographs and photo
     copying of residency cards and other documents; writing letters; Notary Public
     services; interpretation and translation services; completing USCIS forms and referral
     services to providers in the community such as the local immigration attorney and area
     doctors. Caseworkers also assist refugees in the USCIS office in New Orleans, Louisiana
     whenever there is a need for interpretation and translation assistance.

   • **Information and referral services** – information about services are provided both
     orally and written in English, Vietnamese and Spanish. The contracted agency also
     regularly meets with other agencies within the contract area to coordinate services.
     Resettlement agencies will provide interpreters for all other languages.

   • **Emergency services** – will include assessment and short-term counseling to persons
     or families in a perceived crisis with referral to the appropriate resources.

   • **Health related services** - including information, referral to appropriate resources,
     assistance in scheduling appointments and obtaining services, counseling to individuals
     or families to help them understand and identify their health needs and maintain or
     improve their health.

   • Other services such as child and family strengthening services are provided by staff
     members to all eligible populations. Workers provide an array of services including
     reading classes at the local library for the younger children, interpretation if families or
     youth are involved in the juvenile or family court system and contact with the police
     department to teach about the dangers of drugs in the community.
The Resettlement Agency also provides citizenship and naturalization preparation services which includes English language training and Civics instruction to prepare refugees for citizenship. They also provide application assistance for adjustment to legal permanent resident status and citizenship status. They assist disabled refugees in obtaining disability waivers from English and Civics requirements for naturalization and provide interpreter services for citizenship interview. The Resettlement Agency assists participant in obtaining Employment Authorization Documents (EADs).

G. Unaccompanied Refugee Children (URM) 45 CFR Part §400.5(e)
1. Administrative structure and state oversight. 45 CFR 400.117
MDCPS receives federal funds from the Office of Refugee Resettlement to operate its URM Program. Program services are 100% federally funded through the Cash and Medical Assistance Grant. The structure and oversight for the URM is state administered program that is subcontracted to Catholic Charities of Jackson, MS. The roles and responsibilities listed below identify the existing relationships between the SRC, URM Subcontractor, and key stakeholder:

a) State Refugee Coordinator:

i. The State Refugee Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the administration and performance of the URM Program.

ii. The State Refugee Coordinator is responsible for sharing ORR Federal Policy and procedural changes with Catholic Charities and other State staff.

iii. The State Refugee Coordinator makes sure case records are maintained properly and information is shared timely with County Workers and all applicable state stakeholders.

iv. The State Refugee Coordinator will staff with Catholic Charities' program staff, pending arrivals for new youth, to confirm appropriate placement is identified prior to Catholic Charities accepting the case.

v. The State Refugee Coordinator will review documentation for pending cases and weigh in, team decision-making style, prior to case acceptance to determine the best placement and plan of care.

vi. The State Refugee Coordinator coordinates services between Catholic Charities and other MDCPS internal program areas to ensure that all standards are applied equally for ORR eligible youth in foster care.

vii. The State Refugee Coordinator works with MDCPS Financial Unit, MDHS, and DOM to accurately identify and report historical data needed to complete the ORR-1 Cash and Medical Assistance Estimates for ORR submission by August 15th. The State Refugee Coordinator will also verify and track monthly program expenditures for contractor reimbursement.

viii. The State Refugee Coordinator also meets with MDCPS Procurement Unit to review Request for Proposals (RFP), budget requests for contract renewals and modifications when needed.
ix. The State Refugee Coordinator hosts monthly refugee resettlement meetings with its stakeholders which consists of the following but not limited to: URM Program Director, County Family Protection Workers, Regional Supervisors, Director of MDCPS’s Nursing Unit, Director of Independent Living, Education, and Human Trafficking, and a representative from the State Health Dept.’s, Office of Tuberculosis (TB). These meetings are to improve the coordination of services, address areas of noncompliance that result from on-site reviews and any other systemic barriers for URM program participants.

x. The State Refugee Coordinator also collaborates with the following state entities:
   - **MS. Dept. of Health** – discuss medical screening data for all refugees that are screened for TB and any other applicable diseases
   - **MS Dept. of Mental Health** - both entities share and discusses monitoring findings and corrective actions plans on the joint service providers and notifies the state of their certification status as a therapeutic provider.
   - **MS Division of Medicaid** - MDCPS has an active MOU with the [DOM] to provide Medicaid health care coverage to eligible refugees for medical assistance consistent with the Refugee Assistance Act, and all other applicable state and federal regulations.
   - **Office of the Attorney General** - assists MDCPS county workers with attaining Chancery Orders to extend a youth's stay in the URM program up to age 21, if the youth request to remain. Pertinent information is submitted to the AG's Office for the request to be made to the court on behalf of the youth. If granted the child can remain until emancipation.

