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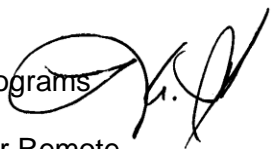
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DEO Communiqué

DATE: March 12, 2012

TO: Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, Workforce Service Programs 

SUBJECT: Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) Work Exemption for Remote Counties

PURPOSE

To inform Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs) and program staff of a change in the Department of Children and Families (DCF) policy related to work exemptions in the Refugee Assistance Program. RAP cash recipients living in counties that do not have a Refugee Services funded employment program now are not required to work register and are not required to comply with work participation requirements.

BACKGROUND

Currently, there are two refugee populations:

1. Refugees who are eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funded Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) and
2. Refugees who are eligible to receive RAP cash assistance, which is not TANF funded.

Prior to the work exemption notification for RAP recipients living in remote counties, RAP cash applicants were required to work register with either the RWB or a refugee funded employment program provider, where available. Effective February 22, 2012, applicants and recipients of non-TANF funded RAP cash assistance who reside in an area not served by a refugee employment agency are considered to be living in a remote area and are exempt from work registration and work participation as a condition of eligibility for benefits.

The following areas **are not** remote counties

Broward	Orange
Collier	Osceola
Duval	Palm Beach
Escambia	Pasco
Hillsborough	Pinellas
Lee	Sarasota
Leon	Seminole
Miami-Dade	

Please note that this change affects only refugee RAP applicants and participants. All TANF TCA refugees are still required to work register with the local RWB as a condition of eligibility for TCA.

ACTION REQUIRED

No action is required. However, RWBs should be aware that, although DCF will not refer exempt RAP applicants and recipients to the RWBs for work registration, some individuals may still come to the career center seeking employment assistance.

AUTHORITY

Department of Children and Families

ATTACHMENT

Department of Children and Families Policy Transmittal No.: P – 12-02-0006

Note: A list of Refugee Program Service Providers has been included with this communiqué as resource information.