

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 5

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR AFGHAN REFUGEE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINIANS; AND APPLY FOR FUTURE FUNDING (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

In July 2024, the County of San Diego (County), Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (HSEC), Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) was awarded two additional funding allocations from the California Department of Social Services Refugee Programs Bureau (CDSS RPB) to continue providing supportive services to assist refugees and newly arrived immigrants in the region. Those supportive services include emotional wellness programs, landlord education, housing and utilities assistance, the employment of community health workers, and funding for the Immigrant and Refugee Welcome Center in National City. In addition, HSEC-OIRA will also explore other potential programming based on community feedback received through listening sessions.

Today's action requests the Board authorize actions to accept funds from CDSS RPB for Afghan Refugee Support Services and Housing Assistance for Ukrainians; and authorize to apply for future funding. Today's action advances the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, with a special focus on communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically under-resourced, particularly our immigrant and refugee communities. This aligns with our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities by supporting programs that remove barriers to employment and resources, thereby supporting regional economic inclusion and equity.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency to execute agreements and take any other action necessary as required by the California Department of Social Services Refugee Programs Bureau for the acceptance of \$2,000,000 and any other allocations that may be awarded of Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriation funding for Afghan Refugee Support Services.
2. Authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency to execute agreements and take any other action necessary as required by the California Department of Social Services Refugee Programs Bureau for acceptance of up to \$1,000,000 and any other allocations that may be awarded of Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act funding for Housing for Ukrainians.
3. Authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for future funding, including grants, supplemental funding and other funding opportunities for programs or projects in alignment with the goal of expanding the economic inclusion of refugees and immigrants in the region.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

In 2022, approximately 27% of California's 39 million residents are foreign-born. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, this which is the highest percentage of immigrants in any state and more than double the national average of 12%. The United States Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community, reported nearly 23% of San Diego County's 3.3 million residents are immigrants or foreign-born. San Diego County is one of the most diverse counties in the United States and a leading destination for refugee resettlement and is designated as one of eight refugee-impacted counties, where large populations of refugees reside. From 2012-2024, California has welcomed over 85,000 individuals with refugee status and San Diego County resettled 4,567 newly arrived refugees, making San Diego County the third largest recipient of refugee arrivals in California, behind Sacramento and Los Angeles counties.

As global conflicts continue to displace populations, the region has experienced a significant influx of refugees, notably from Ukraine and Afghanistan, alongside a steady and diverse stream of individuals from various other countries. Between September 2018 and August 2024, San Diego Refugee Resettlement Agencies reported 41% were from Afghanistan. Afghan refugees often settle in locations where they have relatives and in San Diego County, particularly East County, is a popular destination due to the significant Afghan community already residing in the area.

Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian families affected by the war in Ukraine have an official pathway through the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program, where U.S. financial sponsors submit applications to support them. Over the past two fiscal years over 5,000 have chosen San Diego as their destination, making San Diego County among the top three resettlement counties for Ukrainians.

The County of San Diego is dedicated to maintaining this role of providing culturally responsive and inclusive services that empower refugees to thrive. This additional funding will enable the continuation of our efforts to meet the evolving needs of our diverse population, helping to ensure that all residents have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's actions support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #1 of engaging the community in meaningful ways, Sustainability Goal #2 of providing just and equitable access to services and resources, and Sustainability Goal #4 of protecting the health and well-being of those in the region. The County Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, involves diverse populations in service planning and implementation to ensure that programs are inclusive and responsive to their unique needs. Today's actions would also make essential services such as housing, employment, case management, legal assistance, and public health accessible to all. In addition, such essential services would ultimately protect the health and well-being of those in the region by addressing the public health and housing needs of immigrant and refugee populations and reducing risks of homelessness and unemployment. By accepting the additional funding to support Ukrainians, Afghans, and other immigrant and refugee populations, these actions foster community resilience and equity across the region.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for recommendation one are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in one-time costs and revenue of \$900,000 in FY 2024-25 and \$1,100,000 in FY 2025-26, for total cost and revenue of \$2,000,000.

Costs for FY 2024-25 will be absorbed using existing appropriations. Funds for subsequent years will be incorporated into future operational plans. The funding source is a one-time funding allocation from the California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau through the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

Funds for recommendation two are included in the FY 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in one-time costs and revenue of \$1,000,000 in FY 2024-25. These costs will be absorbed using existing appropriations. The funding source is a one-time funding allocation from the California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau through the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriation Act for Housing for Ukrainians. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter