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# U.S. to Pay States for Refugee Aid

Associated Press

The federal government said yesterday it will reimburse states for all costs of providing welfare, medical and social services for Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees after they have been resettled.

Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Caspar W. Weinberger said the goal is to have refugees resettled by national voluntary agencies or by state or local governments, with the help of sponsors who will provide shelter, food and help in finding jobs.

"However, in any large-scale refugee resettlement program, some refugees will have to seek aid from state agencies," Weinberger said. "In these instances, our policy will assure that refugees do not become a burden on state or local resources. . . ."

The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act signed by President Ford last month provides \$405 million for refugee costs, including \$100 million for HEW to cover initial medical treatment and screening, education, welfare and health costs.

Under federal guidelines to the states, medical assistance could be provided for refugees who have major medical needs, but cash welfare payments would not be provided until a state had determined that the sponsorship had broken down.

In that case, HEW said, refugees would qualify for Aid to Families with Dependent Children whether or not there were children in a family. The welfare payments would be the same as are paid to American AFDC recipients but states could issue the first payment on an emergency basis.

Weinberger also announced that Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees, and students from those countries who were stranded in the United States when Saigon and Phnom Penh fell to the Communists, will be eligible for federal education grants and guaranteed student loans if they want to enroll in American colleges this fall.