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ACCESSCAL CONTRACTED BY COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY TO PROVIDE REFUGEE HEALTH SERVICES

Hundreds of Newly Arrived Entrants to Receive Health, Mental Health Assessments at AccessCal

Anaheim, Calif. (November 5, 2014) – [Access California Services \(AccessCal\)](http://www.accesscal.org), a health and human services nonprofit organization that supports underserved Arab- and Muslim-Americans, refugees, and immigrants in southern California, has been awarded a one-year contract from the County of Orange Health Care Agency to provide comprehensive, mandatory health assessments to hundreds of entrants who reside in Orange County. Entrants include refugees, asylees, secondary migrants, special immigrant visa holders, Cuban and Haitian entrants, and federally-certified victims of trafficking. The contract may be extended for an additional two years subject to an annual approval by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Health assessments ensure that entrant health is examined and that entrants receive referrals and linkages to any needed healthcare services. Assessments also help eliminate health-related barriers to successful resettlement while protecting the health of the populations living in the United States.

AccessCal will provide the health assessments through a subcontract with neighboring healthcare clinic OC Urgent Care Clinic, located at 631 S. Brookhurst St., Ste 101 in Anaheim. Mental health assessments will be provided by AccessCal located in Suite 107.

“We are thrilled to have been selected to administer the refugee health assessment contract,” said AccessCal Founder and Executive Director Nahla Kayali. “Refugees and immigrants, who are fortunate enough to resettle in the U.S., unfortunately deal with many social and psychological barriers that prevent them from trusting government authority. Because AccessCal is a community-based organization with employees who speak the languages and understand the cultures of the newly arrived entrants, we become a trusted resource with staff members refugees can identify with and organizational services from which refugees will benefit greatly.”

The entrants who are eligible to receive the health assessment will be referred to AccessCal from local resettlement agencies including International Rescue Committee, Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service (IRIS), World Relief, East African Community of Orange County, and Crittenton Services for Children and Families.

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Refugees and other entrants seeking social and economic resources may take advantage of additional services AccessCal provides including case management, citizenship and immigration services, employment services, emergency financial assistance, Vocational English-as-a-Second Language (VESL) courses and other educational services that help new arrivals integrate, build knowledge and skills, and learn new social norms and systems.

About Access California Services

[Access California Services \(AccessCal\)](#) is a culturally and linguistically sensitive health and human services nonprofit organization, which provides social and economic services to local Arab- and Muslim-Americans, refugees, and immigrants; however, AccessCal is nonsectarian. Anyone who needs support in the community will receive it regardless of race, religion or ethnicity. This year, AccessCal has served over 10,000 community members. Services include: Case management and advocacy in 13 languages, citizenship and immigration services, employment and tax services, emergency financial assistance, educational services, healthcare access services, counseling and support, community service and civic engagement, refugee services, and refugee health assessments.

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