

# **IRIS Volunteer Job Descriptions**

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## **1. Case Management Department**

### 1.1. Case Management: Housing Acquisitions Volunteer

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 5-15
- ❖ Days/times preferred: Flexible
- ❖ Commitment: Flexible
- ❖ Requirements: High energy and positive attitude, good communication skills including with limited English speakers, access to a vehicle. Ideal candidate will have knowledge of New Haven neighborhoods and the rental market, ability to research housing units online and network with various rental agents.
- ❖ Duties: Help IRIS staff and clients identify housing units for new arrivals and people who need to move. Conduct research online, make phone calls to agents, visit apartments, conduct basic safety evaluations, show apartments to interested clients, help coordinate paperwork and payments with landlords.

### 1.2. Case Management: Administrative Assistant Volunteer

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 5-15
- ❖ Days/times preferred: Flexible
- ❖ Requirements: High energy and positive attitude, good communication skills, attention to detail, ability to manipulate basic Excel sheets and Word documents. Ideal candidate will take pride in efficiently accomplishing administrative tasks.
- ❖ Duties: Support Director of Case Management in maintaining information systems and various administrative projects as needed, may include taking meeting notes, updating spreadsheets, writing letters, filing, organizing, etc.

### 1.3. Case Management: Earned Income Tax Credit Mentor Volunteer

- ❖ Hours per Week: Not a weekly commitment
- ❖ Days/Times preferred: To be arranged with the client you are mentoring
- ❖ Commitment: A few weeks for each assignment
- ❖ Requirements: Ability to understand form letters from the State of CT Department of Revenue Services; Patience and persistence in helping a newcomer gather and mail necessary papers
- ❖ Duties: Be available to be assigned to a refugee who claimed the CT Earned Income Tax Credit, but who is being required to send in additional documentation before receiving that large payment. Assist your “mentee” to identify and find useful documents they already have, and possibly request additional documents (such as a letter from their child’s school). Assist in photocopying documents and mailing them to DRS in accordance with instructions found in mentee’s letter from DRS.

### 1.4. Case Management: Move Ahead Project (MAP) - Adult English Learner Tutor (Remote/In-person)

- ❖ Hours per week needed: Ranging from 1-4 hours. Ideally each tutor would be paired with 2-4 students.
- ❖ Minimum time commitment: 6 months
- ❖ Availability preferred: Flexible/Mutually agreed on schedule with client, as clients' work schedules vary

- ❖ Duties: Participating clients will be taking English classes and using online educational applications to improve their English and to acquire new job skills. Tutors will participate in about 3 hours of training, provided by Burlingtonenglish, and then will be paired with small groups of similar level English speakers to help them complete their classwork, navigate the online resources and track their progress. The tutors will also serve as employment mentors for the students and will be working with the IRIS employment team to reach employment goals.
- ❖ Qualities needed: Autonomy, patience, creativity; experience teaching basic English, math or other subjects would be a plus, but not required. Tutors must be able to connect with clients and establish a rapport of trust and respect despite a language barrier. Tutors who speak languages such as Pashto, Dari, Farsi, Arabic and Swahili would be in high demand for beginner English students.

#### 1.5. Housing & Donations: In-kind Donations Sorting/Processing Volunteer

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2-3 hrs/week
- ❖ Days/time preferred: Monday to Thursday, 9:30 am to 3 pm
- ❖ Commitment: 3 months approx.
- ❖ Requirements: Ability to do some moderate lifting and moving. Those with a knack for organizing are always welcome!
- ❖ Duties: Sort in-kind donations and organize them in our storage areas so we can use in new apartments to resettle refugees.

#### 1.6. Housing & Donations: Food Pantry Volunteer

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2-3 hours per week
- ❖ Days/time preferred: Tuesdays 10:00am-1:00pm and/or Wednesdays, 8:00-11:00am
- ❖ Commitment: 3 month approx
- ❖ Requirements: Ability to do some moderate lifting and moving of food. Ability to stand for up to two hours on an assembly line. Patience and a sense of humor.
- ❖ Duties: On Tuesdays, help receive 8,000-12,000 pounds of food from CT Food Bank by moving boxes into the food pantry, stocking shelves and packing 400+ bags. On Wednesdays, pack an additional 400+ bags of food and help with the distribution of food and household items to up to 100 households, in a fair and equitable way.

