



**Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service)  
Quarterly Report:  
July 1 – September 30, 2020**

**AmeriCorps:**

The funding opportunity announcement and Pre-Application Instructions for the 2021-2022 Iowa AmeriCorps State program year were released in August, and the full Request for Grant Applications was published in September following the release of guidance from our federal partner, the Corporation for National and Community Service.

**Commission Business:**

New commissioners appointed July 1 by Governor Reynolds included Kevin Brown (Spencer), Monical Chavez-Silva (Grinnell), Jamarco Clark (Iowa City) and Henny Ohr (Des Moines). Dave Layton (Clinton) and Greg Sutherland (Ellston) were reappointed by Governor Reynolds.

**Disaster Response:**

- On August 10<sup>th</sup>, the Midwest experienced a land hurricane called a Derecho. Several Iowa communities were impacted by this. Volunteer Iowa staff provided support at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in the area of volunteer coordination and management. After several weeks of local AmeriCorps programs providing support where they could and with the help of the Iowa Habitat AmeriCorps Mobile Disaster Response Team, a federal mission assignment was requested for AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team support. This was approved and started September 15<sup>th</sup>. The overall mission statement of work supported activities in the following areas: mucking/gutting, support with spontaneous volunteers, donations and volunteer management, needs assessments, call center support, logistical support, warehousing, disaster debris removal, chain saw work (for qualified crews only), volunteer base camps, and long-term recovery committees. The priority areas included: Disaster debris removal, and chain saw work to ensure survivors return home. Significantly reduce the immediate need across impacted counties, clearing the path for long-term recovery. Volunteer Iowa continued to support and monitor response and recovery activities with the state, FEMA and other VOAD partners.
- Additionally, Volunteer Iowa provided support to local Volunteer Centers, and activated a disaster initiative in the online Get Connected statewide volunteer opportunity database, providing a hub for identifying opportunities to volunteer in response to the Derecho.

**Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP):**

- **Youth Mentoring:** A virtual mentoring platform was made available to certified programs as an option for continuing match meetings during the pandemic.
- **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.
- **Future Ready Iowa Mentoring Program Highlights**
  - 536 Last Dollar Scholarship students opted into the virtual college coach texting service, with over 22,000 messages sent and up to a 53% engagement rate
  - 4 community colleges hosting college success coaches, serving 1,473 students
  - 33 high schools hosted coaches and student leaders, serving 740 students
  - 41 professionals in 15 different career fields throughout the state have enrolled to serve as career mentors in Future Ready Iowa Virtual Mentoring, which launched in March
  - Employers of mentors include NewBoCo, Pratum, the United States Department of Agriculture, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Visionary, and others
  - 49 Last-Dollar Scholarship recipients representing 17 different colleges have enrolled in the virtual career mentoring program

**Volunteer Recognition**

- **Give Back Iowa Challenge:** The two winners of the 2020 Give Back Iowa Challenge were INVISION Architecture, Des Moines and Waterloo, and Riverside Casino and Resort, Riverside. 31 companies participated in the 2020 Challenge, logging volunteer hours between April 1 and June 30 during the COVID pandemic.
- **Governor's Volunteer Awards:** The 2020 Governor's Volunteer Awards were cancelled due to COVID and will resume in 2021.

**RSVP:** Nothing new to report

**Service Enterprise**

New trainings were paused due to the impacts of COVID and the Derecho, however recertifications continued for multiple nonprofit organizations.

**Training**

- Volunteer Iowa made adjustments to offer trainings and technical assistance sessions virtually for the start of this program year due to the pandemic.
- **New AmeriCorps Program Director Orientation:** AmeriCorps program staff held a virtual training on August 3 and 4 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.

**Volunteer Generation Fund**

Volunteer Iowa has successfully applied for and been awarded a new three year Volunteer Generation Fund grant.