

Matching Grant Program

Purpose: The Matching Grant Program is a federal government program that endeavors, through incentives, to get refugees to become and stay employed with the goal of getting them to become self-sufficient.

Program incentives:

- A) Financial – at certain points during the time in which the client is on the matching grant program he/she will receive checks (made out in their name) to use towards what the client needs.
 - a. Two one-time cash grants received after being employed for a certain number of days
 - i. **\$100** received at **60** days if still employed
 - ii. **\$100** received at **120** days if still employed
 - b. The family receives matching grant cash for 3 months after they have joined matching grant.
 - i. Each family receives **\$200** per working adult and **\$40** per child.
 - c. The family receives rent money for up to three months or for one month after a family member gets employed.
- B) Employment Help
 - a. Employable members of family receive employment advice and counseling from a job developer.
 - b. Agency and job developer agree to place client in a job.

Client's Responsibilities:

- A) Maintaining employment – the employable client agrees to maintain employment (not quit a job) unless there is valid reason to do so.
- B) Showing up for work – the client agrees to work the hours agreed to.
- C) Reporting Matching Grant hours
 - a. Any volunteer support/community support that the client receives, he/she agrees to report those hours to the agency. The agency will then report these hours to the government.
 - b. The program is called Matching Grant, for while the government provides financial benefits to the family, the resettlement agency agrees to match these monies with community support for the refugee. It's the government's way of making the agency get the community involved in supporting refugees.
 - c. In order to receive matching grant spots that can be given to future refugees, the agency has to report hours to the government.
 - d. Therefore, part of the terms of the Matching Grant contract is the promise that the clients will turn in Matching Grant hours to the agency.
 - e. *Because of the difficulty refugees (who often do not know how to speak, read, or write in English) have with recording these hours, we ask that volunteers for families record very carefully the hours and donations that they spend with or make to the families they mentor.*

Possible repercussions if clients don't maintain their responsibilities:

- A) Client will be reprimanded by the agency.
- B) Client may not receive monthly checks until they turn in their matching grant hours.
- C) Client may be removed from Matching Grant.

Volunteers play an essential role in allowing refugees to fulfill their matching grant responsibilities by helping them complete their volunteer hour sheets. Volunteers also help the agencies and future refugees who will come to Tucson when they fill out their hours sheets because they allow the agency to continue getting more Matching Grant slots.