



Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service)

Quarterly Report:

July 1 – September 30, 2019

AmeriCorps:

Request for Pre-Applications for new programs was released in September.

Commission Business:

New commissioners appointed July 1 by Governor Reynolds included Dan Cataldi (Windsor Heights), Alex Freeman (Eldridge), Jim Lindenmayer (Ottumwa), Terry Maloy (Albia) and A.J. Lyman (Shenandoah).

Disaster Response:

On March 13, much of the central part of the country experienced Winter Storm Ulmer, a bomb cyclone that brought blizzards, rain, and high winds. In addition to melting ice and snow from winter, many rivers and streams were overwhelmed, causing historic flooding in Iowa and across the Midwest. By March 19, Iowa and many other midwestern states were overwhelmed and seeking federal assistance. Volunteer Iowa was requested by the state to visit Hamburg and other communities in the southwest Iowa area, to evaluate the needs of the communities affected. With the support of an AmeriCorps-Disaster Response Team (A-DRT), Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa (CCMI), a need to setup a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) in the city of Hamburg to track and manage volunteers and groups responding was identified. On March 23, President Trump approved a Major Disaster Declaration (DR-4421) for Iowa, making federal resources available for 49 counties. Following the declaration, the state requested a Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) Mission Assignment (MA) to utilize 75 Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) personnel to support ESF #6 in disaster operations. Since Volunteer Iowa and CCMI were already supporting the response, they were enveloped into the mission assignment. This group provided leadership and guidance for the entire operation that month, along with other A-DRT programs. Due to weather and water challenges, the operation was reduced to 25 personnel, which allowed for further extension of the MA at no cost. The needs continued in Fremont and Mills County and the MA was extended 2 more times in order to keep the teams operating until August 10.

From April 1, 2019 to August 10, 2019, the entire length of the Mission Assignment, A-DRT accomplishments included:

- 130 AmeriCorps-Disaster Response Team members and staff responded
- 25,161 total tours served by members and staff
- 93 homes mucked/gutted
- 134 damage assessments completed

- 38 homes provided with mold suppression
- 2,927 cubic yards of debris cleared
- 420,332 pounds of donations sorted
- 874,061 pounds of donations collected and/or distributed
- 2 Volunteer Reception Centers supported
- 632 volunteers registered and supervised
- 5,233 volunteer hours leveraged
- 680 survivors assisted
- 86 total work orders completed

Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP):

- **Youth Mentoring:** Re-certification for a three-year period was granted to the following programs during this quarter:
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County, Iowa City
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands, Omaha (serving Pottawattamie County)
 - Club M, Burlington School District
 - Mentor Connector for Delaware County, Helping Services for Children and Families, Manchester
 - Man Up, Des Moines
 - One on One Mentoring, Mason City Youth Task Force
 - YES, Red Oak School District
- **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant:** The Iowa Mentoring Partnership continued providing funding, support and technical assistance for the Mentoring for Youth Impacted by Opioids in Rural Iowa sub-grantees. An in-person training was held on August 28th for grantees. National trainer and subject-matter expert Elizabeth Joy provided a live webinar on Mentoring Youth Impacted by Opioid Use and Misuse. As outlined in the recently released National Mentoring Resource Center Opioid Guide that she co-authored, Joy focused on using a trauma-informed lens to understand youth and their families, understanding addiction, being developmental and not prescriptive, and approaching youth with a focus on cultural awareness and sensitivity.
- **Future Ready Iowa Mentoring Program**
 - Hired Mentoring Program Manager (Jason Wiegand) who has been developing the mentoring program, related messaging, and connecting with business/industry and campus partners to begin the process of recruiting mentors. The priority deadline for Future Ready Iowa funding was July 1st. Since that time, 67 Future Ready Iowa Last Dollar Scholarship or Grant recipients indicated an interest in receiving additional support from Future Ready Iowa Mentors.

Volunteer Recognition

- ***Give Back Iowa Challenge:*** The three winners of the 2019 challenge were Riverside Casino and Resort, Riverside (*Governor visited on Thursday, October 10*), Clear Lake Bank & Trust, Clear Lake (*Governor visited on Tuesday, October 29*) and POET Biorefining, Hanlontown (*Governor visited on Thursday, October 31*).
- ***Governor's Volunteer Awards:*** A total of 545 awards were approved for 2019. Regional recognition ceremonies were held on August 26 in Ottumwa, September 12 in Storm Lake, September 26 in Cedar Rapids, September 27 in Pleasant Hill, and October 31 in Cedar Falls. A list of recipients can be found [here](#).

Service Enterprise

- The Boys and Girls Club of Central Iowa received Service Enterprise certification.

Training

- ***New AmeriCorps Program Director Orientation:*** AmeriCorps program staff held a training on August 12 for new program staff to introduce them and train them on state and federal regulations, the basics of operating an AmeriCorps program, and to set expectations for the AmeriCorps program year.
- ***AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team Training:*** The Disaster Team held a training on September 26 for all interested AmeriCorps members and program staff who are part of the Iowa Disaster Cadre. This was to introduce them to expectations while deployed on disaster work, what life on disaster response could look like, and preparations for being a part of this team.

Volunteer Generation Fund

- Volunteer Iowa has received a continuation Volunteer Generation Fund grant through 2020.
- A Skills-Based Volunteering train the trainer was held for Volunteer Iowa, Volunteer Center and RSVP staff at the end of August. A corresponding curriculum with slides, handouts, and presenter's notes is being developed and will be provided to participants to provide the training in their communities.