



Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service)

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Quarterly Report:

April 1 – June 30, 2025

AmeriCorps State

Volunteer Iowa received notification from the federal government on April 25, 2025, that half of the active AmeriCorps grants Volunteer Iowa administered were to cease operations. These grants represented 43% of Iowa AmeriCorps State members across 9 operational grants and ceased activities for 4 planning grants. Staff supported programs and members to mitigate impact to the largest extent possible and helped 28 AmeriCorps members transition to other AmeriCorps programs. Another 61 members were transferred to Iowa National Service Corps positions. The terminations did not impact 10 operational grants.

Volunteer Iowa has awarded \$7.69 million in grant funding and an additional \$2.2 million in [Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards](#) for Iowa AmeriCorps State programs and members. These grants will support 18 programs, engaging more than 750 AmeriCorps members in Iowa who will serve with nonprofit, community, and faith-based organizations across the state.

Volunteer Iowa announced the following AmeriCorps State grants for program year 2025-2026, final award amounts are contingent on full release of appropriated funds and will be reported once final:

Program Grants:

<i>Program Name (Program Sponsor)</i>	<i>Program Description</i>
AmeriCorps 4-H Outreach (Iowa State University)	AmeriCorps 4-H members use Positive Youth Development framework to deliver exciting, hands-on learning experiences to youth across the state of Iowa.
AmeriCorps Youth Launch (Graceland University)	AmeriCorps members mentor youth, build valuable developmental assets, instill civic engagement, and help young people find the "sparks" that ignite their passions in life.
Bur Oak Land Trust AmeriCorps Program (Bur Oak Land Trust) *pending OMB release of appropriated funds	Bur Oak Land Trust AmeriCorps members serve to protect and restore Eastern Iowa's natural resources through prescribed fire and planting native plants and remove invasive species.

City of Davenport AmeriCorps and Youth Corps Program (City of Davenport)	Members focus on reducing the high school dropout rate by serving with organizations that support youth at the elementary level during the school day and out-of-school time activities.
City of Dubuque AmeriCorps Program: Creating Opportunities (City of Dubuque)	Members will develop and implement social-emotional learning interventions to K-12th grade students through in-school and out-of-school-time programs.
College Access and Success AmeriCorps (Iowa College Student Aid Commission)	College Access and Success AmeriCorps members assist high school and current college students as they plan for, prepare for and succeed in college.
Conservation Corps Iowa AmeriCorps (Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa)	Members make a difference protecting the environment and gain valuable skills for their future, engaging youth and young adults in environmental stewardship.
Public Health Iowa AmeriCorps (University of Iowa)	Members serve to help community-based older adults become prepared for disasters and strengthen their emergency support networks. The program will pilot a public health apprenticeship model as a part of the redesigned grant.
Green Iowa AmeriCorps (University of Northern Iowa)	Green Iowa AmeriCorps works to empower Iowa's communities and school districts to make more environmental, conservation-minded decisions and improvements.
Iowa College Corps AmeriCorps (Seed Coalition)	Members will engage college students in mentoring, serve at nonprofit/public sector organization, and/or be involved in meaningful civic engagement experiences in partnership with colleges and universities across the state.
Iowa Community Corps (Iowa Department of Health and Human Services)	AmeriCorps members will respond to public health needs by addressing food insecurity and providing resource navigation in rural and urban Iowa communities and pilot a new Mental Health Corps model in partnership with private funders.
Iowa Legal Aid AmeriCorps Project (Iowa Legal Aid)	AmeriCorps members provide direct services to clients and their communities, helping them access legal information, resources and support needed to resolve fundamental civil legal problems.