b) MDCPS Worker – County Level:
   i. The MDCPS county worker receives notification from Catholic Charities that a youth will be arriving. This may be written or verbal, depending on travel arrangements.
   ii. The MDCPS county worker and Catholic Charities establish a mutual location to meet the youth face to face. The meeting can be at Catholic Charities or at the airport.
   iii. The MDCPS county worker introduces himself/herself to the youth.
   iv. The MDCPS county worker explains and informs the youth of his/her client’s rights and responsibilities. The youth signs and initials the Client's Rights and Responsibilities form and is given a copy for his/her records.
   v. The MDCPS county worker contacts the Hinds County Youth Court to request a verbal order to bring the youth into the custody of MDCPS foster care.
   vi. The MDCPS county worker requests a Shelter Hearing to sanction the verbal order and the youth’s initial clothing allowance.
   vii. The MDCPS county worker receives court orders from Youth Court. He/she submits court orders to the MDCPS Eligibility Unit in a timely manner to expedite access to benefits and services.
viii. The MDCPS county worker is responsible for the URM youth receiving the same range of benefits and services available in foster care cases to other youths in State custody.

ix. The MDCPS county worker is responsible for acquiring when applicable travel orders, rehearing orders and emancipations for youths under age 18.

x. The MDCPS county worker contacts the MS Attorney General's office when the youth turns 19 years and 6 months of age to request a Chancery Order if the youth is to remain in foster care custody until age 21.

xi. The MDCPS county worker submits all initial custody orders, shelter orders and custody change orders to the MDCPS State Office/Eligibility Unit as well as complete and submit eligibility documentation in the MACWIS system for approval and activation of Medicaid.

xii. The MDCPS county worker requests allowances when applicable to the youth that include initial allowances, personal allowances, birthday allowances, Christmas allowances, ETV, senior year allowances, Emancipation(Startup), High School Graduation or GED allowances, and College stipends.

xiii. The MDCPS county worker is responsible for payment of clothing and personal allowances.

xiv. The MDCPS county worker is responsible for signing medical treatment (including surgery) and releases, school documentation, and residential treatment for URM youths.

xv. The MDCPS county worker is responsible for seeing each youth twice a month. One contact must be in the home. The other visit must be outside the home.

xvi. The MDCPS county worker will coordinate all home visits with Catholic Charities to eliminate multiple visits in the home by both agencies.

xvii. The MDCPS county case manager also updates independent living plans for each youth on a quarterly basis.

xviii. The MDCPS County level staff develops the ongoing service plans for URM youth.

c) Resettlement Agency - Catholic Charities:

i. Catholic Charities' staff provides services for the child and provides the MDCPS county staff with information regarding the child's placement in order to aid in carrying out the child's case plan.

ii. Catholic Charities' staff is responsible for providing documentation to MDCPS in order to staff potential new cases to obtain input from the state prior to providing a placement assurance, as needed.

iii. Catholic Charities' staff transports youth from the airport to their appointed destination to meet a MDCPS county worker.

iv. Catholic Charities' staff completes applicable intake information (therapist and case managers).

v. Catholic Charities' staff conducts an inventory of the youth's belongings.

vi. Catholic Charities' staff forwards a copy of arrival documents to the MDCPS Family Protection Worker(s)/State Refugee Coordinator.

