



Amendment #1

Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 2021RSSP001

Refugee Support Services Program (RSSP)

The Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) has modified:

Section I-Description of Services.

Amendments to the RFP are as follows:

1. Under Limitations on eligibility for services, page 5:

(a) A State may provide the social services defined in §400.154 to refugees who are 16 years of age or older and who are not full-time students in elementary or secondary school, except that such a student may be provided services under §400.154 (a) and (b) in order to obtain part-time or temporary (e.g., summer) employment while a student or full-time permanent employment upon completion of schooling.

(b) Services must be provided to all ORR-eligible populations with the assistance and services described without regard to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, sex, or political opinion.

(c) May not provide services under this subpart, except for citizenship and naturalization preparation services and referral and interpreter services, to refugees who have been in the United States for more than 60 months.

2. Under Service Requirements, pp. 7-8:

In accordance with 45 CFR 400, a state must provide the following service requirements:

(a) In order to avoid interference with refugee employment, English language instruction and vocational training funded under this part must be provided to the fullest extent feasible outside normal working hours.

(b) In planning and providing services under §§400.154 and 400.155, a State must take into account those services which a resettlement agency is required to provide for a refugee whom it sponsors in order to ensure the provision of seamless, coordinated services to refugees that are not duplicative.

(c) English language instruction funded under this part must be provided in a concurrent, rather than sequential, time period with employment or with other employment-related services.

(d) Services funded under this part must be refugee-specific services which are designed specifically to meet refugee needs and are in keeping with the rules and objectives of the refugee program, except that vocational or job skills training, on-the-job training, or English language training need not be refugee-specific.

(e) Services funded under this part must be provided to the maximum extent feasible in a manner that is culturally and linguistically compatible with a refugee's language and cultural background.

(f) Services funded under this part must be provided to the maximum extent feasible in a manner that includes the use of bilingual/bicultural women on service agency staffs to ensure adequate service access by refugee women.

~~(g) A family self-sufficiency plan must be developed for anyone who receives employment-related services funded under this part.~~

(g) Services funded under this part must be provided at the highest level possible in an emergency to ensure refugees ongoing access to mainstream services during emergencies including, but not limited to, remote services.

(h) A family self-sufficiency plan must be developed for all refugees receiving RSS-funded employment-related services (and their family members living in the same household) to include initial assessment, referral, and follow-up.

3. Note: section, page 8

Note: The contractor's must demonstrate their ability to provide comprehensive ~~employment and transitional~~ services **across the entire state of Mississippi** to assist program participants and their families in achieving economic and social self-sufficiency as soon as possible after their arrival in the United States. The services outlined in this RFP address both the employment needs and the barriers to employment that refugees typically face. Effective delivery of these services will result in a more substantial integration of refugees into the community. Contractors will be expected to provide a comprehensive RSSP program which: screens participants to confirm that they are eligible; assesses their employability; employment plan; provides employment preparation services; assists participants to find appropriate jobs through outreach and employer contacts; supports the participants on the job so that they can remain employed; and continues to work with participants to achieve self-sufficiency.

4. Program Administration, Bullet 4, page 9:

- Submit monthly programmatic reports with supportive documentation by the 10th of each month. These reports shall consist of monthly updates regarding the social services benefits and client served through RSS **that month including how they were contacted and what services they are currently receiving along with any narratives related to their case.**

Please acknowledge receipt of Amendment One by completing and returning Acknowledgement of Amendment Form (Exhibit J) along with your proposal no later than August 6, 2021, 12:00 p.m., CT.