

**Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service)
Quarterly Report:
October 1 – December 31, 2017**

- **Administrative Rules:** in December, the Commission approved initiating the state’s rulemaking process to make corrections and necessary updates in Iowa Administrative Code 817, Chapters 1 and 8.
- **AmeriCorps:** Commission action approved advancing the following programs to the national-level funding competition:

New and Recompete Applicant & Program Name

College Student Aid Commission- Course to College AmeriCorps
Graceland University- AmeriCorps Youth Launch
Iowa Department of Public Health- IDPH AmeriCorps Substance Abuse Prevention Program
Iowa State University- IA AmeriCorps 4H Outreach
University of Northern Iowa- Green Iowa AmeriCorps
United Ways of Iowa- Iowa AmeriCorps Reading Corps

Continuation Applicant Name

City of Davenport- Davenport AmeriCorps/Youth Corps
City of Dubuque- Partners in Learning AmeriCorps
Conservation Corps of IA & MN- Conservation Corps IA AmeriCorps
Des Moines Public Schools- Des Moines Public Schools AmeriCorps
Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy & Resource Center (EMBARC)- Refugee RISE AmeriCorps
Grinnell University- Grinnell AmeriCorps Partnership
Habitat for Humanity of Iowa- Habitat for Humanity of IA AmeriCorps
Iowa Legal Aid- Iowa Legal Aid AmeriCorps
Iowa State University - AmeriCorps Partnering to Protect Children
Public Allies, Inc.- Public Allies Iowa AmeriCorps

- **Commission Business:**
 - Standing committees reviewed their portions of the [State Service Plan](#) to set priorities and goals for the upcoming calendar year.
 - 2018 Policy Agenda was approved in October:
 - Ongoing Policy Goals
 - We advocate for policies that:
 - Develop new service opportunities to meet critical community needs
 - Improve and streamline existing service opportunities and programs
 - Expand Iowa's existing volunteer base
 - Build the culture and climate for service in Iowa
 - Support the infrastructure needed for quality service opportunities and programs

- 2018 Policy Priorities
 1. Draft and support state government employee volunteer policy.
 2. Tax incentives for service and volunteerism, including:
 - a. Exempting the AmeriCorps living allowance from state income taxes.
 - b. Equity in federal mileage rates for volunteer vs. business travel.
 3. Increase funding & decrease policy barriers for national service programs through outreach to new CNCS leadership, including:
 - a. Support the America's Service Commissions FY 2018 Policy and Funding Priorities
 - b. Increase focus on the impact of service itself (member impact) as compared to community impact
 - c. Pursue options for state commissions to provide more administrative support to subgrantees
 4. Eliminate policy barriers for national service programs in Iowa through proposed Iowa National Service Corps legislation, including:
 - a. State contracting/procurement barriers for commission programs such as Green Corps to do work for state agencies
 - b. Allowing public agencies to use third parties to assist with administration of service corps programs
 - c. Clarifying that approved service members are not employees
 - d. Develop & support certification processes for giving hiring preference to national service program alumni.
 5. Improve accessibility to national service program resources, especially for small and rural organizations, through the development of an administrative support and/or intermediary organization.
 6. [HF403](#) – follow up to work with the newspaper association and pursue a compromise that protects the privacy of volunteers but allows for disclosure in cases where there is a compelling public interest.
 7. Encourage local leaders, such as mayors, county supervisors, and school boards, to support service in their communities, such as through the following actions:
 - a. Inviting them to visit local programs
 - b. Asking for their support for Days of Service
 - c. Recommending funding support for local programs
 8. Maintain and/or grow funding for the commission and its programs, including:
 - a. Establish state funding for Reading Corps
 - b. Maintain/grow state Community Programs funding for Refugee RISE AmeriCorps, Green Corps, and Summer Youth Corps
 - c. Maintain funding for mentoring programs and the Iowa Mentoring Partnership through the Iowa Department of Public Health
 - d. Maintain or grow state funding for RSVP & other Senior Corps programs
 - e. Maintain state funding for Volunteer Iowa administration
- **Disaster Response:** In October, Iowa AmeriCorps members served in Texas, Florida, and the US Virgin Islands as part of disaster response teams that were deployed through federal mission assignments to assist with hurricane clean up and recovery efforts. Iowa is part of the national AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team, a cooperative agreement with the Corporation for National and Community Service to be able to deploy our programs in times of disaster. Members work with volunteer and donation management, mucking and gutting homes, and working with local VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) partners to coordinate recovery response.

- **Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP) program actions:** Full certification was approved in December for the Des Moines Man Up mentoring program.
- **Recognition**
 - **50 Faces of Volunteers:** For completing a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service during the past 12 months, our social media posts and What’s Your 50? blog (<https://volunteeriowa.wordpress.com/?s=50+faces>) recognized:
 - October – Craig Clark, Mason City; and, Steve Serrot, Cedar Rapids
 - November – Diamond V, Roger Wilcox, and Mary Claire Henricksen, all of Cedar Rapids
 - December – Latino Employee Network (LEN) of Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids; and, Dan Collins, Eldridge
 - **Give Back Iowa Challenge:** nothing to report during this reporting period
 - **Governor’s Volunteer Awards:** nothing to report during this reporting period
 - **National Service Member Spotlight:**
 - October – Benet Conlin originally from Waterloo (serving at the Iowa Community Action Association in Des Moines) (<https://volunteeriowa.wordpress.com/?s=50+faces>)
- **RSVP: nothing to report at this time**
- **Service Enterprise Initiative**
 - Five organizations completed training and are currently preparing to apply for certification:
 - Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
 - Lutheran Services in Iowa
 - Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
 - Whiterock Conservancy
 - Young Women’s Resource Center
 - Additional organizations participated in with the United Way of Wapello County hub:
 - American Home Finding Association
 - Main Street Ottumwa
 - United Way of Mahaska County
- **Training:** The biennial, two-day Iowa Nonprofit Summit conference was held in October with more than 450 one-day registrations; 99% of evaluation respondents agreed or strongly agreed the information/training from the event would be useful when they return to their office/agency.
- **Volunteer Generation Fund:** Volunteer Iowa received a Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grant of \$192,023 from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps and the nation’s volunteer initiatives. In addition to the subgrants, VGF funding supports staff, training, and other resources for volunteer infrastructure in Iowa. An RFP was issued, and sub-grants were approved for the following programs:

Volunteer Center	Funding
Marion County Health Department	\$35,000
Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley	\$13,774
United Way of East Central Iowa	\$10,526
United Way of Wapello County	\$20,000
United Way of the Great River Region	\$5,000
Iowa Campus Compact	\$20,000
United Way of the Dubuque Area Tri States	\$2,700
TOTAL	\$107,000