

15H.8 RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program

FY2021 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 FY2021, 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 2020-2021 program year (which will conclude by 11/30/2021). Note that the program’s originally proposed activities were significantly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the program therefore shifted focus towards providing unemployment, crisis, and disaster response as well as vaccination outreach and clinics:

Description	
<p>Employment 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:</p> <p>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” class 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	1273

Performance Measure- Outcome	Results
Number of individuals with improved job readiness	275

The program had the following final accomplishments for the 2019-2020 AmeriCorps program year:

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)	1912
Performance Measure- Outcome	Results
Number of individuals who secure employment	55
Performance Measure- Outcome	Results
Number of individuals with improved job readiness	319