vii. Catholic Charities' staff coordinates and transports youth to medical, dental, vision, and psychological (initial, annual and as needed).
viii. Catholic Charities’ staff provides therapeutic services weekly and as needed to youth with their consent.
ix. Catholic Charities’ staff conducts monthly group and cultural awareness activities.
x. Catholic Charities’ staff forwards copies of group and therapeutic services results to MDCPS county staff.
xi. Catholic Charities’ staff coordinates applicable school enrollment (regular education, GED, Vocational).
 xii. Catholic Charities’ staff completes applicable immigration paperwork (secure attorneys if needed).
 xiii. Catholic Charities’ staff use assessments and confers with MDCPS to determine least restrictive placement for youth (i.e. group home, foster home, residential treatment center (RTC), Independent Living Apartments).
 xiv. Catholic Charities’ staff provides immigration, employment counseling and case management to youth and foster families when needed.
 x v. Catholic Charities’ staff provides job training and resources for permanent employment.
 xvi. Catholic Charities’ staff provides career exploration for each youth
 x vii. Catholic Charities’ staff submits copies of academic progress to MDCPS staff.
 x viii. Catholic Charities’ staff plans and implements recreational activities that reflect the youth’s cultural heritage.
 x ix. Catholic Charities’ staff confers with MDCPS staff regarding permanency planning, the Independent Living Program and emancipation.
 xx. Catholic Charities’ staff recruits, trains and license foster homes.
 x xi. Catholic Charities’ staff coordinates all family sessions in the foster homes (inform MDCPS county staff of pertinent issues).
 xxii. Catholic Charities’ staff provides after hours and weekend on call services to youth and foster families.
 xxiii. Catholic Charities’ staff submits copies for serious incident reports to MDCPS county staff and the State Refugee Coordinator.
 xxiv. Catholic Charities’ staff requests stipends, allowances and retreats on behalf of the youth.
 xxv. Catholic Charities’ staff determines the youth’s best interest through URM staff assessments, conferring with USCCB, ORR, Youth Court and MDCPS.
 xxvi. Catholic Charities’ staff submits the initial placement and changes (ORR 3) and Annual Outcome report (ORR4) to State Refugee Coordinator for approval and submission to ORR.
 xxvii. Catholic Charities’ staff submits the Trimester Report (ORR 6) to the State Refugee Coordinator for review prior to submitting to ORR.
 xxviii. Catholic Charities’ staff provides the MDCPS county worker(s) and the State Refugee Coordinator with the youth’s monthly notes for their perspective case files
 xxix. Catholic Charities’ staff has the youths birth certificates translated.

Performance Oversight:
MDCPS submits the ORR 3, Placement Reports, the ORR 4, and Outcomes Reports to the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Catholic Charities completes and submits ORR 3 to the State Refugee Coordinator within five (5) business days of the initial placement. The State Refugee Coordinator
reviews the form for accuracy. If error(s) are found the form is denied and resubmitted to Catholic Charities for corrections. Catholic Charities has one (1) day to resubmit the corrected ORR 3 to the State Refugee Coordinator for approval. Once approved, ORR 3 will be submitted timely to ORR. State Refugee Coordinator also reviews all initial ORR-4 reporting forms for accuracy. This form is also submitted with the ORR-3. The ORR 4 requires a baseline report for youths seventeen (17) and above to be submitted in conjunction with the initial ORR 3 placement report. Catholic Charities follows the same procedures for the ORR 3 submission for the initial ORR 4 report. The ORR 4 and Annual Outcome Report are submitted every twelve (12) months on the anniversary of the Initial Placement to ORR. Catholic Charities completes and submits this ORR 4 to the State Refugee Coordinator for review two (2) weeks prior to the anniversary initial placement date.

Oversight of the fiscal component is provided by the State Refugee Coordinator who collaborates with MDCPS Office of Financial Services for the completion of the ORR-1 and ORR-2 financial reports. Individual cases of unaccompanied minors placed in therapeutic foster homes, group homes and Independent Living apartments are monitored by the MDCPS County Office. The MDCPS county worker addresses the needs of the child and foster parent. Case Workers are required to make two (2) visits each month with the child and the foster parent. Board payments are made according to the state policy on foster care. Additionally, MDCPS' State Office staffs, MDCPS' County Office staff and Catholic Charities' staff meet on a monthly basis to discuss policy, status and any request needed for the program.

MDCPS developed and implemented a monitoring tool for annual on-site reviews of the URM program. During the on-site review process, the State Refugee Coordinator requests a random selection of files from Catholic Charities of Jackson for review. If deficiencies are discovered, a corrective action plan is required to be submitted to MDCPS within 30 days of the notice.

MDCPS provides an assurance that the state will assume program accountability for all aspects of the program, including fiscal and program reporting.

MDCPS provides an assurance that URM service providers are licensed according to state requirements.

MDCPS provides an assurance that the state or county supervising and/or contracting agency for URMs confer at least annually with provider agencies.

