

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #9: REFUGEE ASSISTANCE AND AUXILIARY GRANT ASSISTANCE

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In response to two questions by Councilman Wilson, this budget memo describes the nature of the services provided by the Refugee Assistance Activity within Public Assistance in the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the grants provided by the Auxiliary Grants activity within Public Assistance in DHS?

Refugee assistance is mandated by the Virginia Department of Social Services and provides cash and medical assistance to assist in the successful social integration of refugees into communities as early as possible after their arrival into the United States, with an emphasis on attaining self-sufficiency for themselves and their families:

- There are currently 26 individuals receiving assistance. Duration is eight months and is \$243 a month.
- Assistance is estimated at \$50,000 for FY 2010 of which DHS receives 100% reimbursement.
- Staff determines eligibility for the program and 2% of eligibility determination costs are allocated to this program. Those costs are reimbursed at an average of 73%.

Under separate funding, **JobLink** operates the Virginia Refugee Resettlement Program which provides employment and training services for Refugees and is 100% reimbursed by the Office of Newcomer Services in the State of Virginia. This program is within the Adult Employment Activity in **JobLink**:

- There are currently 31 individuals being served by this grant.
- This grant is estimated to be \$108,000 in 2010.

Auxiliary Grants are provided through the Virginia Department of Social Services to supplement income for recipients of SSI and other blind, or disabled individuals residing in a licensed assisted living facility or approved adult care foster home. The purpose is to ensure these vulnerable adults are able to maintain a standard of living that meets a basic level of need.

- There are currently 48 individuals receiving Auxiliary Grants.
- This funding is reimbursed at 80% and could change any budget year.
- The assistance provided to older adults is budgeted at \$137,500 and \$196,492 is budgeted for disabled adults for total direct assistance of \$333,992 in FY 2010 of which \$66,798 is provided by the City as the local match.
- Staff determines eligibility for the program and payments are based on income. Ten percent of eligibility determination costs are allocated to this program. Those costs are reimbursed at an average of 73%.