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Subject: Update: Refugee Resettlement

I participated in the call today to discuss the increase in the amount of refugees planned for 2016. When the plan for 2016 was released, it had a ceiling of 75,000 refugees and 7,000 SIVs. Based on these numbers, cooperative agreements were sent to the nine agencies (e.g. World Relief) who provide resettlement services and signed agreements were received back from all entities. Based on those agreements, letters were prepared to be sent to all state refugee coordinators with information on the numbers of refugees for 2016 and it is anticipated that coordinators will be receiving those letters soon. However, in the interim, President Obama's Presidential Declaration issued in late September announced that the number of refugees was being increased to 85,000 with 7,000 SIVs. Therefore, the refugee resettlement program nationally is trying to quickly prepare for an increase of 10,000 refugees.

Based on the increase, agencies were asked to look within their network and identify locations where additional refugees could be placed. The agencies will be sent an excel spreadsheet and asked to input information regarding the number of additional refugees that can be accepted. One piece of information that must be provided on that spreadsheet which will be sent back to the federal partners is whether the state refugee coordinator concurs that the community can support the proposed increase and also notation of any concerns raised. Therefore, the community's capacity to support the increased number is strongly taken into consideration and consultation between the agency and the state coordinator is a requirement.

Upon receipt of the letter with the projected numbers for 2016 by our coordinator, Dorothy Addison, I will forward it to your office for your information. Please keep in mind this letter will not reflect the 10,000 increase in the ceiling. I will also coordinate with Dorothy to ensure that if we receive notice that LCS or World Relief plan to indicate they can accept an increase in refugees, we are provided an opportunity to evaluate and respond.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

All the best,
Karen

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