#### 1.7. Housing & Donations: Furniture and Apartment Set Ups (Hartford)

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2-6
- ❖ Days/Times: Monday- Friday flexible times between 9:00am-5:00pm
- ❖ Commitment: 3 months min.
- ❖ Requirements: Car, license, insurance, clean driving record. Must be punctual and reliable. Ability to assist within 12-24 hours of call for help.
- ❖ Duties: Assist Housing and Donations Coordinator set up homes for newly arriving families. This includes roles that can be offered separately or together depending on the volunteers ability to lift and move furniture like dressers and sofas into apartments. The other element of the job includes unpacking household goods, making beds, setting up toys and lite decorating. Having the ability to do both activities is ideal but not required.

### 1.8. Case Management: Lifeline Phone Liaison

- ❖ Hours per week needed: Flexible and variable
- ❖ Minimum time commitment: Flexible
- ❖ Availability preferred: Flexible
- ❖ Duties: Help clients who are having problems with their Lifeline phones (free cell phones provided under a federal program for low-income people) resolve problems with their phones and/or their service. This will usually involve either checking the status of the client's account at the cell phone company's website or calling the cell phone company with the client and getting help in understanding and resolving the problem.
- ❖ Qualities needed: Basic familiarity with cell phones; Willingness to interact with Customer Service or Technical Support staff; Fluency in another language (especially Pashto) would be great, but willingness to work with interpreters (remotely, on three-way calls) is all that is necessary.

### 1.9. Case Management: Utility Account Set-Up Specialist

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 4 or more
- ❖ Minimum time commitment: 3 months
- ❖ Availability preferred: During utility company business hours
- ❖ Duties: Help clients who have been in CT for a month or more call gas and electric companies to initiate accounts in their own names (to replace the initial accounts that were in the name of IRIS); Remind utility customer service rep to pre-screen the client for hardship status; Communicate to case manager any follow-up requirements that need attention; Record new account numbers and effective dates.
- ❖ Requirements: Spare time you don't mind spending on hold with a utility company; Clarity when dealing with details like spelling of names, accurate addresses, and account numbers; Willingness to rely on an interpreter (remotely, on a three-way call), or proficiency in one or more languages spoken by current IRIS clients (such as Pashto, Dari, Arabic, or Swahili)

### 1.10. Case Management: Public Benefits Renewal Specialist

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 4 or more
- ❖ Minimum time commitment: 3 months and up
- ❖ Availability preferred: Flexible (online system is available 24/7, but clients may not be)
- ❖ Duties: Help clients complete periodic online renewal process, so as to avoid losing public assistance they qualify for; In addition to initial input of data obtained from the client, this may involve checking back to see what letters have been generated and sent to the client, and helping the client understand and respond to those letters by obtaining and uploading additional documents. It could also include helping clients call a Technical Support line to recover their forgotten User ID or reset their forgotten password.
- ❖ Requirements: Access to basic computer or smartphone equipment, preferably with capacity to scan (or photograph) and upload documents; Willingness to rely on an interpreter (remotely, on a three-way call), or proficiency in one or more languages spoken by current IRIS clients (such as Pashto, Dari, Arabic, or Swahili); Ability to function within a reasonably user-friendly online system.

## **2. Community Engagement Department**

### 2.1. Community Engagement: Development Volunteer

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 8-10
- ❖ Schedule: Flexible
- ❖ Requirements: Must be exceptionally detail-oriented and highly skilled at all aspects of computer work (including Excel, Word, data entry, Gmail, and mail merge functions) as well as not opposed to folding letters and stuffing envelopes. Experience in development is extremely helpful but not necessary.
- ❖ Duties: IRIS is looking for a volunteer to help our Development team process charitable gifts and thank our amazing donors.

### 2.2. Community Engagement: Data Collection & Impact Analysis Volunteer

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 5-10
- ❖ Schedule: Flexible
- ❖ Requirements: Fluency with MS Excel, Google Sheets, and MS Word. Use of other database software and programs are ideal. Ability to liaise effectively with a broad range of staff and volunteers.
- ❖ Duties: Work with IRIS's grants management and program teams to track down and record key output and outcome data needed for completion of grant reports to funders. Meet with key program staff on a regular basis understand what new program data is being produced and collected (e.g., program attendance records, English language test scores, etc.). Review data produced by program teams, ensuring quality and completeness. Work with the Grants & Donor Relations Manager to generate narrative text from the data collected. Help aggregate data and develop key insights and take-aways from the data collected

