

# SUPPORT FOR SERVICES THAT EMPOWER REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS



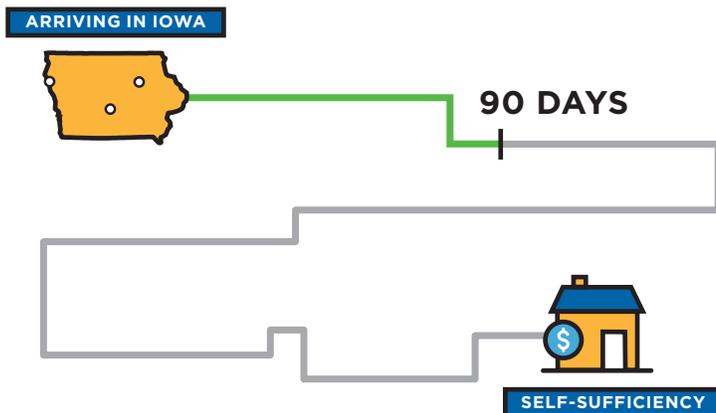
**The lack of an adequate workforce for Iowa businesses continues to be a challenge.** The return on investment in supporting new arrivals in Iowa is significant: With high workforce participation rates and diverse skill sets, immigrants are and will continue to be a critical piece of the solution to Iowa's workforce crisis.

## THE ISSUE

**The federal government provides just 90 days (about 3 months) of funding to resettlement agencies working with new immigrants.**

Funds are used only to meet these families' basic needs. There is a lack of funding to ensure new Iowans are equipped with skills, education, and training needed to prepare them to enter the workforce and contribute to the local economy.

As a resettlement agency, LSI has welcomed new arrivals to Des Moines and Sioux City for several years. Beginning in 2024, LSI will also work with individuals resettled in the Cedar Valley area.



## THE SOLUTION

Iowa must make investments in immigrant integration and workforce services that will ensure new Iowans are able to fully contribute to Iowa's communities and economy.



In 2023, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) welcomed **407 NEW ARRIVALS** to Des Moines and Sioux City.

100% of them utilized LSI's post-resettlement services resulting in:



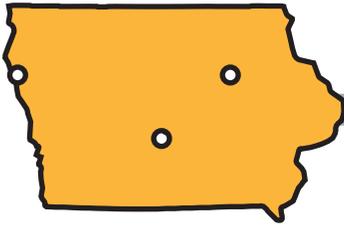
100% had access to employer health insurance



meaning they are engaged in the local workforce and contributing to the local economy

# THE ROAD AFTER RESETTLEMENT

## ARRIVING IN IOWA



**RESETTLEMENT:** Resettlement services are the initial services provided to newly arriving families, including; housing arrangement, community orientation, and connection to health, education, and other critical resources.

90 DAYS

**FEDERAL FUNDING SUPPORTS ONLY THE FIRST 90 DAYS OF RESETTLEMENT**

**EDUCATION CLASSES:** LSI's Community Based English Language Learning helps students learn and gain language skills, focusing on social skills and cultural awareness. Other classes teach financial literacy, promote safe driving habits, and more.

## BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

**GLOBAL GREENS FARMERS MARKET:** At the market, recently arrived refugees can purchase familiar produce that is locally grown and sold by former refugees.

**EMPLOYMENT:** LSI works with new arrivals to help them find initial employment in the local community that will allow them to be economically self-sufficient.

**MENTAL HEALTH AND RESOURCE CONNECTIONS:** This program supports the goals and cultural values of individuals, families, and communities by providing mental health care in a clinical setting.

## PARTICIPATING IN/ADJUSTING TO IOWA

**GLOBAL GREENS:** Individuals and families receive access to land, markets and resources to grow food for their own security through urban gardening, and to start or grow farm businesses either at a training farm location managed by LSI or on separate land sites.

**URBAN GARDENS:** Urban Gardens connects refugee and immigrant gardeners with land near their homes, allowing them to grow food they grew up eating but have difficulty finding in local stores.

**CHILD CARE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:** LSI provides training and technical assistance to individuals who want to start or grow a high-quality State of Iowa registered in-home childcare business.

**SENIOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE PROGRAM:** LSI partners with refugee and immigrant individuals age 60 + to foster community connections, improve their quality of life, and work towards their goal of U.S. citizenship.

**CAREER PATHWAYS:** Services include orientation to the U.S. workforce, job readiness training, career exploration and planning, job placement, recertification, and industry-specific training that assists immigrants in building longer-term financial stability.

## ACHIEVING IN IOWA

**HOME OWNERSHIP:** LSI provides financial education to immigrants and former refugees as they build their new life in the U.S. and work towards their financial goals.

**SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING AND COUNSELING:** LSI's multilingual business counselors connect immigrants, refugees and other underrepresented populations to resources including training, technical assistance and appropriate funding to start or grow their businesses.

**CITIZENSHIP CLASSES:** LSI provides classes to prepare students for the U.S. Citizenship Exam and connects them with immigration legal services to complete their application.

## SELF-SUFFICIENCY

**LSI asks State Legislators to invest state funds for post resettlement services. These workforce and wrap around services offer support to new immigrants as they navigate programs, education and funding available to help them positively impact Iowa's workforce and development.**