Iowa Reading Corps AmeriCorps Program (United Ways of Iowa)	AmeriCorps members address ongoing literacy learning loss using evidence-based interventions with students in K-3rd grade.
Polk County Conservation AmeriCorps (Polk County Conservation Board)	Members will lead environment education program, engage Polk County teens within the Youth Corps program, complete natural resource enhancement, build volunteer programming, and increase reach and effectiveness adaptive veteran programming.
RedTails LEAD AmeriCorps (Hawkeye Community College)	Members form a network of support for underserved students by serving to alleviate food insecurity, construct and remodel homes, provide childcare, or help with academic and other life challenges.
RIVA AmeriCorps (Refugee & Immigrant Voices in Action)	The program trains emerging leaders from refugee and immigrant communities to support fellow refugee and immigrant students in job-readiness classes through learning support, referrals, outreach, and wrap around services.

Approved – Pending AmeriCorps/OMB release of full Iowa formula funding allocation

Habitat for Humanity of Iowa AmeriCorps Program (Habitat for Humanity of Iowa)	Members learn, serve, and give back to the community by building houses, managing volunteers, and engaging homeowners at local Habitat for Humanities.
Youth Connect AmeriCorps (Iowa State University)	Using a healing centered engagement approach, members connect foster care youth to resources and supports in the transition from foster care to independent living.

Volunteer Iowa will receive a \$500,000 grant from the Schultz Family Foundation and Pinterest to implement the Youth Mental Health Corps in Iowa, with the intent to launch in the fall of 2025. More information about the Youth Mental Health Corps is available on their website: [Youth Mental Health Corps: Fostering Well-being in Schools and Communities](#).

Commission Business

Volunteer Iowa held its final FY25 full commission meeting on Tuesday, May 27. During the meeting, the commission bid farewell to three commissioners who are concluding their service on the commission: Commission Chair Dan Cataldi, Dawn Roberts, and AJ Lyman. The Commission selected Monica Chavez-Silva as Commission Chair and Ray Haas as Vice Chair for FY26.

Disaster

- Volunteer Iowa was honored to receive recognition as a Recovery Partner from the City of Greenfield last month, on the one-year anniversary of the devastating tornado. AmeriCorps teams who were integral to the volunteer response in Greenfield included AmeriCorps NCCC members from the Vinton campus, as well as members with the Habitat for Humanity of Iowa and RIVA AmeriCorps programs, were included in this recognition for their service assisting with the disaster response and recovery process.
- Volunteer Iowa provided Volunteer Reception Center training or reviewed plans at the request of emergency management to four counties (Dallas, Linn, Buchanan, Black Hawk) and delivered disaster preparedness workshops to 19 AmeriCorps members, enhancing Iowa's emergency response capabilities.
- Volunteer Iowa leads the volunteer donation committee through its board membership on the Iowa Disaster Human Resources Council, coordinating statewide disaster preparedness and volunteer management.
- Advanced foundational work on Iowa Health and Human Services Standard Operating Procedures for ESF 6 (Mass Care), including systematic coordination meetings with multiple HHS divisions to establish comprehensive disaster response protocols.

Iowa MENTOR

Iowa MENTOR now has 82 program partners and continues to service 81 counties throughout the state.

- Three programs (Community Youth Concepts, BBBS of Central Iowa and Heart of Iowa BBBS) completed their National Quality Mentoring System Assessment and were granted recertification.
- Trained two program partners (Girls, Inc. and Iowa After School Alliance) on the resource called *Becoming a Better Mentor: Strategies for Being There for Young People*. Conducted a national *Becoming a Better Mentor* training where 13 states participated. This resource is designed to build the confidence and knowledge of volunteers who spend time with young people.
- The official fifth edition of the Elements of Effective Practice in Mentoring launched in January. It came with a comprehensive checklist for Iowa MENTOR program partners to evaluate their program and progress. Evaluations began in April and will be completed in June.
- The Volunteer Iowa Volunteer Generation Fund Grant American Rescue Plan Grant was terminated on April 25, 2025. Four Iowa school districts ceased their mentoring programs. Grants were expected to end in June, with a continuation grant to be awarded for year three beginning in July. The school districts who received this funding created four mentoring programs and have served 54 Iowa youth since their programs began last year. Collectively, the mentoring programs dedicated 205 volunteer hours in their mentoring programs this quarter, with 48 mentors/non-mentors participating in the mentoring programs. These mentoring programs were created to strengthen the well-being and mental health of students in rural counties as well as provide career exploration, which included youth working with volunteers to explore interest in the trades, including welding, culinary arts, nursing, etc. The programs now are

accelerating their sustainability plans and certification process to strengthen their chances of finding additional funding.

