



**Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service)
Quarterly Report:
October 1 – December 31, 2021**

AmeriCorps:

In December, the Commission voted to forward the following slate of AmeriCorps programs to the federal level funding competition for the 2022-2023 program year:

Title of project (separate Notice is required for each returning project):	Name of legal applicant organization:
Bur Oak Land Trust AmeriCorps Program	Bur Oak Land Trust
College Possible Catalyze	College Possible
RISE AmeriCorps	Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center (EMBARC)
Habitat for Humanity of Iowa AmeriCorps Program	Habitat for Humanity of Iowa
College Access & Success AmeriCorps	Iowa College Student Aid Commission
Iowa Legal Aid AmeriCorps Justice for All Project	Iowa Legal Aid
AmeriCorps Partnering to Protect Children	Iowa State University
AmeriCorps 4-H Outreach	Iowa State University
Campus Compact AmeriCorps Program	Iowa Western Community College
City of Davenport AmeriCorps/Youth Corps Program	City of Davenport
City of Dubuque AmeriCorps Program: Partners in Learning	City of Dubuque
Conservation Corps Environmental Service Learning	Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa
AmeriCorps Youth Launch	Graceland University

Iowa Reading Corps AmeriCorps Program	United Ways of Iowa
Green Iowa AmeriCorps	University of Northern Iowa
Kids on Course AmeriCorps Program	Zach Johnson Foundation

Disaster Response:

On August 31 and September 1, 2021, the remnants of Hurricane Ida made its approach to New Jersey, creating nearly 10 inches of rainfall across most of the state within a 24-hour period. AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams were deployed to the impacted areas in Northern New Jersey from the remnants of Hurricane Ida to assist in recovery efforts which included services such as mucking and gutting, community needs assessment, and mold suppression. Volunteer Iowa's own Disaster Program Officer deployed early October as the Incident Commander for the operation and provided leadership to the mission for a total of 31 Days. The FEMA Mission Assignment was granted with operational period of: 9/21/21 to 11/20/21.

Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP):

Youth Mentoring: The following programs completed the National Quality Mentoring System assessment and were granted certification with the IMP 2021-2024:

- **Helping Services**, Howard, Allamakee, and Winneshiek counties
- **North Fayette Valley**, Fayette County
- **Storm Lake Stars**, Buena Vista County
- **YSS**, Story, Boone, and Webster counties

Future Ready Iowa Mentoring Program

- Approximately, 9,877 current and prospective college students are active/participating in the text message assistance from Virtual College Coach Texting program (6,225 are current Last-Dollar Scholars)*
 - 5,959 Last-Dollar Scholars still opted in as of 1/21/22
 - The Last-Dollar Scholarship recipients were automatically opted in to receive text messages during the 2nd quarter, per the opt-out program policy.
- 5,888 messages were sent by students participating in the texting program to the virtual coach
- 3 College Coaches
 - Success coach at Southwestern Community College,
 - Success coach at Kirkwood Community College, and
 - Virtual College Coach who also serves as on-site Access coach at Des Moines Public Schools: Hoover High School and Roosevelt High School
- 24 Student Leaders among 12 K-12 school districts:
 - Carlisle High School
 - Cedar Falls High School
 - Exira-Elk Horn Kimballton High School
 - Fort Dodge Senior High
 - Liberty High School
 - Maquoketa High School
 - Marshalltown High School
 - Monticello High School

- South Tama High School
- Van Meter High School
- West Liberty High School
- Wilton High School
- Student enrollment in Virtual Career Mentoring increased to 128 Last-Dollar Scholars from 15 different colleges
- Mentor enrollment increased to 68 professionals in high-demand fields from throughout the state
- Over 200 Mentoring activities took place in the Virtual Career Mentoring program platform (Chronus) during the first quarter
- 104 messages were exchanged, and 46 meetings took place between mentoring matches within Chronus; matches also met via phone and other platform

Volunteer Recognition:

- Iowa Nonprofit Awards: The 2021 Iowa Nonprofit Awards were held virtually on October 7, 2021, as part of the 2021 Iowa Nonprofit Summit. The awards ceremony and profile of the awardees is available here: [Iowa Nonprofit Awards | Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service \(volunteeriowa.org\)](https://www.volunteeriowa.org)

Events:

- 2021 Iowa Nonprofit Summit: The bi-annual Iowa Nonprofit Summit was held virtually on Tuesday, October 5 through Thursday, October 7. 315 people registered for the three-day virtual summit. Those who participated in the summit had variety of workshops and networking sessions to participate in. The summit also featured keynote sessions by Kris Putnam-Walkerly and Anne Wallestad. More information about the summit can be found [here](#).

RSVP: Nothing new to report during this time period.

Service Enterprise:

Five organizations (listed below) were recertified as Service Enterprises during the quarter, with additional recertifications anticipated at the beginning of 2022.

- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- EveryStep
- ALS Association Iowa Chapter
- Science Center of Iowa
- Des Moines Botanical Garden

Training:

- Volunteer Iowa continued to support programs through virtual training and technical assistance.
- ***AmeriCorps Program Staff Launch:*** This is an annual training offered for all Iowa AmeriCorps program staff. It occurred October 20th & 21st. The training sessions offered networking, learning about state and federal grant requirements and updates, and overall support for program core competency growth.
- ***Iowa Mentoring Partnership:*** Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring training held for mentoring professionals on October 31 and November 1.

Volunteer Generation Fund:

Volunteer Iowa has awarded Volunteer Generation Fund continuation grants to the following organizations: City of Dubuque, North Iowa Area Community College, United Way of East Central Iowa,

United Way of Wapello County, Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley, and Volunteer Siouxland. This represents year two of a three-year grant award. Site visits were held with all grantees.

VISTA:

The Volunteer Iowa VISTA program has accepted 4 new partner host sites: University of Iowa, NAMI Dubuque, NAMI Southwest Iowa, and Vinton Shellsburg Community School District. There were 8 VISTA members enrolled to help Iowa communities alleviate poverty. This brings the total number of VISTA host sites to 18 with 30 VISTA members serving.

Youth Service:

In November, Volunteer Iowa's VISTA and volunteers presented on service-learning and the barriers youth face to volunteering at the Iowa BEST: Behavioral, Social Emotional, Trauma-Informed Health Conference. This session offered training on service-learning and facilitated a discussion on how to incorporate service-learning in K-12 class.

Volunteer Iowa staff visited the Cedar Falls area to sit-in on two service-learning classes and documented these sessions to share with other schools across the state.

Continuing to develop resources for nonprofits, youth, afterschool programs, and K-12 schools to promote youth service in their community.