

New Iowan Centers

Overview

New Iowan Centers aim to assist immigrants become part of the local community through employment and immigration assistance. This demonstration builds on experience from New Iowan Centers pilots in three locations: Muscatine, Ottumwa, and Sioux City.

- This demonstration grant was awarded to Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) in July 2005, and is expected to conclude in June 2008.
- IWD will establish four new full service New Iowan Centers in existing One-Stop Career Centers and in existing Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker affiliated sites in: Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines and Council Bluffs. This is in addition to the existing New Iowan Centers in Muscatine, Sioux City and Ottumwa.
- A third-party evaluator will evaluate the employment and citizenship impacts of services provided in the New Iowan Centers.

Purpose

The purpose of this demonstration project is to prepare immigrants for employment in high-growth industries, meet local workforce needs, and promote civic integration.

Goals

The goals of the demonstration are to:

- Speed the transition of new Americans into communities,
- Promote stability and rapid employment with good wages, and
- Enhance economic development.

Major Innovations

New Iowan Centers will be located within existing local One-Stop Career Centers, and will bring together partners from the One-Stop Career Center, local community-based organizations, and local Chambers of Commerce. Together, these partners will provide services in areas such as immigration, citizenship training, workforce development, small business programs, and economic development strategies.

Summary of Services

New Iowan Centers will provide job placement, community service referrals, translation, language and occupational training, resettlement assistance, supportive services, small business assistance, and technical and legal assistance concerning documentation, civic responsibilities and other appropriate services.

*For specific information about the New Iowan Centers, please contact **Barbara Bobb, Targeted Small Business Bureau Chief in Iowa Workforce Development** at (515) 242-6240 or Barbara.Bobb@iwd.state.ia.us.*

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