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January 30, 2025

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612

**SUBJECT: APPROVE CONTRACTS WITH RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES SERVING
ALAMEDA COUNTY REFUGEES FOR THE PROVISION OF
RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT SERVICES**

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- A. Approve the following contracts to deliver reception and placement services to refugees settling in the County of Alameda. Contract services will include housing, transportation, employment services, and case management assistance with a term of 2/1/2025 - 4/30/2025 in the total not to exceed amount of \$876,500 with the following contractors:
- i. International Rescue Committee (Principal: Tara Winters; Location: Oakland); (Community-Based Organization Master Contract No.901099, Procurement Contract No. 28309), in the not to exceed amount of \$499,600;
 - ii. Jewish Family & Community Services - East Bay (Principal: Robin Mencher Location: Berkeley) (Community-Based Organization Master Contract No. 900893, Procurement Contract No. 28311) in the not to exceed amount of \$205,100;
 - iii. Jewish Family Services - Silicon Valley (Principal: Susan Frazer; Location: Los Gatos); Procurement Contract No. 28312, in the not to exceed amount: \$171,800;
- B. Adopt a resolution to waive the County's competitive bidding process for Jewish Family & Community Services – East Bay, International Rescue Committee, and Jewish Family Services Silicon Valley with respect to these agreements; and
- C. Delegate authority to the Social Services Agency Director, or her designee, to execute these contracts, subject to review and approval by County Counsel, and submit executed copies of the contracts to the Clerk of the Board.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

During the Social Services Committee meeting on January 27, 2025, an update was provided on Refugee Assistance and Supportive Services, and it was brought to committee members' attention that the resettlement agencies are under increasing pressure to sustain the critical reception and placement services they provide to refugees resettled in Alameda County. On January 20, 2025, an "Reevaluating and Realignment United States Foreign Aid" Executive Order ("EO") was issued by the Office of the President of the United States, which halted travel for thousands of refugees. On January 24, 2025, the United States State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration issued a memorandum to resettlement agencies that stated that resettlement grant funding is "immediately suspended" pending a review of foreign assistance programs to resettlement agencies. The memorandum prevents agencies from providing any funds or services to refugees who are already in the United States.

The resettlement agencies have indicated the active client count below who have arrived in the last 90 days:

- International Rescue Committee (IRC) – Oakland – 156 individuals
- Jewish Family & Community Services (JFCS) – East Bay – 64 individuals
- Jewish Family Services (JFS) – Silicon Valley – 57 individuals

The per capita rate is \$1,650 per individual for direct assistance to clients and \$1,225 per individual for housing and other case management services.

Funds will be disbursed to resettlement agencies to support the immediate housing, transportation, employment, and case management services needs for vulnerable households recently resettled in Alameda County through Reception and Placement as these organizations have been recognized as having the expertise, experience, and capacity to deliver these services. The Resettlement Agencies will also provide application assistance to eligible clients for enrollment in public assistance benefits through the Alameda County Social Services Agency.

SELECTION CRITERIA/PROCESS:

Due to the emergency needs of the refugee populations in Alameda County and the stoppage of work that has been mandated by the Federal Government, your Board is being asked to adopt a resolution to waive competitive bidding with respect to the contracts with the International Rescue Committee, Jewish Family & Community Services – East Bay, and Jewish Family Services Silicon Valley. All three are Community Based Organizations and are exempt from the County's Small, Local and Emerging Business requirements.

FINANCING:

Funding for emergency stabilization for refugees comes from one-time funds and will result in no additional net County cost.

VISION 2036 GOAL:

Providing supportive services to Alameda County refugee families meet the 10X goal pathways of **Eliminate Poverty & Hunger** in support of our shared visions of **Thriving & Resilient Populations, Healthy Environment**.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Andrea Ford
CFBDBF387EBC493...
Andrea Ford
Agency Director

Attachment:

Resolution

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WAIVER OF THE COUNTY'S
PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR SERVICES TO
REFUGEES**

RESOLUTION NUMBER R-2025-35

WHEREAS, Jewish & Family Community Services - East Bay has a long history of serving refugees in the County of Alameda with reception and resettlement services; and

WHEREAS, The International Refugee Committee has served refugees in the Bay Area since 1975; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley has been assisting and providing services to vulnerable populations, including refugees since 1978; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025, the "Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid" Executive Order ("EO") was issued by the Office of the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2025 in response to the EO, the United States State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration issued a memorandum to resettlement agencies that stated that resettlement grant funding is "immediately suspended" pending a review of foreign assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, there are currently over 270 refugees who require immediate reception and resettlement services including assistance with housing, transportation, employment, and case management for vulnerable households recently resettled in Alameda County through Reception and Placement; and

WHEREAS, due to the immediate suspension of resettlement grant funding the Jewish & Family Community Services - East Bay, the International Refugee Committee, and the Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley are unable to provide the immediate reception and resettlement services for the over 270 refugees that reside in the County of Alameda; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda considers the provision of reception and resettlement services to recently arrived refugees who reside in the County as vitally important; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda Administrative Code Sections 4.12.010 and 4.12.070 require the solicitation of bids, except in unusual cases where the Board of Supervisors has, by resolution, found and determined that the public interest would not be served by complying with the bid solicitation process; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that Jewish & Family Community Services of the East Bay, The International Refugee Committee, and Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley have the expertise and are uniquely qualified within the community to provide reception and

settlement services to the targeted population and that the public interest would not be served by requiring a bid solicitation process in this situation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The findings stated in the recitals to this resolution are restated in full and adopted by reference.
2. The requirements in Administrative Code Sections 4.12.010 to .020 for the solicitation of bids are hereby waived for the selection of Jewish & Family Community Services of the East Bay, The International Refugee Committee, and Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley for reception and resettlement services to refugees.

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California, on February 4, 2025 by the following called vote:

AYES: Supervisors Fortunato Bas, Miley, Tam & President Haubert - 4
NOES: None
EXCUSED: Supervisor Márquez – 1

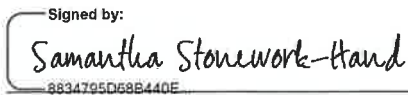


David Haubert
President of the Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda, State of California

ATTEST:
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,
County of Alameda

By: 
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Donna Ziegler, County Counsel

By: 
Samantha N. Stonework-Hand
Assistant County Counsel