### 2.3 Community Engagement: Cultural Companion

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2-3 hours per week, for a minimum of three months; ideally 6 months
- ❖ Schedule: Flexible
- ❖ Requirements: Patience; flexibility, creativity, cultural humility & curiosity. Ability to be self-directed. Empathy and sensitivity with regard to difficulties refugee and immigrant companions may be facing, with an orientation towards supporting their resilience. **CC volunteers must be committed to investing in relationships with people who speak little or no English, and who may be struggling with challenges related to cultural adjustment, mental health, and financial stress.** The goals of the program are to reduce isolation, promote community integration and foster belonging.
- ❖ Preferred qualification: Previous experience communicating with (and preferably tutoring) people with limited English. Experience navigating community resources. Cross-cultural experience
- ❖ Duties: Volunteer is matched with an immigrant or refugee client of the same gender expression, to do weekly visits together and build a supportive friendship. CC volunteers work with their companions to access resources, practice English, and navigate their communities (e.g., learn to ride the bus together.) CC volunteers may be asked to assist with paperwork and other case-management related tasks. (IRIS can provide guidance & resources for these resettlement support activities.)
- ❖ Volunteer Support: IRIS will provide training and a list of suggested activities with opportunities for experiential learning. (But volunteers will still be responsible for planning sessions with their client companions based on their interests and goals.) The IRIS CC Allies Team (experienced CC volunteers) support CC pairs by doing periodic check-ins and facilitating

a monthly CC meeting. These monthly meetings foster a community of support, where participants collaborate to address challenges that arise in cultural companionships and share helpful practices, with the goal of deepening and strengthening CC relationships.

❖ Other details: Two friends or family members can pair up to serve together as CC volunteers.

### **3. Education Department**

#### 3.1. Education: College & Career Readiness Youth Mentor

❖ Time: Tuesdays from 3:00-5:00 pm

❖ Commitment: 3 months minimum

❖ Description and Responsibilities: The IRIS Youth Leadership Program has a weekly meeting for teen and young adult refugees and immigrants focused on academic and extracurricular support. It's guided each week by IRIS staff, with mentors providing small group or one-on-one attention for youth in helping them identify their strengths and interests over time and to find and pursue extracurricular, vocational, and higher educational opportunities to work towards their goals.

❖ Desired skills and background: We seek mentors between those who have some previous experience directly serving youth, communicating cross-culturally, and/or who have experience guiding others with essay writing and FAFSA, scholarship and college applications. We also hope to attract mentors who identify with historically underrepresented groups in college and professional paths who will be able to assist refugee and immigrant youth in navigating American institutions as young People of Color.

#### 3.2. Education: Online Tutor for Immigrant Youth

❖ Days/times preferred: Flexible, through Monday to Friday, 9 am-7 pm preferred. You'll make a schedule with your mentee.

❖ Hours per week needed: 1-4

❖ Commitment: 3 months

❖ Requirements: Previous experience communicating with (and preferably tutoring or mentoring) people with limited English; willingness to troubleshoot communicating with youth over Whatsapp, Facebook Messenger, Facetime, Google Hangouts, or Zoom; Comfort assisting with assignments in any (not all) of the following subjects: English, Spanish, High School math and sciences, basic college courses such as English Composition, Psychology, etc.

❖ Number of volunteers desired: Unlimited

❖ Duties: Assist a high school or community college student with homework through video chat! Adapt assignments to their English level as needed, with help from IRIS education staff.

#### 3.3. Education: IRIS After School Program (IAS)- Volunteer Homework Helpers

❖ Number of positions available: 30

❖ English level required: intermediate to fluent

❖ Hours per week needed: 2-6

❖ Days/times preferred: M-F, after school

- ❖ Commitment: At least one afternoon per week, for a minimum of three months.
- ❖ Requirements: An energetic and nurturing disposition. Enjoy spending time with middle school and high school youth aged 9-16. Tutoring and ESOL experience is a plus but not required. Cultural sensitivity and cross-cultural skills are a plus, or the desire to learn. It would be exciting to bring on folks who speak Pashto, Dari, Arabic, and/or Swahili.
- ❖ Duties: Volunteers help these English language learners with their homework, providing academic enrichment and a language rich environment. They will support the lead teachers in music and arts workshops when needed and carry out various tasks like setting and cleaning up activities, facilitating recess, and doing crafts and playing games with the kids. We are also looking for volunteers to teach at least one 45-minute arts lesson a week (also responsible for planning the lesson and for creating any related materials), as well as musicians who can lead at least one 45-minute lesson a week. Finally, we are hoping to add gymnastics and martial arts to our curriculum for next semester; volunteers with skills in those areas should definitely reach out! Guidelines for in-person meetings will be updated in accordance with state and local recommendations

