

New Americans Centers

Overview

New Americans Centers aim to assist immigrants in becoming a part of the local community through employment and immigration assistance.

- These demonstration grants were awarded to Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (DWS) and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) in July 2005, and concluded in June 2008.
- Arkansas established the **New Arkansan Resource Network** in existing One-Stop Career Centers and affiliated sites in Rogers, Russellville, Malvern, and Little Rock.
- Iowa established **New Iowan Centers** (NICs) in Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines and Council Bluffs. NICs also were expanded to sites in Marshalltown and Mount Pleasant. This is in addition to other NICs in operation. For more information, visit <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/centers/newiowan/index.html>.
- The Urban Institute is conducting an evaluation of this project to help determine the workforce development and community outcomes of New Americans Centers. A study of the demonstration is underway with final results scheduled for summer 2009.

Purpose

The purpose of the demonstration is to:

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

Major Innovations

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

Summary of Services

New Americans Centers are providing 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 Arkansan Resource Network, please contact **Mike Kennedy, Division Chief, DWS Office of Employment Assistance, at (501) 682-3142 or Mike.Kennedy@arkansas.gov**. For specific information about the New Iowan Centers, please contact **Barbara Bobb, Targeted Services Bureau Chief, IWD, at (515) 242-6240 or Barbara.Bobb@iwd.state.ia.us**. For additional information about the demonstration project and evaluation, please contact Michelle Ennis, Employment and Training Administration, at ennis.michelle@dol.gov.

