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Governor

Roberta Gassman
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State of Wisconsin

Department of Workforce Development

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For Immediate Release: Tuesday, December 19, 2006
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Department of Workforce Development Announces \$4 Million to Help Refugees

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that DWD is awarding \$3,952,892 to local service providers to assist refugees. The grants will allow 11 local agencies and organizations to provide direct services to refugees from Afghanistan, Laos, Sudan, Russia, Thailand, Somalia and other countries.

"I am pleased this funding is available to ease the refugees' transition into the community," said Secretary Gassman.

The grants, which will be administered by local agencies, are awarded under four broad categories of service and will allow the agencies to help refugees prepare for and obtain employment, address mental health issues, and receive skills and bi-lingual language training.

Since 2004, the Department of Workforce Development funding has helped nearly 4,000 refugees resettle in Wisconsin.

Nine agencies providing Social Service programs are being awarded \$2,665,394. Social Services programs will support programs which help refugees achieve economic self-sufficiency and social adjustment within the shortest time possible following their arrival to the United States.

Another \$450,000 is awarded to 4 local agencies with programs to assist refugees who have mental health issues. The funding will allow agencies to provide bilingual, bicultural clinical services, community education and outreach to refugee communities and effectively provide culturally competent mental health services on an ongoing basis.

Seven agencies with Road to Work Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) programs are slated to receive \$600,000 to continue to provide bilingual skill training and vocational English as a Second Language. The Road to Work program targets refugees experiencing difficulties finding employment, especially women and young adults.

Three agencies with Creating Strong Families programs will receive \$241,918 to promote stable refugee families and marriages, supporting them as they negotiate the challenges of life in twenty-first century America. The Creating Strong Families program serves 180 participants in Milwaukee and another 240 participants in northeast Wisconsin (Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago, Sheboygan and Manitowoc).

DWD manages and oversees Wisconsin's refugee resettlement program which is designed to assist refugees achieve economic self-sufficiency and social self-reliance. Services are provided locally to refugees by partner agencies responsible for comprehensive, bilingual, and bicultural employment services. Services may include access to health care, English as a Second Language training, and family-focused case management.

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Funded agencies and funding amounts

AGENCY	SERVICE AREA (County)	FUNDING PROGRAM	FUNDING DOLLAR AMOUNT	FUNDING TOTAL AMOUNT
Advocap, Inc. PO Box 1108 Fond du Lac WI 54936 (920) 922-7760	Brown Outagamie Winnebago Fond du Lac	Social Services	\$466,518	\$807,328
		Mental Health	\$75,000	
		Road to Work (TAG)	\$150,000	
		Creating Strong Families	\$115,810	
Dane County Mental Health 625 W. Washington Ave Madison WI 53703 (608) 280-2404	Dane	Mental Health	\$75,000	\$75,000
HMAA Sheboygan 2304 Superior Ave Sheboygan WI 53081 (920)458-0808	Sheboygan Manitowoc	Social Services	\$263,261	\$331,106
		Road to Work (TAG)	\$67,845	
Jewish Family Services (MARC) 1300 N. Jackson Street Milwaukee WI 53202 (414) 225-1350	Milwaukee Waukesha Ozaukee Walworth	Social Services	\$865,842	\$1,022,997
		Road to Work (TAG)	\$17,155	
UW Milw Ctr for Urban and Community Development 161 W. Wisconsin Ave. Suite 600 Milwaukee WI 53203 414-227-3271	Milwaukee	Social Services	\$136,400	\$237,920
		Creating Strong Families	\$101,520	
La Crosse AHMA 2613 George St La Crosse WI 54603 (608) 781-5744	La Crosse Eau Claire Dunn	Social Services	\$248,567	\$373,785
		Road to Work (TAG)	\$100,000	
		Creating Strong Families	\$25,218	
Milwaukee Christian Center 2137 W Greenfield Ave Milwaukee WI 53204 (414) 645-5350	Milwaukee	Social Services	\$20,000	\$20,000
United Asian Services 312 North Third Street Madison, WI 53704 (608) 256-6400	Dane	Social Services	\$205,643	\$295,643
		Road to Work (TAG)	\$90,000	
Wausau Area HMA 1109 N. 6th St. Wausau, WI 54403 (715)842-8390	Marathon Wood Portage	Social Services	\$334,128	\$534,128
		Mental Health	\$75,000	
		Road to Work (TAG)	\$125,000	
Workforce Resource Inc 401 Technology Dr E., Suite 100 Menomonie, WI 54751 (715) 232-7380	Barron	Social Services	\$73,832	\$123,832
		Road to Work (TAG)	\$50,000	
Sebastian Family Psychological Practice, LLC 5626 N. 91st St., Suite 301 Milwaukee, WI 53225 (414) 461-1088	Milwaukee	Mental Health	\$225,000	\$225,000