

SF-CAIRS Meeting Notes

May 13, 2020 – 10am– 11am

Webex recording

<https://sfdph.webex.com/recording/service/sites/sfdph/recording/play/583e9d8ea588435aba9d4c71301d8df7> Recording password: TuEnPhp5

Welcome– *Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Diane Landino (ORR), Andy Beetley-Hagler (SF-HSA), Ola Alani (ARC), Atif Javed (Tarjily), Blythe Raphael(JFCS), Cristina Biasetto(TRC), Francesca Costa and Taranamol Kaur (CodeForAmerica), Jennifer LaForce(USCIS), Sammi Truong (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Colleen Kauth (BALA)*

Federal Partner Announcements:

SF-ORR updates: Diane Landino, Regional Representative, [Office of Refugee Resettlement](#) / 415-437-8471

- Refugee Arrivals suspended through May 15, but they expect an extension. Emergency cases are still being processed.
- Two policy letters have been released to extend unspent funds (see below)
- Switchboard has resources for translation, best practices. <https://switchboardta.org/>
- ORR is accepting applications for the Wilson Fish TANF Coordination Program

Policy Letters (PL) [20-03](#) and [20-04](#) released last month by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Both policy letters allow states to request waivers from ORR to provide extended assistance and expanded services to ORR populations. RPB is currently in the process of requesting approval from the Governor's Office to implement the waivers issued in both letters. If approved, further guidance will be issued to the counties providing instructions for implementing the waivers throughout the State.

[Policy Letter \(PL\) 20-03](#) "COVID-19 Extended Assistance for ORR Populations"

Waivers listed below:

1. Section I: 45 C.F.R. § 400.211 – Extension of RCA eligibility period
2. Section II: 45 C.F.R. § 400.211 – Extension of RMA eligibility period

[Policy Letter \(PL\) 20-04](#) "Assistance for ORR Populations Affected by COVID-19."

Waivers listed below:

1. Section I: 45 C.F.R. § 400.43 and P.L. 16-01 – eligibility determinations
2. Section II: 45 C.F.R. § 400.59 and § 400.66 – COVID-19 cash assistance disregards
3. Section II: 45 C.F.R. § 400.75 – RCA conditions of receipt
4. Section III: 45 C.F.R. § 400.146 – RSS funding for emergency assistance
5. Section IV: 45 C.F.R. § 400.152(b) – RSS eligibility period
6. Section V: 45 C.F.R. § 400.210(b)(2) – RSS grant liquidation deadlines
7. Section VII: 45 C.F.R. § 400.107 – Refugee Medical Screening

USCIS updates: Jennifer LaForce, Community Relations Officer

- As of now, all USCIS offices are expected to open on or after June 4, but will respond to any local changes

- Applications are being accepted via lock boxes
- Upon re-opening, face coverings will be required by public and employees. Interviews will probably not start for a few weeks after re-opening, and they won't be at full capacity, for reasons of distancing/safety. Previously scheduled interviews and oath ceremonies will be automatically rescheduled and individuals will receive a new appointment notice.
- Ceremonies: agency is trying to figure out how these will work; they will get going asap but won't be as large as before in terms of number of participants and agencies present. There will likely be a no-guest policy, and ceremonies will be shorter. Same-day oath ceremonies may be ramped up as a way to move people through the process.
- Please continue to look at [website where it says COVID-related updates](#). Information such as opening date, ceremonies, etc. is continually updated.
- USCIS will consider a response received within 60 calendar days after the response due date set forth in the following requests or notices before taking any action if such request or notice was issued by USCIS between March 1 and July 1, 2020,
- Applications for Work Authorization and DACA aren't requiring additional fingerprints if applicant has already submitted prints previously
- For individual unable to depart the U.S. due to Covid-related considerations, please check Special Situations section on the USCIS website. There are certain flexibilities now that can waive requirements on timeliness of submission of change of status (COS) or extension of stay (EOS) applications.