#### 3.4. Education: IRIS After School Program (IAS) - Arts & Music Teachers

- ❖ Number of positions available: 10
- ❖ English level requirement: Intermediate to fluent
- ❖ Days/times preferred: M-F, after school
- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2-5
- ❖ Commitment: One semester
- ❖ Supervisor: IRIS After School Co-Program Managers
- ❖ Requirements: An energetic, nurturing, and creative disposition. Enjoy spending time with middle school and high school youth aged 9-16. Passionate about something creative--whether that is painting, sculpture, theater, dance, music, writing, comedy, martial arts, graphic novels, or something we haven't dreamed of is up to you! Some experience in education and/or the arts is required and experience in arts education is a plus.
- ❖ Duties: Teach at least one 45-minute arts lesson a week for IRIS After School students. You will also be responsible for planning your lesson and for creating any materials related to it (we will be delivering a bag of materials to after school participants each week). Work as part of a dynamic team passionate about teaching music and arts to IRIS youth! Guidelines for in-person meeting will be updated in accordance with state and local recommendations.

#### 3.5. Education: In-school Tutor

- ❖ Duties: Tutors work with students inside and outside the classroom, individually and in small groups. Tutors work directly with educators, school staff, and IRIS staff to coordinate schedules and to help facilitate positive educational outcomes for students.
- ❖ Hours per week needed: Flexible During School Hours 9am to 1pm
- ❖ Days/times preferred: Flexible ( Times Available 9am through 1pm, M-F)
- ❖ Commitment: At least one school day per week, 1 to 2 hours per day, for a minimum of three months and maximum school year

#### 3.6. Education: Family Literacy Program-ESOL Assistant

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 3-15

- ❖ Days/times preferred: One or more of the following days: M-F, 9:15-12:15
- ❖ Commitment: 3 months minimum
- ❖ Requirements: Passionate about learning and teaching. Ability to speak clearly in an easy-to-understand manner. Demonstrated ability to work effectively with people from other cultural backgrounds. Teaching experience preferred in ESOL/ Adult Ed. Phonics instruction is a huge plus! Proactive, reliable, and flexible to the needs of the program. Enjoy being around mothers and young children.
- ❖ Duties: With another volunteer, co-teach a beginner or intermediate level English class to a group of mothers. Lesson plans and materials are provided, but you may add your own activities too! There are opportunities to help with materials creation and lesson planning if interested.

### 3.7. Education: Family Literacy Program- Infant, Toddler, or Prek Children's Class Assistant

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 4 to 20
- ❖ Days/times preferred: One or more of the following days: 8:30-12:30, M-F
- ❖ Location: New Haven, CT
- ❖ Requirements: Ability to work in a group with the lead teacher to engage toddlers in activities. Ability to read cards with directions on how to use educational materials for infants or to ask and follow instructions. Maintain healthy boundaries in being an assistant teacher in an educational setting. Positive, fun, and caring attitude working with young children.
- ❖ Duties:
  - 1) Maintain a safe learning environment.
  - 2) Assist with the setup and cleanup of activities, including snack time.
  - 3) Facilitate center mini lessons step-by-step with the children. Instructions will be provided for activities focused on language, early numeracy, science, or social skills.
  - 4) Promote independence and exploration as the children participate.
  - 5) Encourage independence and mobility by not carrying mobile children.
  - 6) Teach language explicitly by having toddlers repeat names of objects, phrases, and songs. Narrate what children are doing to provide rich language in context.
  - 7) Encourage child-to-child interaction and communication by interacting with pairs or groups of children and encouraging participation in group activities.
  - 8) Use positive discipline and common classroom language to limit "no" in favor of specific positive behaviors.
  - 9) Help children and mothers transition between activities and spaces as needed.
  - 10) Help mothers engage with their children during the interactive literacy activities.
  - 11) Communicate with mothers as needed. (Mothers do diaper changes.)
  - 12) Communicate with IRIS interns and lead teachers regarding concerns for mothers and children.
  - 13) Document progress and incidents.