The schools that were impacted the grant terminations are:

- Carlisle Community School District (Polk/Warren)
- Ceder Valley Catholic School System (Cedar Valley)
- Dike New Hartford Community School District (Grundy/Butler)
- Hamburg Community School District (Fremont)

Recognition

- **Give Back Iowa Challenge:** The 2025 Give Back Iowa Challenge had 27 employers register to participate in the challenge. Over 47,000 volunteer hours were logged during the two-month challenge period. The winners and runners up of the challenge are:
 - Small: Community Youth Concepts (CYC), Des Moines
Honorable Mention: United Way of Central Iowa
 - Mid-sized: Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, Riverside
Honorable Mention: Grand Falls Casino and Golf Resort, Larchwood
 - Large: Farm Bureau Financial Services, West Des Moines
Honorable Mention: Deere & Co., Johnston
- **Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame Ceremony:** The Iowa Volunteer Award Ceremony honored six Hall of Fame inductees and two Excellence in Mentoring Awardees on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at the State Capitol building. Governor Kim Reynolds and Commission Chair Dan Cataldi presented the awards. [Information about the inductees](#) is available on our website.
- **2025 Governor’s Volunteer Awards Ceremony:** One statewide Governor’s Volunteer Awards (GVA) ceremony was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2025, at Urbandale High School in Ankeny. The ceremony featured remarks from the Lieutenant Governor and local leaders. The ceremony honors contributions of over 290 individuals and groups serving more than 96 communities across the state. Photos from the ceremony are posted on our [Flickr Page](#).

AmeriCorps Seniors

- **RSVP**
Volunteer Iowa awarded 19 RSVP Grants with state awards based on legislative appropriation award in June. Initial award amounts:

Organization	Project Name	State Award	Federal Amount
Carroll County Board	RSVP Carroll County (Carroll, Crawford, Calhoun)	\$14,968	\$122,500.00
Clinton County	RSVP of Clinton County	\$7,484	\$50,000.00
Decorah Public Library	Northeast Iowa RSVP (Allamakee, Howard,	\$28,589	\$177,500

	Winneshiek, Clayton, Northern Fayette)		
Graceland University	Southern Iowa RSVP (Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold, Union)	\$15,656	\$136,902.00
HIRTA Public Transit	HIRTA RSVP of Madison and Marion Counties	\$14,968	\$152,500.00
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services RSVP	HHS RSVP Cass, Dubuque, Harrison, Iowa, Keokuk, Mahaska, Louisa, Monona, Montgomery, Shelby, Woodbury and Poweshiek Counties	\$89,807	\$900,000.00
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services RSVP	HHS RSVP Fremont, Mills and Page Counties	\$35,709	\$286,500.00
Iowa Lakes Community College	Northwest Iowa RSVP (Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Palo Alto)	\$20,975	\$92,908.00
Jasper County Agricultural Extension District	Newton/Jasper RSVP	\$7,484	\$50,000.00
North Iowa Area Community College	RSVP of North Central Iowa (Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Worth, Mitchell, Hancock, Winnebago)	\$35,262	\$0
Story City Senior Citizens, Inc.	Central Iowa RSVP - Story, Marshall, Hamilton, & Webster Co.	\$38,989	\$174,998.00
The Fellowship Cup	RSVP Henry County	\$16,084	\$50,000.00
United Way of Wapello County	RSVP of Monroe, Jefferson and Wapello Counties	\$14,968	\$78,479.00

