

15H.8 RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program

FY2020 Annual Report to the General Assembly and the Department of Human Services

The purpose of the RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program is to provide RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps members with training and support to increase community integration and engagement for diverse refugee communities. Awarded on a competitive basis, RefugeeRISE grants will give support to AmeriCorps programs in Iowa utilizing AmeriCorps funds awarded by the commission, other funds received in the community programs account established pursuant to Iowa Code section 15H.5, or both.

In FY2020, one RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program was awarded state funding:

Program Sponsor	Program Name	RefugeeRISE State Funding Awarded	Total MSYs Awarded (similar to FTE)
EMBARC	RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps	\$200,000	43.5

The program has reported the following midyear results for the 2019-2020 program year (which will conclude by 11/30/2020):

Description	
<p>WorkReady and Education Navigators will provide targeted, linguistically and culturally appropriate substantive services (substantive engagement: at least one assessment and two incidences of supportive services) to beneficiaries by providing: 1) ongoing outreach to refugee and mainstream community to increase awareness and participation (biweekly outreach efforts); 2) assessments regarding basic needs, language, and employability skills, as relevant (one per participant, pre and post); 3) assistance to the teacher or co-teaching (at least four hours during class cycle); 4) providing feedback on curriculum and training (at least twice, before and after training); and 5) supportive services which include assistance with essential needs (food, shelter, health care, clothing), facilitating mentor/tutor matches (at least 6 hours), and supporting transitions when starting classes or work (contact weekly during the first two weeks of class and after job placement, and bi-weekly until class ends or a month on the job.) As participants face significant barriers, RISE anticipates that participants will need numerous services. RISE estimates that at least 3,000 incidences of supportive services will be provided to the 1,000 unduplicated participants. The duration and dosage for trainings will vary from a minimum 4 hours “drop-in” classes to over 60 hours for industry specific training, during a six-month time frame. As the skill level of participants will vary, training must be tailored to the individuals’ specific needs. The goal is that training combined with supportive services through RISE Navigators, will increase motivation and perseverance to increase attendance and ongoing participation.</p>	
Performance Measure- Output	Results
Number of individuals served (Each host site will use the “Direct Services Tracking form or case management tool” to maintain record of refugees who are being provided services by RISE members)	700
Performance Measure- Outcome	Results

Number of individuals who secure employment	31
Performance Measure- Outcome	Results
Number of individuals with improved job readiness	77

The program had the following final accomplishments for the 2018-2019 AmeriCorps program year:

Description	Performance Measure- Output	Results	Performance Measure- Outcome	Results
Members will provide direct job training and other skill development services to economically disadvantaged individuals in rural and urban Iowa. Members will also recruit volunteers in the communities where they are serving to assist in providing those services. The goal of 400 individuals (unduplicated count) will be provided services during the grant year. Each beneficiary will participate for a minimum of four hours to be counted. Individuals served will count as economically disadvantaged by receiving or being eligible for TANF, Food Stamps (SNAP), Medicaid, SCHIP, or section 8 or have a poor credit score or are at least 60 days behind on one or more personal/family accounts. Many of the refugees resettled to the U.S. have spent years in rudimentary refugee camps with limited access to education and health care, have no understanding of how the health care system in the US works, and speak little to no English.	Number of economically disadvantaged individuals receiving job training or other skill development services (minimum of 4 hours per person)	408	Number of individuals served who report improved knowledge as a result of training	366
Ten AmeriCorps members will work with refugees in the communities they are serving to provide information on wellness, patient rights and responsibilities, levels of care, nutrition, health care insurance, access and benefits. Members will provide transportation to those individuals who are without. AmeriCorps members will also recruit volunteers to assist with this performance measure. Each beneficiary will participate for a minimum four hours in order to be counted in this measure.	Number of clients receiving information on health insurance, access and benefits (minimum of 4 hours per person)	176	Number of individuals served who report an increased understanding of health care topics provided	77