



 info@iowainternationalcenter.org

 www.iowainternationalcenter.org



Building a stronger, global Iowa

- *Connecting individuals, communities and organizations in Iowa and around the world.*
- *Creating opportunities to remove language, cultural and economic barriers.*
- *Creating global community and build pathways to prosperity for all.*

Iowa International Center

WHO WE ARE

- **MISSION:**
 - Connect individuals, communities, and organizations in Iowa and around the world with opportunities to remove language, cultural, and economic opportunities.
- **VISION:**
 - Cultivate global community by bringing the world to Iowa and Iowa to the world
- **CREATED:**
 - In 1938 to welcome refugees escaping Europe and creating cultural understanding



International Visitor Exchange Programs

- **WHAT IS IT:**

- International Visitors Leadership Program
- Open World
- Global Citizens Travel Seminars

- **IMPACT:**

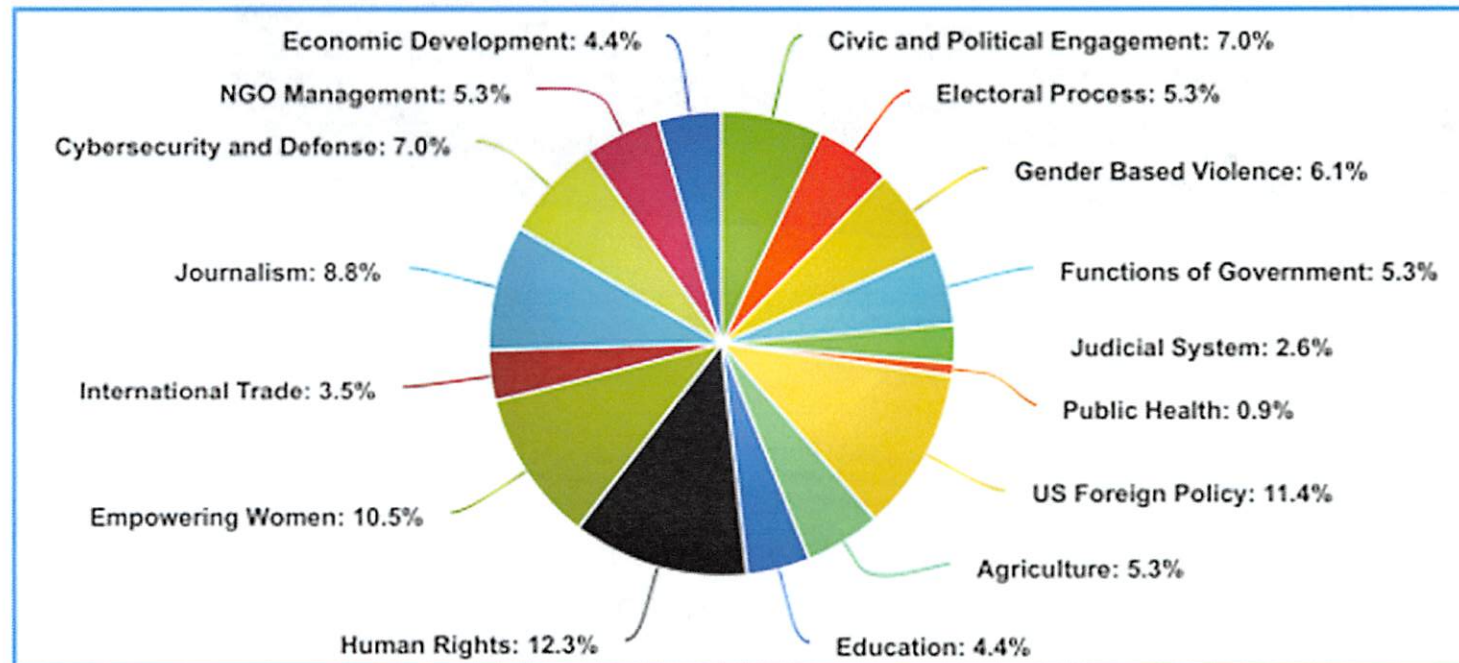
- Economic impact
- National Security
- Mutual understanding