### 3.8. Education: Family Literacy Program: Guest Teacher

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 1
- ❖ Days/times preferred: budget one hour between 10-12; (30 to 45 min. activity plus prep)
- ❖ Commitment: 3 months minimum
- ❖ Requirements: Able to teach young children age 2-4 an activity that you are skilled in. Cultural sensitivity and cross-cultural skills are a plus, or the desire to learn. A readiness to have fun is necessary!



❖ Duties: Engage children age 2-4 in a special activity during our preschool readiness class. Are you a kiddie gym teacher? A music teacher? An art teacher? Do you do toddler yoga? We are open to your suggestions and setting this as a weekly event.

### 3.9. Education: Children's Summer Learning Program (SLP) Volunteer (Summer only)

- ❖ Hours per week needed: Minimum of 4 hours per week up to 20 hours per week
- ❖ Days/times preferred: Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 12:30pm
- ❖ Mode and Location: In person, masked and socially distant, at locations to be determined in New Haven and/or Hartford, CT
- ❖ Commitment: Summer months
- ❖ Program Description: Summer Learning Program volunteers will assist refugee and immigrant students who are enrolled in the IRIS Summer Learning Program. The students are part of a program serving approximately 200 students overall between the ages of 4 and 18. The students will usually be divided into separate age and level appropriate groups to promote academic and social success. SLP volunteers assist in a classroom. Volunteers work as a part of a team alongside SLP teachers and IRIS education staff and interns.
- ❖ Requirements: Volunteers must have had prior teaching experience and have spent time working in a classroom with children and/or teens (the program has classrooms for kindergarten through high schoolers) OR have previous youth mentoring or tutoring experience. Must be committed to anti-racism and assisting students in recognizing and valuing diverse identities. Multi-cultural and culturally responsive education background preferred. Cross cultural communication skills and ESOL teaching experience are a plus.  
We also hope to attract volunteers who identify with groups who have been historically underrepresented in the nonprofit sector and who are excited about working alongside refugee and immigrant youth to navigate their identities in a multiracial and multicultural learning environment. Additional language skills in Pashto, Dari, Swahili, and Spanish are especially helpful though not required.
- ❖ Duties: Volunteers assist with the daily operation of a Summer Learning Program for 50-100 immigrant students with varying levels of English proficiency. Volunteers must be prepared to engage continuously with students from the time they arrive at 8:30 am to have breakfast each morning to when they leave at 12:30 pm. Be proactive in greeting and communicating with students, whether verbally using English or a shared language or nonverbally through games or activities. Especially direct attention to students who seem to be left out of student groups or are shy or quiet. Assist SLP teachers to facilitate classroom activities, teach lessons, organize games including outdoor physical activities, and ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for the students.

### 3.10. Education: Community Navigator

- ❖ Number of positions per semester: 2
- ❖ English level required: Intermediate +
- ❖ Commitment: 3 months minimum
- ❖ Hours per week needed: 15 hours a week
- ❖ Days/times preferred: at least 3 days a week, Monday to Friday 9AM - 2PM
- ❖ Duties: Provide women the empowering skill of navigating New Haven public transportation. Many clients do not yet have drivers' licenses, so this internship is an important role that enables them to accept job opportunities, attend English class, go to appointments, or

take their children to school when the school bus is missed. Reach out to clients via phone. Map routes and create picture direction packets. Meet clients at the starting destination. Provide a bus orientation while traveling with them via bus to and often back from the target location. Includes opportunities to help in the IRIS office as needed, at the Summer Learning Program site, or at the IRIS garden. Bus passes will be provided.

- ❖ Requirements: Knowledge of bus systems preferred. Must have strong interpersonal skills and cross-cultural communication skills and be comfortable calling, meeting, and assisting IRIS clients on one's own. Must enjoy being around mothers and young children (under 5 years old). Ability to communicate in languages in addition to English (especially Dari, Pashto, and Kiswahili) is a plus, but volunteer phone interpreters are available.

### 3.11. Wellness: IRIS Garden Club Helper

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2.5 hrs. per week
- ❖ Days/times preferred: May through October
- ❖ Commitment: 6 months
- ❖ Requirements: Ability to bend, lift, and participate in an outdoor gardening activity. Gardening knowledge and a desire to share skills with refugees.
- ❖ Duties: Participate in the activity of gardening with participants, and help participants take care of their garden plots. Garden club volunteers can also help plan activities in the garden such as a garden season kick-off party, garden picnic, and harvest celebration.

