

Program Update
Bureau of Refugee Services
Iowa Department of Human Services
2/24/2011

Refugee Resettlement

The Bureau stopped resettling newly arriving refugees in June of 2010 and ceased operations as a National Voluntary Resettlement Agency effective September 30, 2010 when its Cooperative Agreement with the US Department of State ended.

Employment and Employment Related Services

The Bureau continues to receive funding from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Department of Health and Human Services to provide employment and employment related social services to refugees living in Iowa. The emphasis is helping refugees obtain jobs and move off of cash assistance as quickly as possible with the first priority being refugees who have been in the US for less than a year. Through the various funds provided by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Bureau offers an array of services directly or through contractors which include assessment, resumes, job interviews, job development, job placements, job retention, job upgrades, intensive job readiness training and targeted pre-employment training modules, an English As A Second Language computer lab, limited transportation to and from a job on an as needed basis, and the identification and removal of barriers to employment.

Promise Jobs

The Bureau has a MOU with the Division of Adult, Children and Family Services to Provide the Promise Jobs services to refugees in Iowa who access FIP.

Pathways to Healthcare

The Bureau has an MOU with Iowa Work Force Development to identify, recruit, screen, and test potential students. The Bureau also provides numerous wrap around services including remedial math, pre-GED and GED classes, career development and job placement. Students must be foreign born and bi-lingual but do not need to be refugees. The purpose of the grant is to enable more English As A Second Language (ESL) learners to gain access to health care careers, to increase diversity within health care service providers and demonstrate an effective model of adapting existing curriculum and training models to increase the likelihood of success for English As A Second Language learners. Mercy College of Health Science is the other partner in this project.

Additional Programs

The Bureau also administers two discretionary grants funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement:

- Refugee Elderly – Contracted with Lutheran Social Services
- Refugee School Impact Grant – Awarded to the Des Moines Public Schools

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)– The Bureau serves as the pass through for the funds given to the state by the Office of Refugee Resettlement to cover the costs of the state providing cash and medical assistance to newly arriving refugees who are not eligible for FIP. The RCA and RMA eligibility period is for the first 8 months after arrival in the US.

Bureau of Refugee Services				
	Revised		Revised	Projected
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Fund 0225	FY 2010	FY2010	FY 2011	FY2011
101 Personal Services-Salaries	\$ 1,459,849.00	\$ 1,112,935.00	\$ 1,585,657.00	\$ 1,110,657.00
FTE	22.47	21.14	23.17	19.25
FY 11 Budget Includes 2 funded vacancies				
All Dollars are Federal				