

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE \$9 MILLION FOR LEGAL AID TO CHILD MIGRANTS

By Miriam Jordan
September 30, 2014

The federal government says it will provide \$9 million to two refugee organizations that give legal assistance to unaccompanied children who have streamed across the southern border.

The Department of Health and Human Services said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants will receive the supplemental funds through the Unaccompanied Alien Children's program, which it oversees.

The funds will be split between the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, and the 2015 fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, and will initially help 2600 undocumented minors who face deportation.

More than 66,000 unchaperoned children have entered the U.S. in the 11 months that ended Aug. 31. The illegal influx, which peaked in July, fueled both a political and border crisis.

Advocates say many of the children fleeing violence in Central America could qualify for asylum or other relief that would enable them to remain in the U.S. However, the minors can't afford private attorneys, overwhelming nonprofit organizations.

After being apprehended by agents at the border, the children are processed by HHS before being released to relatives while awaiting their deportation proceedings. Department spokesman Kenneth Wolfe said the funds will enable the organizations to assist more children in Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans and several other cities.

California Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, recently approved legislation providing \$3 million in legal aid for unaccompanied minors. Tech entrepreneur Marc Benioff and his wife, Lynne, this week announced a \$500,000 donation to help such children.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R., VA) said that providing "taxpayer-funded lawyers" to migrants would encourage more illegal immigration.