United Way of Central Iowa	United Way of Central Iowa RSVP (Polk, Dallas, Warren)	\$7,484	\$89,323.00
United Way of East Central Iowa	United Way 55+ Initiative (Linn, Jones, Cedar, Benton)	\$28,509	\$0
United Way of the Great River Region (formerly Ft. Madison Area United Way)	RSVP of Lee County/ United Way of Great River Region	\$7,484	\$50,000.00
United Way of Muscatine County	RSVP of Muscatine	\$9,929	\$84,556.00
Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley	Engaging People to Build a Stronger Community and RSVP of Buchanan County (Blackhawk, Fayette, Buchanan)	\$24,348	\$205,250.00
TOTAL		\$418,698	\$2,701,416.00

Volunteer Engagement Capacity Building

Year two of the AmeriCorps 9/11 Day of Service grant was included in federal AmeriCorps grant terminations. Existing contracts were terminated, and contracts in the process of being developed are paused. This impacts 25 organizations across Iowa that were expected to engage 2,400+ volunteers for a 9/11 Day of Service. Service Enterprise coaching and accreditation is continuing with year 1 grantees, but reaccreditations are paused.

Youth Service & Service-Learning

- The Volunteer Iowa Volunteer Generation Fund American Rescue Plan grant was terminated on April 25, 2025. Five service-learning grantees ceased program activities. Grants were expected to end in June and July, with a continuation grant to be awarded for year three this summer.
- Service-learning grantees led youth-led service-learning projects in their communities that combined learning outcomes with volunteer projects. Schools completed 27 service-learning projects, engaging 556 students in 3168 hours of service this school year. Over the course of the entire program (2023-2025), more than 72 service-learning projects were completed that engaged 3731 youth in 9462 hours of service with 133 community partners.
- Volunteer Iowa trained 1366 staff on service-learning principles. Projects include: operation prom for students unable to afford formal attire for prom, the construction and furnishing of a new home for a family that lost theirs in a fire, the creation of a community garden to

combat food insecurity, a fundraiser for local military veterans, thank you cards for first responders and veterans, blankets for children in foster care, scarves for single mother families experiencing homelessness, and much more.

- The schools that were impacted by this loss of funding are:
 - CAL Elementary School (Franklin)
 - Central Lyon Community School District (Lyon)
 - Hamburg Community School District (Fremont)
 - Waterloo Community School District (Black Hawk)
 - Sioux Center Community School District (Sioux)

AmeriCorps VISTA Program

- The Volunteer Iowa VISTA program was terminated on April 25, 2025. Sixteen VISTA members serving at 11 organizations in Iowa are no longer receiving services or benefits of the VISTA program.
- VISTA members were working on building capacity of community organizations whose missions envelop a variety of needs and activities such as developing programs to assist with summer learning loss, mentoring youth during school and out of school times, supporting individuals and families with health and mental health support and resources, bridging the gap with community resources with underserved youth and adults, creating diverse funding streams to support the organization through grant writing, fundraising, and events, and much more.
- Volunteer Iowa was able to continue activities similar to VISTA through the Iowa National Service Corps for the following organizations:

Centrally Rooted, Inc.	Dubuque, IA
Fort Madison Area Arts Association	Fort Madison, IA
Hope to Shine	Des Moines, IA
Independence School District, Mentoring Program	Independence, IA

- The following organizations who are no longer supported by VISTA or the Iowa National Service Corps are as follows:

NAMI Southwest Iowa	Neola, IA
University of Iowa, Disaster Prepwise	Iowa City, IA
Iowa MENTOR	Des Moines, IA
Volunteer Iowa	Des Moines, IA
*NAMI Dubuque	Dubuque, IA
*was provided a VISTA sponsor grant in April 2025	