



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

February 18, 2016

The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor of Miami-Dade County
Miami, FL 33128

Dear Mayor Gimenez:

Thank you for your January 19, 2016 letter requesting assistance in preparing for up to an estimated 8,000 Cuban nationals who may enter the United States. We appreciate that you and your staff took time on February 5, 2016, to meet with representatives of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to address this important issue.

As we shared during the meeting, USCIS provides grant awards for two national faith-based non-governmental organizations for the provision of resettlement services to eligible Cuban and Haitian nationals through the Cuban-Haitian Entrant Program (CHEP), reducing the burden on state and local resources. Currently, USCIS has cooperative agreements for the delivery of structured reception, processing, and placement services with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Church World Service (CWS).

In January 2016, USCIS awarded CWS and USCCB funding to provide CHEP services for calendar year 2016. USCIS is committed to closely monitoring the situation to determine whether additional funding may be needed and available as the year progresses.

I appreciate that your meeting brought together many members of the state and local service provider community. USCIS stands ready to meet with your staff again later in the year, as you requested. I understand that the Florida Department of Children and Families also invited your staff to participate in the Refugee Task Force meetings where USCIS, our CHEP partners, and state and local service providers can routinely share information regarding the impact of Cuban and other migration. I believe this is a valuable forum for routine information sharing, planning, and coordination.

Thank you again for your letter. If you have any additional questions, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at 202-272-1940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "León Rodríguez", written over a horizontal line.

León Rodríguez
Director