2. Legal responsibility. 45 CFR 400.115(a)

MDCPS is designated by MISS. CODE ANN. § 43-15-5 (1) to “administer and supervise the licensing and inspection of all private child placing agencies” and “provide for the care of dependent and neglected children in foster family homes or institutions. MDCPS is responsible for setting and developing standards for “single application” (foster, adopt, kinship care) Resource Homes. This includes placing children in suitable foster and adoptive homes approved
by licensed child placing agencies in cases where restoration to the biological family is not safe, possible or appropriate, thus creating Resource Families, both temporary and permanent. The URM service providers are licensed according to MDCPS and the Department of Mental Health requirements when there is a therapeutic component to be met. Catholic Charities license their foster parents. Their group homes are licensed by MDCPS and are required to meet MDCPS licensure standards which are the same as the domestic group homes licensed by MDCPS.

MDCPS has legal custody of the URM child. The resettlement agency has guardianship over the URM child. Mississippi’s process of establishing legal responsibility begins when the MDCPS county worker is notified of a youths’ arrival date. The MDCPS County worker coordinates with Catholic Charities a designated point of contact for the county worker to make physical contact with the youth. The MDCPS county worker contacts the Youth Court to request a verbal order to bring the youth into custody. A shelter hearing is conducted in forty-eight (48) hours for the youth. Legal responsibility is then given to the MDCPS.

Age parameters of URM children in Mississippi are 0 to 20 years of age. If the youth requests to remain in the URM Program, a Chancery Court Order will be requested to keep them in custody up to age twenty-one (21). When extension is granted, only the court can terminate the case. Participation in the URM program between the ages of 18 to 21 is a voluntary decision made with the child.

3. Eligibility. 45 CFR 400.111 and 45 CFR 400.113

MDCPS assures that the State of Mississippi serves all URM-eligible populations.

Youth Court jurisdiction terminates when a child reaches age twenty (20), if determined by the youth court. If MDCPS determines the need to retain custody of a child beyond age twenty (20), the county of responsibility (COR) may petition the Chancery Court for continued custody until the child reaches age 21.

Factors that can trigger eligibility termination: the youth can request termination from the program voluntarily at age eighteen (18), pending he/she exhibits signs that they can provide self-sufficiently or when a parent or family member is located within the United States, youth is reunified with them. Children will be reunified with parents when arrived in the United States unless otherwise determined not to be in the best interest of the child. The State Refugee Coordinator will review ORR regulations and policy in regard to reuniting with parents to underscore that funding is to cease, if youth do not reunite with parents, unless ORR has approved the continuation of URM services.

Additionally, Mississippi has provisions for former foster children to return to placement and/or services. Youth can also request to be placed within independent living.
MDCPS does not provide ORR-funded independent living services or education benefits. Chafee and the Educational Training Voucher program services are funded through the state's Chafee Foster Care Program for successful transition to adulthood.

4. Scope of Services
MDCPS assures that the state will provide URMs with the same range of benefits and services as available to other foster children in the state, including services identified under the state's Title IV-B and IV-E plans.

URM youths are eligible for all foster care services and other support services that promote safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. The same welfare standards, practices and procedures apply to the refugee youths. These services include foster care board payments, Medicaid and social services. The resettlement agency staff in conjunction with the state use assessments and confer with MDCPS when applicable to determine least restrictive placement for URM youth. Placement options that are available for URM youth are therapeutic foster care, group home care, and apartment living through Chafee services.

Additionally, Magnolia Health Plan is the managed care organization providing services to the state’s foster children under Mississippi Coordinated (MSCAN). They assist the state’s workers in locating medical, dental and mental health services. Magnolia has providers in all 82 counties in Mississippi. The Mississippi Division of Medicaid contracted with Magnolia to provide services for foster children age birth to 19 years of age. Children over 19 will receive Medicaid direct services. Children aging out of the foster care system will have a copy of their electronic health record that has captured their physical, dental and mental health history. Additionally, MDCPS has a Nursing Unit that is staffed with four (4) nurses including the nurse manager. The four nurses are assigned to different regions to provide statewide coverage and work in conjunction with Magnolia Health. These arrangements apply to URMs as well as other foster children.

