
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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THE IOWA COMMISSION ON VOLUNTEER SERVICE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUNDING

Volunteer Iowa. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service ([Volunteer Iowa](#)) has provided [resources](#) to address needs created by COVID-19. Information on Volunteer Iowa programs, including [AmeriCorps](#), Disaster Volunteers, the Iowa Mentoring Partnership, the Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF), State Volunteer Recognition Programs, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), can be found [here](#). All COVID-19 responses have come through missions with the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) or the Governor's Feeding Iowans Task Force.

AmeriCorps. The AmeriCorps Program has reassigned 328 members, who have provided approximately 11,500 service hours in 29 locations. The main area of support is food response (food banks, food pantries, and local school food grab-and-go locations). Other areas of support include:

- Making face masks to donate to health care facilities
- Legal advice hotline support
- Blood donation support
- Volunteer management support
- AmeriCorps food bank deployment
 - 17 AmeriCorps members deployed to River Bend Foodbank and Northeast Iowa Food Bank
 - 1,914 hours served
 - 253,052 pounds of food collected or distributed
 - Main activity is sorting and boxing food for distribution for backpack programs, mobile food pantries, etc.

Volunteer Iowa is working with an additional 68 community organizations across the State to place members for over 90 new full-time positions this summer and beyond, to support ongoing needs as a result of the impact of COVID-19.

RSVP. All RSVP volunteers are age 55 and over. The Program has focused efforts on safe ways to contribute to the COVID-19 response. RSVP activities related to the COVID-19 response include:

- Community gardening and produce gleaning from farmers market producers, which provides free produce to area food pantries.
- Pen pal volunteers writing letters to nursing home residents instead of students.
- Delivering mobile meals across the State through Meals on Wheels with no-contact delivery/drop off at the door.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE): Sewing masks and gowns for organizations and hospitals across the State.
- County emergency management call center or remote hotline work.

Funding. The federal [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) provided the State with \$1.250 billion for COVID-19-related expenses. Governor Kim Reynolds has allocated \$60,000 of the federal funding for the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services food bank response.

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