SFChronicle

478 Viet Refugees On Welfare in S.F.

At the last tally by the Social Services Department, 478 Vietnamese refugees were receiving public assistance in San Francisco.

Sponsors of refugees are supposed to insure that the refugees will not become public charges.

"From what wz've bzen told by the state and by the federal government, there is a moral obligation to sponsorship — but not a legal obligation," said Paul Dowball, acting assistant general manager of the epartment.

There are about 72,000 welfare recipients in the city, so the 478 Vietnamese amount to two-thirds of

The 478 bzneficiaries here break down this way: 66 families, totaling 306 persons, on the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program: 122 on food stamps, 16 on general assistance, 28 on MediCal, and six children in foster homes.

Dowball said San Francisco's expenses will be reimborsed by the federal government, but the city hasn't tallied the costs up yet.

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