



## UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

The Director

Thursday, March 25, 2021

### MEMORANDUM FOR: HEAD OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Kathleen M. McGettigan, Acting Director

Subject: Detail Opportunity: Information for Department/Agency Leadership

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is partnering with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to support the Administration's urgent efforts to care for and place Unaccompanied Children who have entered the United States via the southern border. HHS is seeking interested candidates to serve up to a 120-day voluntary deployment detail as part of the HHS, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program. OPM and HHS are calling upon our Federal Agency family of exceptional public servants to lend support to this humanitarian effort through this detail opportunity.

ORR's Unaccompanied Children Program provides a safe and appropriate environment to children and youth who enter the United States without immigration status and without a parent or legal guardian who is able to provide for their physical and mental well-being. ORR provides a continuum of care for children, including placements in ORR foster care, shelter, and residential care providers that provide temporary housing and other services to unaccompanied children in ORR custody. ORR and its care providers work to ensure that children are released timely and safely from ORR custody to parents, other family members, or other adults (often referred to as "sponsors") who can care for the child's physical and mental well-being.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) needs current Federal government civilian employees for up to 120-day deployment details to support ORR at facilities for unaccompanied children. Locations currently include facilities along the Southwest U.S. border area, specifically Dallas, San Diego, San Antonio, and Ft Bliss. Locations will extend to other geographic areas according to the need. Details will involve contact with migrant children and a variety of other federal and non-federal entities, possibly including U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other HHS employees. This is a reimbursable detail. Travel, lodging and per diem will be provided by ORR. The detail is not a promotion opportunity.

We are requesting that agencies support this effort by encouraging supervisors to allow interested staff to volunteer for the details. In addition, we greatly appreciate swift coordination with the HHS designated interagency coordinator to draft the appropriate documents including the FS Form 7600 (Parts A and B) or similar document, and any other supporting documentation that may be required by either Agency. Once the package is fully executed (signed by both parties), details may commence.

Lastly, an agency hiring an individual to work with children in some capacity will need to have the individual undergo a “Child Care” investigation, which includes specific checks, as directed by the Crime Control Act of 1990, originally codified at 42 USC 13041, transferred to 34 USC 20351. These checks would also need to be performed on existing federal employees if they have not previously had a Child Care investigation or Child Care checks included as part of their investigation. The law does allow an individual to work provisionally before the childcare background investigation is complete so long as the person is “within sight and under the supervision of a staff person with respect to whom a background check has been completed.”

**CALL TO ACTION:**

Please share this information with your agency workforce in order to have them apply to the HHS, ORR, UC Program. **This link is not searchable on USAJOBS and interested employees must submit application materials via USAJOBS at <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596318100>.**

We continue to be inspired by the spirit of volunteerism and dedication to public service demonstrated by all those across the Federal government who have supported many response efforts in the past.

Cc: Chief Human Capital Officers (CHCOs), Deputy Chief Human Capital Officers, Executive Councils, Small Agency Council, Federal Executive Boards