### 3.12. Wellness: Childcare Assistant

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2-4
- ❖ Days/times preferred: Wednesdays 12:00-2:00
- ❖ Commitment: 4 months
- ❖ Requirements: Basic understanding of children, child safety, and engagement in children's activities. A readiness to have fun is necessary!
- ❖ Duties: With direction from the teacher, supervise children in a room supplied with materials designed to build pre-literacy skills, language development, motor skills, and social skills. No diaper changes. Mothers are on-site attending Wellness groups.

### 3.13. Wellness: Women's Jewelry Making Class Teachers & Assistants

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2 hours per week
- ❖ Days/time preferred: Mondays 12:00-2:00
- ❖ Commitment: 6 months
- ❖ Requirements: Willingness to learn and be able to instruct basic techniques for beaded jewelry making.
- ❖ Duties: Help women learn beading techniques to create beaded jewelry, such as using pliers to twist wire

### 3.14. Wellness: Women's Sewing Teacher or Assistant Teacher

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2 hours per week
- ❖ Days/times preferred: Wednesday 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- ❖ Commitment: 3 months
- ❖ Requirements: Sewing knowledge and a desire to teach refugee women the skill.

❖ Duties: Women's sewing teachers help women set up their sewing machines and guide them in learning projects or improving their sewing skills in a safe community space. Assistants help organize the sewing materials and socialize with the women while in the group.

### 3.15. Wellness: Sewing Machine Repair Technician (In-person/Remote)

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 1+ hrs per week
- ❖ Days/times preferred: Anytime M-F 9:00-5:00
- ❖ Commitment: 6 months
- ❖ Requirements: Sewing machine repair knowledge and skills for mostly older machines
- ❖ Duties: Test, troubleshoot, and repair sewing machines that come through donations. We have some spare parts and repair tools.

### 3.16. Wellness: Sewing Donations Sorting/Processing

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 1+ hrs per week
- ❖ Days/time preferred: Monday-Friday 9:00-11:00
- ❖ Commitment: 3 months approx.
- ❖ Requirements: Ability to do some lifting and moving, a knack for organizing
- ❖ Duties: Sort and organize sewing donations (fabric, notions, etc.) for sewing group use.

### 3.17. Wellness: Outreach Volunteer

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2 hours, flexible
- ❖ Days/times preferred: Flexible, through Monday to Friday, 9am-7 pm preferred. You'll make your own schedule.
- ❖ Commitment: 4 months
- ❖ Requirements: Ability to speak clearly in an easy-to-understand manner. Ability to work effectively with people from other cultural backgrounds. Experience communicating with people with limited English is preferred. Ability to use a Google Voice number for calls with clients.
- ❖ Number of volunteers desired: 1
- ❖ Duties: Provide reminder calls to clients interested in IRIS classes. Provide cold calls to clients to pitch IRIS classes and programs they may participate in. May also design marketing materials for the programs. May work with an interpreter.

### 3.18. Wellness: Women's Crafting Class Instructor

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 2 hours per week
- ❖ Days/time preferred: flexible- let's see what we can work out!
- ❖ Commitment: flexible
- ❖ Requirements: Willingness to instruct basic techniques for a craft that you are great at. Tell us what you can teach others to make.
- ❖ Duties: Help women learn techniques to create items that they can sell at the IRIS craft sale or keep for themselves.

## **4. Employment Department**

### 4.1. Employment: Employment Volunteer

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 5 to 15 hours

- ❖ Days/times preferred: Tuesday - Thursday, mid/late morning to end of day
- ❖ Commitment: 6 months
- ❖ Duties: Includes but is not limited to developing skills assessments, resume building, assisting with online applications, and interviews. Interns log case notes and maintain employment databases. Helping a client find and secure their first job allows refugees the opportunity to become financially independent, find fulfillment with their skill sets, and build upon their goals and dreams.
- ❖ Requirements: A driver with car willing to drive clients is strongly preferred. Experience with cross-cultural communication, anti-oppressive practices, and language skills in one of our clients' languages (listed at the top of this document) also desired.