Partner Presentations:

[Tarjimly](#)- Atif Javed, Executive Director atif@tarjim.ly | +1 703-862-9708

- Tarjimly = Translate for Me, started as tech non-profit during Syrian crisis and Muslim ban, responding to need voiced by advocates
- Language barriers trap many from accessing critical services. Machine translation can fail (especially for languages that aren't as economically powerful) and human translation is vital. Remote interpretation is a vital need during COVID crisis.
- Goal is to translate for 1 million beneficiaries with 1 million bilingual volunteers. Currently there are 20,000+ translators working in 60 languages. Before making a particular language available, they ensure they have 50 translators in that language.
- Download Tarjimly app at www.tarjimly.org/start
- Goal is to have video calling available soon
- Typical topics include medical, education, asylum docs, employment, legal, food, housing, resettlement
- 4 key Tarjimly programs:
- [Tarjimly Mobile App](#) trains and connects our community of 20,000+ bilingual volunteers to humanitarians in under 2 minutes (using machine learning matching) where they can send text, documents, and start calls.
- [Tarjimly Teams](#) is a premium suite of tools and certified translators built on top of the mobile app designed to meet all of an organization's translation and interpretation needs.

- [Tarjimly Docs](#) is a web app designed specifically to help with document translation for multiple languages - to use this, please contact us directly with your documents at team@tarjim.ly.
- [Tarjimly Cares](#) enables companies and organizations to easily activate their employee and community base towards social good. We provide everything you need to make high-impact, skills-based, remote, on-demand volunteering available.

[GetCalFresh](#) - Supporting inclusive access

- Francesca Costa, Sr. Program Manager fcosta@codeforamerica.org
- Taranamol Kaur, Design Researcher taranamol@codeforamerica.org

We're Taranamol Kaur (Design Researcher) & Francesca Costa (Program Manager) from Code for America's GetCalFresh team. Our team is launching inclusion research to better understand how we can reach the most vulnerable people in need of assistance. The participation gap in California is primarily made up of Limited English Proficiency populations. In order to truly close that gap, we're looking to partner with folks who work with these communities: communities of color, immigrant communities, rural communities, folks who may not have access to technology to better understand what we can do to build a more inclusive safety net. If you're interested in speaking with us about the communities you work with or have insight into race, equity, stigma within CalFresh, please reach out to our design researcher, Taranamol - taranamol@codeforamerica.org!

- Code For America: partners with government to strengthen the delivery of public services through human-centered tech
- Contracted with CDSS to provide application assistance and digital support
- Only 70% of CalFresh eligible households are currently enrolled. English participation is 93%, so low overall enrollment is driven by limited English speakers
- GetCalFresh.org : digital assister provided by Code for America. Available in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Takes 10 minutes to complete.
- No download necessary, works on any device, considerate of limited data plans, [Immigrant FAQ page addresses common concerns](#)
- CBOs can create an account in order to help enroll their clients, but it's not required
- Public Charge definition has been expanded under current administration, but most CalFresh recipients are exempt
- Application rates for mixed status households have increased significantly during COVID crisis. Many have questions, and can refer to <https://www.getcalfresh.org/en/immigrants>
- Part of the mission is to analyze who is in the participation gap and how services can be more inclusive.

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 Send group emails to: sf-cairs@googlegroups.com

2020 Quarterly SF-CAIRS Meetings: Jan 8, May 13, Jul 8, Oct 14
Next meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 2020– 9-11am

SF-CAIRS Mission

*SF-CAIRS aims to serve San Francisco Bay Area asylee, immigrant and refugee communities and its service providers by: **Expanding knowledge and access** to health, employment, social, education and legal services;*

***Supporting advocacy efforts** through coalition-wide networking, information sharing, cross-referrals and community education; and, **Identifying and addressing challenges faced** by immigrants at personal and societal level*