

# REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS IN CENTRAL IOWA

Refugees and immigrants (New Iowans) face many challenges that prevent them from moving out of poverty and living a quality life in central Iowa (Dallas, Polk, and Warren Counties). Many of these obstacles are being addressed through the work of OpportUNITY and the Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa.



40 percent of Iowa's population growth since 2010 has come from immigration.

*The Gazette, 2018*

**585,403** Population in central Iowa

**46,396** New Iowan population in central Iowa

**8%** of people in central Iowa are New Iowans.

*U.S. Census Bureau, 2016*

## Top challenges New Iowans face

- Lack of English-language skills
- Cultural differences
- Health issues/navigating health care
- Transportation
- Child care

*USCRI and Catholic Charities*

**\$845.9 million**

In 2014, New Iowans accounted for \$845.9 million in spending power and contributed \$286.7 million in tax receipts.

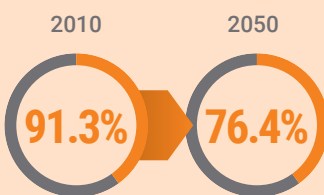
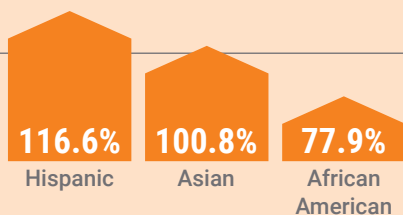
*www.newamericaneconomy.org*

## NEW IOWAN POPULATION GROWTH

**135,759** people in Iowa (4.4 percent of the state's population) in 2016 were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.

*American Immigration Council*

Since 2000, Iowa's populations have grown:



In 2010, Iowa's population was 91.3 percent white non-Hispanic, which is estimated to decrease to 76.4 percent in 2050, according to State Data Center projections.

*The Gazette, 2018*

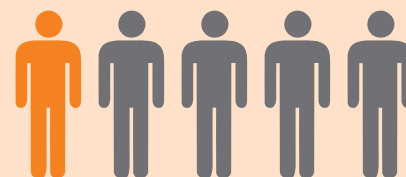
## JOBS FOR NEW IOWANS

New Iowans often work in service occupations or the manufacturing or transportation fields, which pay lower wages.

**1 in 4** works in service occupations.



**1 in 5** works in manufacturing or transportation fields.



Occupation	Polk County Total Population	New Iowans in Polk County
Management, business, science, and art	39.6%	25.3%
Service	16.1%	25.1%
Sales and office	25.7%	15.6%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	7.5%	11.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving	11.1%	22.8%

*U.S. Census Bureau*

## REFUGEE HEALTH CARE

**99.1%** of primary refugees arriving in the U.S. receive a comprehensive health assessment. Some refugees require specialized care such as OB/GYN, neurology, and infectious disease.

### Most common health referrals:

- Dental care
- Primary Care
- Vision Care



OPPORTUNITY  
FIGHTING POVERTY TOGETHER



Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa



United Way  
of Central Iowa