



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

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March 14, 1988

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Honorable C. W. Young
Member Congress
144 First Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Congressman Young:

Thank you for the opportunity to explain the implications of our state's continuing dependence on Targeted Assistance funding at the local level. The citizens and communities of Florida continue to bear the impact of the Mariel boatlift of 1980 and the uncontrolled influx of Haitians into South Florida from 1979 through 1981.

For FFY 1983, the Office of Refugee Resettlement estimated that at least 115,155 of the more than 140,000 entrants who entered the United States between April 1, 1980, and October 1, 1980, resided in four counties in Florida: Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Broward, and Dade. This figure does not include those Haitians who had entered before 1980 or who entered during 1980 unknown to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and subsequently were given entrant status under the provisions of the Fascell-Stone Amendment to the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980; nor does it include those Haitians who have arrived since 1981 and have been released from federal detention under INS parole authority or under federal court order. In fact, the State of Florida and many others working with the Haitian population--including the Archdiocese of Miami--estimate that as many as 100,000 Haitians may now reside in South Florida. In addition, population estimates used by the federal government do not account for secondary migration, especially of Mariel Cubans who were initially resettled in other states but are drawn back to the familiar environment that Dade County offers. Although secondary migration estimates are difficult to develop, Dade County's Criminal Justice Project (first funded under FFY 1982 Impact Aid) found that twenty percent of the approximately 1200 Mariel Cubans it assisted between January and December of 1987 had migrated back to Florida, primarily from California, Illinois, New York and New Jersey.

While many of the Mariel Cubans and the Haitians have become self-supporting since their entry into this country, a

significant number of them still do not speak English, lack job skills, and have other health, social, and cultural barriers that have prevented them from becoming self-sufficient.

During SFY 1987, we have continued to operate programs in Dade, Broward, Hillsborough, and Palm Beach Counties by decreasing services and stretching 1986 Targeted Assistance dollars. These funds, however, only offset the impact of the needs of the entrant population on our communities.

One of the most notable problems our communities and programs face each year is the inconsistent release of Targeted Assistance funding to the State. In 1984, Targeted Assistance funding was released late in the Federal Fiscal Year. OMB impounded our 1985 Targeted Assistance and no Targeted Assistance was appropriated in 1987. Because we received no Targeted Assistance funding in 1987, many of our programs exhausted their funding as early as June of 1987. Others were out of funding by December 1987. This sporadic release of funding makes program integrity difficult. Our FFY 1988 allocation will enable us to maintain program services at a 36% reduced level. The funding will most likely be exhausted before FFY 1989 Targeted Assistance will be available. Unless special initiatives are implemented, community program services will once again lapse before funding is received. The following is a county-by-county description of the FFY 1988 Targeted Assistance funding, the length of the contract, and the contracted amount.

Hillsborough County

Hillsborough County Employment Program	\$101,237
4/1/88 - 3/31/89	

* We anticipate no Targeted Assistance funding being available in Hillsborough County after March 31, 1989.

Palm Beach County

Job Services of Florida	\$ 82,255
(Employment Program)	
July 1, 1988 - June 30, 1989	

* We anticipate no Targeted Assistance funding being available in Palm Beach County after June 30, 1989.

Broward County

Broward County Employment Program 6/1/88 - 5/31/8	\$ 708,660
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* We anticipate no Targeted Assistance funding being available in Broward County after May 31, 1989.

Dade County

Dade County (Day Care) (1/1/88 - 12/31/88)	\$ 856,897
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Dade County (Criminal Justice) (1/1/88 - 12/31/88)	\$1,280,000
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Jackson Memorial Hospital (1/1/88 - 6/30/88)	\$5,744,200
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Mental Health (4/1/88 - 3/31/89)	\$ 896,000
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S.F.E.T.C. (Employment Program) (4/1/88 - 3/31/89)	\$1,920,000
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* We anticipate no Targeted Assistance funding being available in Dade County after March 1989. Some programs funding will end by December 1988.

Dade County has had a particularly difficult time, especially in providing health care for indigent refugees/entrants. Jackson Memorial spends approximately \$1 million in health care for Cuban/Haitian entrants per month. Partial fiscal relief will be provided in FFY 1988 by the federal government through a \$5.7 million Targeted Assistance grant. Not only is the continuance of Targeted Assistance essential to the wellbeing of Florida's communities, but the timely release of this funding by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is necessary.

Targeted Assistance and Social Service dollars continue to be an integral part of the successful resiliency of our state to the crises of 1980. Social Services dollars, if trimmed in the manner recommended by Mr. Gee, will cause the state to seriously curtail all contractual programs currently in operation.

Congressman Young

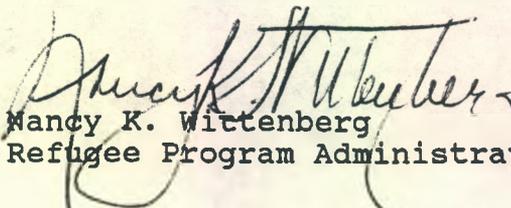
page four

We in Florida are willing to share in the collective responsibility to ensure laws are upheld and people are cared for. We do not ask for a windfall, but we do ask for an amount of fiscal relief sufficient to assist us in carrying on programs that have been proven successful.

We appreciate your continued concern, and solicit your support in assuring that we can retain a reasonable level of programming to assist our communities in need.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,


Nancy K. Wittenberg
Refugee Program Administration

NKW/GBC:m

cc: Florida Congressional Delegation

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