

TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION SERVICES

Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Services (TAPS)

Iowa has a history of having a strong, coordinated and multidisciplinary response to the problem of labor and sex trafficking in our state. Law enforcement, medical professionals, local service providers and others work together to rescue survivors and help them rebuild their lives.

Recent studies reveal a gap in protection when the survivor was not born in the U.S. Language and cultural differences left survivors without the resources they needed to recover. As a result, the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI – Des Moines) TAPS program was created.

The USCRI – Des Moines TAPS program offers survivor-centered and trauma-informed services to survivors of all forms of human trafficking in the state of Iowa. With funding from the Department of Justice, the program will launch in January 2019.

In collaboration with partners, TAPS will work to reach survivors with support that promotes their immediate security and well-being. TAPS will also partner with regional and local anti-trafficking coalitions to focus on gaps, including the under-identification of foreign-born survivors of labor trafficking.

Program Goals

USCRI – Des Moines will participate in both capacity building activities (trainings, screenings, outreach, infrastructure) and direct services. The primary goals of TAPS include:

1. Map resources (*Jan – June 2019*)
2. Develop response protocols (*April-December 2019*)
3. Conduct trainings and public awareness events (*2019 - 2021*)
4. Deliver direct services (*late 2019*)
5. Conduct ongoing evaluations to ensure program impact

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate

USCRI – Des Moines has deep expertise in providing services that match the language and cultural needs of vulnerable refugees and immigrants. We partner with strong local agencies serving Asian, African and Latinx survivors of violence to further expand our reach.

Direct Services

Direct services will respond to the needs of survivors and may include case management and connection to needed legal, healthcare, ESL, housing, advocacy, transportation, employment assistance and other services.