

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: May 30, 2023

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 23-0002-S49
Assignment No: 23-05-0251

SUBJECT: Resolution (Yaroslavsky – Soto-Martínez) to support SB 85, California Extended Case Management Act

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution (Yaroslavsky – Soto-Martínez) to include in the 2023-2024 State Legislative Program support for SB 85, the California Extended Case Management Act, which would expand services for refugees and asylees.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Yaroslavsky – Soto-Martínez), introduced April 12, 2023, advises that California is home to more than one third of all individuals granted asylum in the US each year. The number of individuals welcomed to the US continues to grow by 9,000 per year on average. The Resolution advises that, because many refugees and asylees face unique challenges from living in conflict zones, they are often unable to access proper care needed to heal and integrate without culturally competent assistance.

While federal law mandates 90 days of case management, Senate Bill 85 would extend the number of base days to 180, with a possible provision of an additional 180 days in extreme circumstances. The Resolution advises that augmentation of case management will help improve outcomes for asylees and refugees by helping them access public and private services such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and Covered California. Access to services is correlated to higher household income and better prospects for matching refugees and asylees with employment corresponding to their qualifications.

The Resolution recommends that the City support SB 85 (Wiener) which expresses the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to extend existing support for refugees and asylees past the federally mandated 90 days of case management so as to provide greater access to public and private services to support transition to life in the State.

BACKGROUND

From 2017 to 2020, the number of individuals granted asylum in the U.S. increased from 26,199 to 46,508. Beginning in 2021, the Biden administration began welcoming 95,000 Afghan refugees as well as 100,000 Ukrainians. To help refugees and asylees access public services to aid the resettlement process, federal law mandates 90 days of case management that connects these individuals with culturally competent case workers who help address their unique challenges.

Case management intervention is shown to improve outcomes for refugees and asylees. According to the International Rescue Committee, cities without extended case management systems had double the rate of dependence on public health insurance among their refugee and asylee populations. For many, 90 days is an insufficient time frame to obtain work authorizations, secure permanent housing, find jobs, and access other important resources. By providing extended case management, these individuals could access vital

services that directly correlate to improved job outcomes and higher household incomes. Furthermore, the extension of services grants further support for refugees and asylees as they begin rebuilding their lives whilst acclimating to the U.S. and reaching self-sufficiency.

Los Angeles has a long history of serving as an important hub for refugees and asylees, being one of the highest ranking resettlement locations for Ukrainian refugees in the U.S. in 2022. As the City continues to embrace asylum seekers and refugees fleeing persecution, it is important that these new Angelenos can access services and aid to resettle and rebuild.

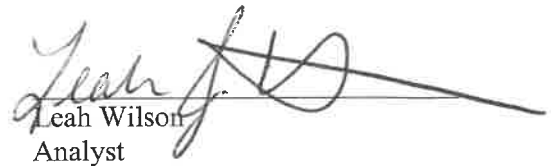
Given the rich history of the City's welcoming of refugees and asylees, support for SB 85 (Wiener) would be consistent with City efforts to ensure proper support for those arriving to make Los Angeles home.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Community Investment for Families Department
Mayor's Office

BILL STATUS

01/13/23	Introduced
04/17/23	Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Human Services
04/25/23	Passed by Committee on Human Services and re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations
05/18/23	Hearing held in committee and under submission


Leah Wilson
Analyst

Attachment: Resolution (Yaroslavsky – Soto-Martínez)

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies, proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency, must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a longstanding history of embracing asylum seekers who flee their countries of origin due to persecution and arrive at our borders seeking safety and security; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the number of individuals granted asylum from 2017 to 2020 increased from 26,199 to 46,508; and

WHEREAS, California hosts 34% of all those granted asylum in the U.S. each year, with the number growing by 9,000 per year on average; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2021, the Biden administration began the process of welcoming 95,000 Afghan refugees—the largest resettlement to the U.S. in 40 years—as well as 100,000 Ukrainians; and

WHEREAS, many refugees and asylees face unique challenges such as PTSD from living in a conflict zone and without culturally competent assistance, they are often unable to access the care they need to heal and begin a new life; and

WHEREAS, under federal law, refugees and asylees are entitled to 90 days of case management, which is an intervention proven to improve outcomes for asylees and refugees by helping them access public and private services like Medi-Cal, CalFresh and Covered California; and

WHEREAS, refugees and asylees enrolled in extended case management felt their employment matched their qualifications versus those without extension; and

WHEREAS, household income was also higher for refugees and asylees who received extended case management than those who did not; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 85 (Wiener) would support refugees and those granted asylum by extending the base number of days they are entitled to case management from 90 to 180, and in extreme circumstances, it would allow for the provision of a second extension of another 180 days;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-24 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Senate Bill 85 (Wiener), the California Extended Case Management Act.

PRESENTED BY:


KATY YAROSLAVSKY
Councilwoman, 5th District

SECONDED BY:




APR 12 2023

ORIGINAL