



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: 07-28

Effective Date: UPON RECEIPT

Issuance Date: May 18, 2007

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND CASE MANAGERS**

**FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
JOHN A. HEATH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CSA**

**RE: REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE AND REFUGEE MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE, REFUGEE MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE AND FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Generally refugees, asylees and victims of trafficking must apply for benefits in the area in which they live, with certain exceptions. The Baltimore Resettlement Center (BRC) serves refugees and asylees and victims of trafficking who reside in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, Howard County and Harford County. The BRC is located at 3516 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore MD 21224. The phone number for the administrative manager of that center is (410) 558-3191.

Recently, two more refugee resettlement centers have opened to serve three jurisdictions. These jurisdictions are Washington, Prince George's, and Montgomery Counties.

The Hagerstown Resettlement Center serves refugees and asylees in Washington County. The address is:

223 N. Prospect Street, Suite 203
Hagerstown 21740
Phone: (301) 665-9564

Currently, refugees and asylees in Washington County who have not been enrolled in the resettlement agency's Match Grant program must go to the Washington County Department of Social Services for all benefits, with the exception that singles and childless couples receive their Refugee Transitional Cash Assistance (not to be

confused with Temporary Cash Assistance or Refugee Cash Assistance) through the resettlement agency, the Virginia Council of Churches/Church World Service.

The Suburban Washington Resettlement Center (SWRC) in Montgomery County serves refugees and asylees from Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. The address of the SWRC is:

8700 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, 20910
Phone: (301) 562-8633

The workers at both the SWRC and the BRC also process Temporary Cash Assistance, Refugee Medical Assistance and food stamps cases for refugees and asylees and victims of trafficking within the jurisdictions served by those Centers.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Prince George's and Montgomery County Departments of Social Services must refer all refugees and asylees and victims of trafficking who are in their first 8 months of that status to the resettlement center for these counties for eligibility determination and benefit processing. Do not issue Refugee Cash Assistance or Temporary Cash Assistance, Food Stamps or Medical Assistance on CARES for these customers during their first 8 months. Refer these customers to the Suburban Washington Resettlement Center for benefit application and processing until the end of the 8-month period.

Washington County Department of Social Services will provide all services to refugees, asylees and victims of trafficking except for cash assistance to singles and childless couples.

Reminders:

Most refugees and asylees are employed by the end of the 8-month period. The local resettlement center will refer those customers who continue to need assistance beyond the initial 8 months to the local Department of Social Services in their jurisdiction. These individuals who have been given humanitarian protection are qualified aliens who are NOT subject to the five-year bar from benefits. They may qualify for food stamps, Temporary Cash Assistance or Medical Assistance on the same basis as U.S. citizens.

ACTION DUE:

This action transmittal is effective upon receipt.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct questions to Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939 or kfinegan@dhr.state.md.us.

cc: FIA Management Staff Constituent Services
 OTHS System Support Maryland Office for New Americans (MONA)