- **STATISTICS:**

- 2021 Virtual: 76 countries; 16 programs; 182 visitors
- 2022 Virtual & In-Person: 62 countries; 23 programs; 234 visitors



International Visitors: 5-Year Topic Snapshot



meta-chart.com

Iowa Partner States



January 16, 2024

CORRECTED

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IEDA to Collaborate with Iowa International Center on Partner States Program

January 16, 2024 (Des Moines, IA) – The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) announced today a new collaborative agreement with the Iowa International Center (IIC) to manage and facilitate the citizen-to-citizen diplomacy components of Iowa's Partner States, which were established as an opportunity to build connections between Iowans and the international community. From the first partner state of Yamanashi, Japan, in 1960, to Iowa's most current relationship established with Kosovo in 2013, the partner states have hosted exchanges in agriculture, law, business, culture and education among other areas.

Iowa's current partner states include:

- Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan (1960)
- Yucatan, Mexico (1965)
- Hebei Province, China (1983)
- Taiwan (1989)
- Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine (1996)
- Veneto Region, Italy (1997)
- Kosovo (2013)

Global Languages: Interpretation & Translation

WHAT IS IT:

- Interpretation = Spoken word (in person, video, phone)
- Translation = Written word (birth certificates to research)

IMPACT:

- Language access: Arabic to Chuukese to Haitian Creole to Tigrinya
- Allows non-English speaking individuals to get help in various circumstances: legal, medical, schools, non-profits
- Documents allow greater access to services or opportunities: birth certificates, employee handbooks, school IEP documents

Interpretation & Translation
5-Year Trend



Free Housing & Emergency Interpretation Hotlines



WHAT IS IT:

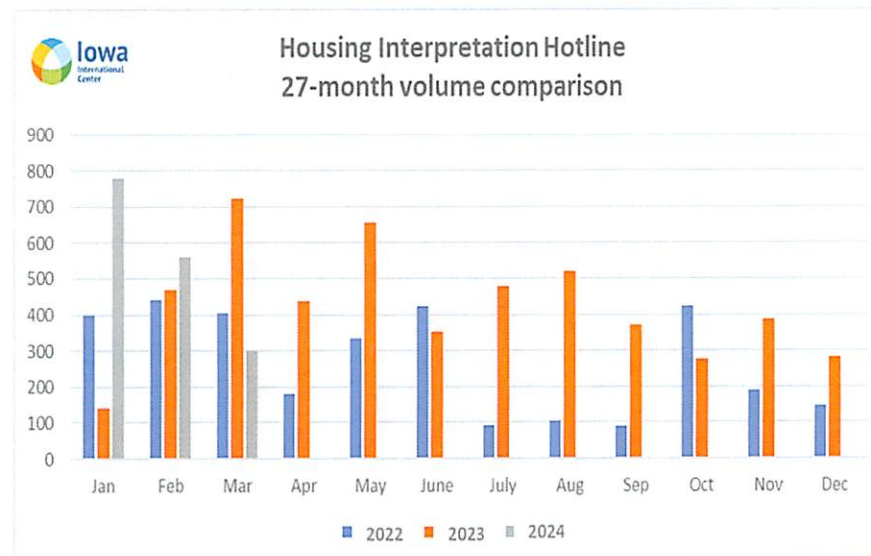
- Connects Emergency or Housing personnel to interpreters, ensuring victims access to support

IMPACT:

- Allows non-English speaking individuals to get help in an emergency ... (EMS, fire, police, domestic violence)
- Or connects landlords and tenants (safety, applications, home-buying education, homeless)

STATISTICS:

- Used in 35+ Iowa counties
- Calls tripled in mid-2019 and have remained at high levels





Passport to Prosperity

October 3, 2024

WHAT IS IT:

- Recognize achievements of immigrants and former refugees in Iowa's cultural, business, educational and social arenas

IMPACT:

- Increases connections and understanding of contributions of new Iowan community

STATISTICS:

- 20 years of recognizing achievements of immigrants and former refugees
- 80 individuals have been honored