

HEALTH COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION NO. 120-88

RESOLUTION ON FUNDING FOR REFUGEE PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS

Whereas, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) administers the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) funds and permits at least twelve (12) States to utilize these funds for basic preventive health programs; and,

Whereas, the State of California does not receive these funds and as of 7/1/88 the only other federal funding for preventive health services will have decreased by 35% resulting from federal fiscal allocations which were based on erroneous new admission levels wherein 27,000 new arrivals were not included in the allocation figures; and,

Whereas, almost half of the nation's 900,000 refugee population resides in California and San Francisco is the fifth highest impacted county; and,

Whereas, 70% of newly arrived refugees have one or more health problems including communicable and acute illnesses; and

Whereas, additional new arrival numbers will include refugees from Russia, Soviet Bloc Countries, Armenia and Amerasians and their families; and,

Whereas, the drain on Department of Public Health (DPH) to serve these persons who are in need of health care services and attempt to meet the myriad language needs is overwhelming the resources throughout DPH; and,

Whereas, the County relies upon Federal funds to help implement the Federal policy of refugee resettlement; and,

Whereas, the shift of financial burden of refugee resettlement is increasingly placed upon the state and local governments who have no direct participation in making the Federal policy; be it

RESOLVED, that the Health Commission supports funding for basic preventive health programs for the San Francisco refugee population and urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of San Francisco to:

1. seek Federal legislative advocacy and directives to the Office of Refugee Resettlement to give unconditional approval to the State of California to receive RMA funds;
2. seek State legislative directives to Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Social Services (DSS) and Department of Finance (DOF) to apply for, accept and expend these RMA funds for refugees residing in California;
3. seek Federal and State legislative directives to ORR and the three State departments to carry out the required procedures which will enable retroactive payments of these funds from 7/1/87 through 6/30/88;
4. seek California State and Federal legislative leadership in the revision or renewal of the Refugee Re-Authorization Act which occurs in 9/88 so that Federal funds will be allocated in proportion to the newly admitted refugees each year and that cost shifting of the financial responsibilities of the Federal government onto states and counties does not occur;
5. seek immediate action upon this resolution so that funding is available in Fiscal Year 1988-89; Be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission transmit this resolution to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of San Francisco.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was unanimously approved by the Health Commission at its meeting of June 21, 1988.



Sandy Ouye Mori

Secretary to the Health Commission