



Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service)
Quarterly Report:
October 1 – December 31, 2025

AmeriCorps Seniors:

The HHS Volunteer Iowa Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) serves 74 nonprofit, healthcare, state and local government workstations in 15 mostly rural counties. There were 450 volunteers aged 55+ serving in these counties over the last year. This quarter focused on preparing for and improving our service measurement process, onboarding new Pen Pal programs and volunteers and transitioning to a new volunteer management database. This is a subset of the over 5000 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers the Commission supports through the RSVP grant program.

AmeriCorps State:

AmeriCorps has not yet released the FY2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Volunteer Iowa will release a Request for Application for 2026-2027 once the NOFO is available.

AmeriCorps State programs submitted data to Volunteer Iowa on various demographic information for AmeriCorps. In 2024-2025, AmeriCorps programs engaged over 9,600 volunteers with those volunteers serving over 47,000 hours. Additionally, AmeriCorps programs reported that over 16,000 youth were supported through AmeriCorps programming.

AmeriCorps VISTA:

The AmeriCorps VISTA program, through service and volunteering, seeks to create a climate where economically disadvantaged individuals and youth are provided the tools needed for financial well-being and academic success, and communities have the resources needed to address critical needs related to poverty.

This quarter the Volunteer Iowa AmeriCorps VISTA program has five VISTA members supporting five organizations across the state. In early December, Volunteer Iowa received notification for enrollment opportunities through September 2026. Staff will be working with community partners across the state to develop VISTA projects and provide opportunities for individuals to serve. An additional 27 VISTAs are expected to serve.

Organization	City
Corinthian Baptist Church, VAX DSM	Des Moines
Des Moines Police Department	Des Moines
Hope to Shine	Des Moines
Independence School District, Mentoring	Independence
NAMI Southwest Iowa	Neola

Disaster Response:

During this quarter, volunteer coordination efforts focused on strengthening statewide disaster food distribution in light of the recent lapse in SNAP benefits. At the request of Governor Reynolds, Volunteer Iowa led efforts to mobilize volunteer support across the state. Volunteers were deployed to assist food pantries, food banks, mobile food distributions, and holiday outreach. The SNAP Volunteer Response demonstrated the power of coordinated service across AmeriCorps, RSVP, and community partners. With over 1300 active volunteers and members, and hundreds more ready to serve, Iowa's volunteer infrastructure proved essential in addressing food insecurity, building resilience, and strengthening community bonds during a time of urgent need.

The Grinnell Community, Poweshiek County Emergency Management, and the Quad Cities COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) requested Volunteer Iowa to aid in strengthening their local disaster response capacity, by helping to build local resources and foster relationships with organizations capable of leading and managing volunteers during emergencies. To support this effort, Volunteer Iowa conducted Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) trainings, which were attended by 54 community members. These trainings equipped participants with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively coordinate volunteer efforts during a disaster.

Iowa MENTOR:

Iowa MENTOR celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Iowa Mentoring Summit on October 23-24, 2025. The summit brought together over 40 attendees, representing 25 programs from across the state.

The following programs completed the National Quality Mentoring System assessment and were granted certification with Iowa MENTOR 2025-2028:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Central Iowa
- Heart of Iowa BBBS
- BBBS of Siouxland
- Club M (Burlington Community School District)
- Community Youth Concepts (CYC)
- Everybody Wins! Iowa
- Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG)
- TeamMates of Iowa

Volunteer Recognition:

Nothing new to report during this time period.

Events:

Nothing new to report during this time period.

Statewide RSVP:

Nothing new to report during this time period.

Service Enterprise:

A virtual cohort is scheduled for early 2026 in conjunction with our 9/11 Day of Service grant, and the following organizations have been selected for participation:

- IMPACT Community Action Partnership (Des Moines)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley (Davenport)
- United Way of Story County (Ames)
- Firefly (Council Bluffs)
- Trail of Johnson County (Iowa City)
- DMARC (Des Moines)
- HHS Division of Behavioral Health (Des Moines/Statewide)

Reiman Gardens and HOME, Inc. have completed their Service Enterprise training and have been submitted for accreditation.

Training:

- Volunteer Iowa continued to support programs through virtual training and technical assistance.
- ***AmeriCorps Program Staff Launch:*** This annual training offered for all Iowa AmeriCorps program staff occurred October 22 and 23. The training sessions offered networking, learning about state and federal grant requirements and updates, and overall support for program core competency growth.
- ***Iowa MENTOR:*** The following trainings were conducted for mentoring professionals this quarter:
 - Establishing & Supporting the Mentoring Relationship
 - Practices to Support Organizational Health
 - Relationship Celebration and Program Exit

Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) ARP:

Service-Learning: Each of the five VGF ARP service-learning continuation grantees continue integrating service-learning within their school districts. This includes Waterloo Community Schools, CAL Elementary Schools, Sioux Center Community Schools, Hamburg Community Schools, and Central Lyon Community Schools. Over 60 students have volunteered 266 hours with six different community agencies during this quarter.

Mentoring: VGF ARP mentoring continuation subgrantee school districts (Carlisle Community School District, Cedar Valley Community Schools, and Dike/New Hartford Community Schools) continue to do monthly check-ins with the grant administrator to share updates on progress, success and challenges within their programs. Currently, the three mentoring programs have 37 mentors and 52 mentees involved.

Youth Service:

Volunteer Iowa opened a request for proposals for the Day of Service grant, in the categories of Youth Service Board and Family Volunteer Initiative. Selected organizations will receive \$3,000 to participate in a virtual learning cohort centered on discovering best practices for engaging young people as volunteers. This will culminate in a Day of Service on September 11, 2026.