

Questions/Answers to Refugee Social Service Request for Applications:

1. I'm wondering if any RSS dollars could be used to fund an ESL for GED-type class for those refugee students who will age out of LPS? Or, I wonder if a student could co-enroll in LPS and in a specially-designed ESL to help them fast track their English language skills?
ESL is an allowable activity.
2. Who is the referral Source?
Currently, the referral sources are the refugee resettlement agencies, other agencies working with refugees, and word of mouth.
3. Are contractors expected to market to obtain referrals?
Agencies are required to serve the refugee population. If it requires marketing to get refugee populations to come through your doors, an agency would need to do so.
4. Is there a projected number of referrals to this program?
Nebraska resettles approximately 220 refugees in Lincoln each year and more than 500 in Omaha. Lincoln and Omaha also continue to report the arrival of large numbers of secondary migrants requesting services. Agencies provide services to those newly arriving refugees and secondary migrants that request and need services.
5. How are services such as vocational training, skills recertification, daycare and translation services paid?
Agencies will be reimbursed for approved service costs on a quarterly basis.
6. Would the individuals involved with the JOBS/TANF program be eligible for these services?
It is possible that refugees receiving TANF would be eligible for these services, as long as there is not a duplication of services.
7. Are there additional funds available to assist the individual in becoming work ready? (i.e. work clothes, transportation assistance, educational training)
Refugee Social Service funds could be utilized to assist individuals to become work ready. There are no other refugee focused funds to provide work ready items. You can do research at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov> to see if other funding would be available.
8. Are the contractors required to teach ESL classes or can they partner with an ESL program for these classes?
Agencies providing employment services are allowed to subgrant to or partner with ESL providers. Information on the partnership, including partnership agreement letters or letters of recommendation should be included in the application.
9. Is the contractor required to provide childcare services?
No.
10. Can the contractor assist the individual in finding childcare and getting set up for childcare assistance?
This would be allowable as part of the services an agency provides.
11. Is there a required education level for staff to have in order to administer aptitude tests and skills testing?

There are no required education levels. However, education level and experience of staff is included in application scoring.

12. Are there any consequences for the provider or individual if employment is not obtained in a year or less?

There is a potential for consequences to agencies not successful in providing services. It may be considered a contract compliance issue and would depend on the situation.

13. Is there other documentation that could be provided in place of the annual financial audit, such as the overall agency budget, or information on the programs that are audited to cost?

The RFA requires a copy of the annual audit.

14. Is this a new program? If not who currently holds this contract?

No, this is not a new program. During the last competitive process the following agencies were selected as subgrantees: Lutheran Family Services and Southern Sudan Community Association in Omaha; Lutheran Family Services, Lincoln Literacy, the Center for People in Need, and Catholic Social Services in Lincoln.