The nursing supervisor uses Children in Custody Reports. The custody reports are provided by Magnolia Healthcare and are ran bi-monthly. These reports indicate which children have medical bills currently being paid by Magnolia and which children have been discharged. It also provides a list of children by age on psychotropic meds and the medications that have been given. Nurses use this report to drive the nursing support that is provided to caseworkers and foster parents. The nursing supervisor also uses these reports to determine strengths, weaknesses, needs and opportunities to assist with securing additional medical services.

Also, per the state's 2nd Modified Settlement Agreement (2nd MSA), children entering foster care receive an Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) or other comprehensive medical exam within 30 days of entering foster care. EPSDT benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in
Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, and developmental, and specialty services. EPSDT is:

- **Early:** Assessing and identifying problems early
- **Periodic:** Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals
- **Screening:** Providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other screening tests to detect potential problems
- **Diagnostic:** Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified, and
- **Treatment:** Control, correct or reduce health problems found.

Youth that have emancipated from foster care placement services are eligible for and receive Chafee and Education Training Vouchers (ETV). Independent Living Program (ILP) services are available to URM participants ILP helps adolescents acquire basic life skills in their progress from dependency toward self-sufficiency. Youth are eligible for Independent Living Services based on the following criteria:

- Youth in care, ages 14 until their 21st birthday, are eligible for all Independent Living Services except for criteria placed on the Educational and Training Voucher program;
- Youth who leave custody, ages 18 to their 21st birthday, and are eligible for after-care services until their 21st birthday;
- Youth who enroll in post-secondary educational and vocational programs may be eligible based on the criteria detailed in the Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) Program section.

5. **Case review/planning. 45 CFR 400.118**

MDCPS provides assurance that cases are reviewed every six months for the continuing appropriateness of living arrangements and services.

MDCPS provides assurance the state will address the following elements in case plans: family reunification, placement, health screening and treatment, mental health needs, social adjustment, education/training, English language training, career planning, preparation for independent living, preservation of ethnic and religious heritage.

A child's permanency plans are reviewed in a court or administrative case review at least every six (6) months, including continuing appropriateness of living arrangement and services. Foster care reviews will satisfy the administrative case review requirement. MDCPS will take reasonable steps, including written notice, to ensure the participation of the child, parents, caregivers, and relevant professional in court or administrative reviews. MDCPS will take reasonable steps to ensure that a court review, which may be called a review, dispositional, or permanency hearing,
is held for each child in foster care custody within 12 months of initial placement, and annually thereafter.

Catholic Charities, the resettlement agency is also involved in the permanency planning of the youth. Catholic Charities assists with reunifying the youth with available permanent connections, in the United States. The county worker notifies and invites Catholic Charities to all scheduled hearings.

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (MDMH) is responsible for the management of clinical services. MDMH ensures the therapeutic services are being provided as required by their guidelines. Catholic Charities provides both the State and County level offices with monthly progress reports, cultural activities report, and case management activities reports. They also provide the State and County Offices with Serious Incident Reports (SIRs) within 48 hours of each occurrence.

Additionally, MDCPS County level staff develops the ongoing service plans for URM youth. The staff also develops and implements a plan for care and supervision of all youth participants. Case plans are also updated every six months. Progress notes and status of URM youth including last known address of parents and a tracking system is also maintained in the MDCPS County Office. Individual cases of unaccompanied minors placed in therapeutic foster homes, group homes and Independent Living apartments are also monitored by the MDCPS County Office staff. The county worker addresses the needs of the child as well as care given by foster parent. The MDCPS case workers are required to make two (2) visits each month with the child and the foster parent. Board payments are made according to the state policy on foster care.

Additionally, Catholic Charities maintains a case file on each URM youth. The case plans are included in the case file within 30 days and updated every six months. MDCPS has access to all case files within Catholic Charities.

6. Interstate Movement - §400.119

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) unit works with local offices and other states to adhere to and promote the standards set forth in the Safe and Timely Act of 2006 encouraging timely home studies. Refugees under age 18 are eligible for same ICPC services as other youths in MDCPS custody. ICPC also continues its partnership with the Court Improvement Program for educational training as well as collaborating with judges to work through barriers to permanency. ICPC placements types:

- Placement preliminary to an adoption.
- Placements into foster care, including foster homes, group homes, residential treatment facilities, and institutions.
- Placements with parents and relatives when a parent or relative is not making the placement.
- Placements of adjudicated delinquents in institutions in other states.
Not all placements of children into other states are subject to compliance with the Compact.

Phil Bryant, Governor
State of Mississippi

Date

Oct. 18, 2018