## **5. Intra-Departmental**

### 5.1. Greater Hartford Area Volunteers

- ❖ Hours per week needed: 1.5-30 based on assignment
- ❖ Days/times preferred: Flexible
- ❖ Opportunity Description: IRIS opened a new office in Hartford, CT in fall 2021. We will need volunteers for an assortment of different tasks; in the beginning phases, we will primarily need drivers to help clients get to numerous appointments that need to be done in their first three months in the U.S.
- ❖ Requirements: Volunteers need to possess exceptional communication skills, will have a positive and solution-oriented approach to all issues, and will work collaboratively, maintaining a calm, approachable attitude. This group will be the face of the new Hartford office and will need to have an acute sense of judgment, tact and cultural sensitivity. Enthusiasm for IRIS's mission and nonprofit work is a must.

### 5.2. Interpreter/Translator

- ❖ Languages most needed: Dari, Farsi, Pashto, Arabic, Tigrinya, Amharic, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Massalit, French, Spanish
- ❖ Hours per week needed: 1.5-30 based on assignment, see below
- ❖ Days/times preferred: Flexible, see below
- ❖ Assignments:
  - Legal Interpreters- in person: Interpret in-person during refugees' appointments regarding Green Card, Citizenship, and Family Reunification cases in our Immigration Legal Services office. Volunteers must be willing to be contacted directly by refugee clients to ask for their interpretation help, since IRIS staff are not involved in making legal interpreter appointments.
  - Legal Translators- remote: Translation of legal or identification documents needed for Green Card, Citizenship, and Family Reunification applications. Volunteer translators will be contacted by the legal office as needed, and translations can occur remotely by email.

Employment, Health, Education, and Case Management Interpreters: Flexible time commitment. Interpretation needs include interpreting during Case Management meetings or

employment assessments. Staff can work around your schedule and will typically call you on an as-needed basis each week. Additionally, you can greet and welcome a newly arrived family on their first night in New Haven! Accompany and translate for a case manager and the family at their new apartment, and review basic safety information before they rest after a long journey.

### 5.3. Transportation: Community Access Volunteer (Driving)

- ❖ Hours per week needed: flexible
- ❖ Days/times preferred: One or more days M-F between 8:00-5:00; mornings most needed
- ❖ Commitment: 3 months minimum
- ❖ Requirements: Knowledge of bus systems preferred but will be trained. Applicants must have strong interpersonal skills, cultural sensitivity, and cross-communication skills and be comfortable meeting and assisting clients one to one. Enjoy being around mothers and young children (under 5 years old).

Ability to communicate in one or more languages in addition to English (especially Kiswahili, Arabic, Dari, and Pashto) is a plus!

- ❖ Duties: Volunteers are paired with clients to teach the empowering skill of navigating New Haven public transportation. Many clients do not yet have driver's licenses, so this essential volunteer role enables them to get to appointments, accept job opportunities, attend English class, or take their children to school. At the IRIS office, volunteers call clients with interpreters to set up times to provide bus orientations. Volunteers then modify a template to print out step by step pictorial and simplified English instructions on how to use the bus in general and from point A to B. At the set time, volunteers meet clients and help them follow the instructions to successfully get to their destination and gain confidence in using public transportation. Volunteers often may need to wait at the place and travel back with the client as well. Can be combined with other Family Literacy Program volunteer opportunities as well.

### 5.4. Transportation: Driver

- ❖ Commitment: weekly or monthly basis- flexible (urgently needed)
- ❖ Requirements: Car, license, insurance, clean driving record. Timeliness, patience, and willingness to call clients, knock on doors, and problem solve in order to make sure clients come to class on time and/or are taken home successfully. Must know how to install car seats or be willing to learn.
- ❖ Duties: On a weekly or monthly or weekly basis. Assist the health and wellness team, legal department, & IRIS staff in getting high-need refugee clients to and from their appointments. You can help newly arrived refugees navigate with rides to urgent doctor appointments, cultural orientation classes, vital immigration appointments, school enrollment appointments, job interviews. You can drive children home (5-5:30 pm M-F) when our After School Program is over. The volunteer will be working with a variety of refugee clients each time and receiving directions from the case manager or supervisor who arranges all the details of the appointment. The opportunity requires occasional daytime, weekday availability and can be done as your schedule - As much as multiple times a week or as little as once a month. No Medical experience is required. Must be willing to drive clients in your personal vehicle. Clients have their own car seats and you can be reimbursed for mileage.