AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001860

MEETING DATE:	11/03/2026
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION:	Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S):	All Districts
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:	Social Services Agency
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S):	An Tran, 714-541-7773 James Cho, 714-245-6268

SUBJECT: Orange County Refugee Three-Year Plan

CEO CONCUR	**COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW**	**CLERK OF THE BOARD**
Concur	Approve resolution to form	CONSENT CALENDAR 3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: N/A	**Current Year Cost:** N/A	**Annual Cost:** N/A
Staffing Impact: No		**Sole Source:** No
Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A	**Funding Source:** N/A	**County Audit in Last 3 years:** No
Levine Act Review Completed? N/A		

Prior Board Action: 9/14/2021 #S24B, 1/14/2020 #8, 9/25/2018 #29

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Approve the Orange County Refugee Services Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2024-2026.

2. Approve the Orange County Refugee Services Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2027-2029 and authorize submission of the plan to the California Department of Social Services for certification.

3. Adopt resolution approving the Orange County Refugee Services Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2024-2026 and Federal Fiscal Years 2027-2029, certifying that both plans meet all requirements specified by the California Department of Social Services.

4. Authorize the Director of the Social Services Agency, or designee, to execute and submit non-substantive amendments, updates, certifications, and related documents required by the California Department of Social Services for the administration of the Refugee Support Services Program.

SUMMARY:

Approval of the Orange County Refugee Services Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2024-2026 and 2027-2029 and adoption of the resolution will enable the Social Services Agency to continue providing employment support, housing, citizenship, and naturalization services to refugees and other eligible populations residing in Orange County.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
The Social Services Agency (SSA) is requesting the Board of Supervisor's (Board) approval of the Orange County Refugee Services Plan for Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2024-2026 and 2027-2029. The following table details the recent history of SSA's Refugee Services Plans.

Board Date	Amendment Number	Term	Maximum Obligation	Board Action
09/25/2018	N/A	10/01/2018-09/30/2020	N/A	Approve Orange County Refugee Three Year Service Plan (FFY 2017 through 2020
01/14/2020	N/A	01/14/2020-09/30/2020	N/A	Approve Consent Letter
09/14/2021	N/A	10/1/2020 - 9/30/2025	N/A	Approve Orange County Refugee Three Year Service Plan (FFY 2020 through 2023)

The Refugee Support Services (RSS) Program is funded by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). RSS funding supports services designed to assist refugees and other ORR-eligible populations in achieving economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible. Services are primarily focused on employment and employability and may also include supportive services such as case management, job readiness and job placement assistance, language access services, interpretation and translation services, housing stabilization support, and citizenship and naturalization preparation.

Previously, CDSS required SSA to submit its plans to CDSS prior to receiving county Board approval. Therefore, SSA's FFY 2024-2026 Refugee Three-Year Services Plan was developed and submitted to CDSS on September 29, 2023, in accordance with those requirements in effect at that time. Subsequent CDSS requests for updates to the FFY 2024-2026 Plan delayed certification until May 2026. Now, however, CDSS requires county Board approval prior to submission.

Historically, County Refugee Services Plans have been developed through a collaborative process involving County staff, refugee-serving organizations, contracted services providers, and community stakeholders, and are then submitted to CDSS for review and certification. Consistent with CDSS guidance and federal requirements, the FFY 2027-2029 Plan continues to incorporate refugee participation and community input in its development.

The FFY 2027-2029 Plan was developed in coordination with the County's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, which supports planning and coordination efforts related to refugee and immigrant services, as well as engagement with community stakeholders and services providers.

Orange County provides Refugee Support Services through Board-approved agreements with Access California Services. These services include:

- Employment Services, including development of employability assessments and Family Self-Sufficiency Plans (FSSPs), client orientation, employment readiness workshops, job development, job search assistance, job placement and follow-up, job referrals, and support for barrier removal.

- Employability Assessment Services, including evaluation of client's skills, aptitudes, and training needs to determine appropriate employment and training pathways.
- On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunities that provide clients with structured, paid work experience.
- English Language Instruction/ Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) focused on improving workplace-related English proficiency.
- Vocational Training aligned with in-demand occupations and clients' employment goals.
- Skills Recertification Services to assist clients in obtaining or renewing required U.S. licensure or professional credentials.
- Short-Term Skills Training is designed to provide targeted, time-limited training for rapid entry into employment.
- Housing-related support services, as funding allows, to help eligible refugees and other ORR-eligible individuals secure and maintain stable housing.

Approval of the recommended actions will support continued compliance with federal and state requirements governing the Refugee Support Services Program and ensure the continued provision of services to eligible refugee populations residing in Orange County.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
N/A

STAFFING IMPACT:
N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:
N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment A - Orange County Refugee Services Plan FFY 2024 - 2026
Attachment B - Orange County Plan FFY 2024-26 Certification Letter
Attachment C - Orange County Refugee Services Plan FFY 2027-2029
Attachment D - County Refugee Services Plan Resolution
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