

15H.8 RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program

FY2024 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 FY2024, one RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps program was awarded state funding:

Program Sponsor	Program Name	RefugeeRISE State Funding Awarded	Federal Funding Awarded	Total MSYs Awarded (similar to FTE)	Total AmeriCorps Members Awarded
Refugee & Immigrant Voices in Action (RIVA)	RIVA AmeriCorps	\$200,000	\$805,584	35.03	57

The program has reported the following midyear results for the 2023-2024 program year (which will conclude by 11/30/2024).

Description	
AmeriCorps members will be supporting a target of 700 clients who participate in one of the following adult education/job readiness programs: ESL, Digital Literacy, Citizenship, Financial Literacy, Job Training, or Youth Career Awareness/Life Skills. Members will provide targeted, linguistically and culturally appropriate services to beneficiaries by providing: 1) outreach to increase awareness and participation; 2) assessments regarding basic needs and sufficiency/employability skills, as relevant (per person); 3) support to the teacher (ongoing); 4) providing feedback on curriculum and training (ongoing); and 5) supportive wrap around and essential need services and referrals; 6) mentorship and tutoring. Beneficiaries will be considered for the measure if they participate in at least 8 hours of work readiness trainings during a 6 month time frame, depending on their needs. Participants who receive support services will be counted as served. As the skill level of participants will vary, training must be tailored to the individuals' specific needs. ("Sound Investments: Building Immigrants Skills to Fuel Economic Growth," Economic Mobility Corporation, 2010) The dose and duration is based on data and evaluation of previous trainings that met outcomes.	
Performance Measure- Output	Mid-Year Results
Number of individuals served	348
Performance Measure- Outcome	Mid-Year Results
Number of individuals with improved job readiness	83

The program had the following final accomplishments for the 2022-2023 AmeriCorps program year:

Performance Measure- Output	Final Results
Number of individuals served	712
Performance Measure- Outcome	Final Results
Number of individuals with improved job readiness	543

The program's output target is to serve 700 individuals for the 2022-2023 grant cycle. The AmeriCorps members served 712 unduplicated individuals in the last grant year, meeting the target. All individuals served were checked for duplication by zip code, phone number, or date of birth. The AmeriCorps program has proven the intervention to be effective and impactful through a qualitative research evaluation called Ripple Effect Mapping (REM). The retrospective survey was implemented in the last quarter of the grant cycle. During the retrospective survey reporting, the program surveyed 597 individuals out of 712 clients. Through this data, the program was able to identify 543 participants who improved at least 1 skill level of job readiness. Not all the clients (115) were surveyed, however, the program nearly met the outcome target of 560 participants with improved job readiness.