



**Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service)
Quarterly Report:
July 1 – September 30, 2021**

AmeriCorps:

The Request for Applications for competitive 2022-2023 AmeriCorps grants was released in September. Additionally, a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Public Health AmeriCorps program was released by the federal government and Volunteer Iowa staff provided consultation to potential Iowa applicants.

Commission Business:

New commissioners appointed effective July 1 by Governor Reynolds included Bobbretta Brewton (Des Moines) and Barbara Mittman (Nevada). Angela Jiskoot (West Des Moines) and Barbara Westercamp (Cedar Rapids) were reappointed by Governor Reynolds for a second term with the commission.

Disaster Response:

On July 17th, 2021, GOTVax was launched with the goal of increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates in Southern Nevada. The mission was supported by local volunteers, State and local staff and resources, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). AmeriCorps Members and Staff from Habitat for Humanity of Iowa's Mobile Response Team and staff from Volunteer Iowa were deployed on August 5th to Nevada to support the Get Out The Vaccine Initiative. Teams were conducting door-to-door outreach in strategically identified neighborhoods to distribute flyers and information on the vaccines and the closest vaccination clinic. Additionally, the mission was supporting pop-up clinics and community events. Iowa was fully reimbursed for costs associated with deployment.

Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP):

- **Youth Mentoring:** Iowa Mentor supported 39 young people in summer workplace programs through a youth workplace mentoring initiative. Three mentoring programs completed requirements to renew their program certification with the IMP. Five programs completed the National Quality Mentoring System self-assessment and review process with IMP staff.
- **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**
 - 1,262 current and prospective college students have received text message assistance from Virtual College Coach Texting program (537 are current Last-Dollar Scholars)
 - 3,729 messages were sent by students participating in the texting program
 - 4 AmeriCorps Colleges Success Coaches were hired to support students at Des Moines Area Community College and Southeastern Community College campuses

- 22 high schools throughout the state are currently participating in College Access
- 12 Members are currently serving schools through College Access (2 Access Coaches & 10 Student Leaders)
- Student enrollment in Virtual Career Mentoring increased to 101 Last-Dollar Scholars from 15 different colleges
- Mentor enrollment increased to 66 professionals in high-demand fields from throughout the state
- Over 300 Mentoring activities took place in the Virtual Career Mentoring program platform (Chronus) during the first quarter
- 101 messages were exchanged and 55 meetings took place between mentoring matches within Chronus; matches also met via phone and other platform

Volunteer Recognition

- ***Governor's Volunteer Awards:*** The 2021 Governor's Volunteer Awards were held as a virtual ceremony on July 14, 2021. Nearly 800 individuals and groups, serving in over 265 communities were recognized for their volunteer efforts.
- ***Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame and Excellence in Mentoring Awards:*** On September 7, 2021, an in-person ceremony was held at the Iowa State Capitol Building to honor the 2020 and 2021 Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame inductees and Excellence in Mentoring award winners. 10 Hall of Fame inductees and 2 Excellence in Mentoring awardees were honored by Governor Reynolds and Lt. Governor Gregg.

RSVP: Volunteer Iowa issued contracts to provide state funding to support 20 organizations providing RSVP programming to 67 Iowa Counties. This represents a significant expansion of RSVP in Iowa. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) engages individuals ages 55 and older in volunteer service to address community needs and to provide high quality volunteer experience that will enrich the lives of volunteers.

Service Enterprise

Recertifications were conducted and continue 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

Site visits were conducted with all Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) subgrantees who continue to advance the development of quality volunteer opportunities in their communities. Additionally, a "train the trainer" was held for subgrantees, all Iowa Volunteer Centers, and RSVP programs on assisting nonprofit partners in identifying soft risk in their volunteer engagement strategy.

Service Learning

Volunteer Iowa's youth volunteering stakeholder group continues to meet, led by our new VISTA member, Kamryn Ryan. The Youth subcommittee completed a survey and report of successes and challenges related to youth volunteering in Iowa, as well as supported 9/11 day of service volunteer

fair and service pledge activities. The nonprofits subcommittee held a roundtable to collect feedback from nonprofits on resources needed to engage youth as volunteers in their organizations. The afterschool committee partnered with the National Youth Leadership Council to develop a rubric for measuring successful service learning in afterschool programs and presented the resource to programs at the Iowa Afterschool Alliance fall conference.