



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

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Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

**Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance
Quarterly Meeting Agenda
Catholic Charities Community Services
Archdiocese of New York
80 Maiden Lane, 13th Floor
New York, NY 10038**

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016
10:30 am - 2:30 pm**

10:30am	<u>Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introductions
10:45am	<u>Home Studies and Post Release Services for UACs</u> <p>Moderator: Kelly Agnew-Barajas, Refugee Resettlement Director, Catholic Charities Community Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carmen Maquilon, Director of Immigration Services, Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre• Silvia Diaz, Safe Passages Coordinator, CCCS• Marilee Johns, Resettlement Manager, IRC-NY
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00pm	<u>Presentation – Westchester Resettlement, Community Co-sponsorship Model</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kelly Agnew-Barajas, Refugee Resettlement Director, CCCS• Gladys Valverde, Refugee Resettlement Coordinator, CCCS• Nadia Huffer, Refugee Resettlement Volunteer Coordinator, CCCS• Alla Shagalova, Director, HIAS-NY• Rachel Mayer, Special Resettlement Project Coordinator, HIAS-NY
2:00pm	BRIA Program Updates
2:30pm	Adjourn

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1. 10:30 am - 2:30 pm Service provider staff, i.e. case managers, employment specialists, program directors, etc., should have a copy of a contract's Work Plan, or have access to Grants Gateway to obtain one. Through monitoring visits, it has come to BRIA's attention that many staff that provides direct services, is not aware of a program's service expectations and requirements.
2. RSSP Budget Period 4 (begins 1/1/2017) awards are under development and expected to be made in October. In light of Lisa Raffonelli's (ORR) announcement of an ORR RSSP supplemental FY 16 award that is expected by 9/16/2016, BRIA will revise the draft awards. The FY 15 RSSP award was \$3,473,424. The FY 16 RSSP award is \$3,298,768, a reduction of \$174,656. However, the supplemental FY 16 award should negate the reduction. The BP 4 awards will also include a revised Attachment A-2, Federally Funded Grants. BRIA received permission from ORR to use RSSP funds to serve 1) minors granted refugee status as a result of a Central American Minors (CAM) Program Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) application; and 2) minor asylees. Minors granted humanitarian parole as a result of a CAM AOR, remain outside ORR's eligible populations.
3. Service providers are commended for taking the extra time to separately report all eligible persons not served by a BRIA program, and therefore not reported in BIN, to Matt Morris of BRIA. Last year, service providers reported Matching Grant participants not served by BRIA program/reported in BIN (293 individuals). Since BRIA requested service providers to report all eligible persons not served by BRIA program/reported in BIN in February 2016, service providers have reported 1,479.
4. BRIA expects to receive the TAG FY 16 award from ORR by 9/30/2016. The FY 16 award funds TAG BP 2 that begins 3/1/2017.
5. BRIA thanks HIAS-New York, JCHB, Goodwill and CCCS for submitting the interim voucher in August in order to liquidate unspent FY 14 funds from the previous contract term, prior to the federal liquidation date of 9/30/2016.
6. Under the new Services to Older Refugee Program, BRIA awarded Catholic Family Center in Rochester and USCRI- Albany. The program begins 1/1/2017.
7. There will be a roundtable sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice's Special Prosecutions and Human Rights Division at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Brooklyn on September 20th at 10:30am. There will be a morning session that focuses on keeping immigrants safe from human rights violations, and an afternoon session that focuses on the topic of female genital mutilation (FGM). If you are interested in attending these sessions and have not yet received an invitation, please email Nora Cronin at nora.cronin@otda.ny.gov.

8. Refugee School Impact Grant Program awards were announced. BRIA received 8 applications in response to the RFP and made three awards from its FY 16 Discretionary Grant of \$1,000,000. The awards were made to Journey's End Refugee Services (Buffalo), Rochester City School District, and Utica City School District for new 60-month contracts that began June 1, 2016. As of FY 17, the RSIG will be moved into a set aside of the formulary RSS grant. While the FFY 17 will fund NYS at a lower level than the FFY 16 discretionary grant, the ORR has graciously provided NYS a supplemental award of \$171,426 for FY 16. These funds will be added to the contractors BP 1
9. BRIA received news of a new award for its TAG Discretionary, Making A Connection (MAC) Program in the amount of \$250,000 annually for the next three years. These funds will continue to support the current contracts with Journey's End Refugee Services (Buffalo) and Rochester City School District (OACES).
10. BRIA received two new applications for Refugee Medical Screening and Immunization program awards. The applicants are Community Healthcare Network (Bronx) and Charles B. Wang Community Health Center (Queens). BRIA has recommended awards to both, but nothing is approved yet; nor have contracts been executed.
11. A question was raised by Carmen Maquilon of Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre about the use of a blood test, referred to as Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) for Tuberculosis screening as opposed to the Tuberculin Skin Testing. The IGRA testing is advantageous in that it provides more accurate results with less false positives and can be completed during one visit, but there are only two types approved by the FDA at this time, QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-tube Test (QFT-G) and T-Spot, and they are costly. The recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) around medical screening of newly arriving refugees does not stipulate that one TB screening method must be or should be used over the other. OTDA/BRIA and NYSDOH therefore cannot mandate that health assessment contractors only use the blood test.
12. Agencies discussed the need to see UC medical files for record of vaccinations to speed up the process of school enrollment. Lisa Raffonelli from ORR said there was a link on ORR's website to a form to request the file. Link to ORR's website for authorization for release of records (forms also attached): <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-childrens-services>