



Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service)

Quarterly Report:

July 1 – September 30, 2018

- **Administrative Policies** relating to commission operations were reviewed, updated, and approved.
- **AmeriCorps:** Request for Pre-Applications was released. Information contained in the federal Notice of Funding Opportunity included in the final application instructions Iowa released in late September.
- **Commission Business**
 - New commissioners appointed July 1 by Governor Reynolds included Barbara Westercamp, Cedar Rapids, and Aaron Sewell of West Des Moines (due to scheduling conflicts with a new job, Sewell resigned in September before taking the oath of office).
 - Supplemental federal funding of \$38K was approved by the Corporation for National and Community Service; and \$104K was approved for disaster recovery support in Marshalltown.
 - Federal budget included increased funding for AmeriCorps and Senior Corps projects.
 - Staff members participated in two break-out sessions hosted in Vinton by the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to discuss rural programming, and how AmeriCorps NCCC and service can assist with rural issues. Staff was asked to compile recommendations from the discussion and from the Iowa Commission.
- **Disaster Response:** Staff members have been assisting city officials with organizing disaster relief efforts following July tornadoes in Marshalltown. RSVP of Central Iowa is coordinating all local volunteer projects. Volunteer Iowa is allocating \$400,000 in state and federal funding to equip and staff a mobile response unit that will make critical repairs to tornado-damaged homes in Marshalltown. As a result, there is an immediate need for additional staff positions to coordinate and lead volunteers as they work to make homes livable through the winter and support long-term recovery. The mobile response unit is a partnership between Volunteer Iowa and Habitat for Humanity of Iowa and is supported by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Ultimately, the team will serve as a resource for other communities, like Marshalltown, without a local Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

- **Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP) program actions:** re-certification for a three-year period was granted to the following programs in August:
 - Allamakee County Mentoring, Decorah
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters, Muscatine
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters, Northeast Iowa
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters, Siouxland
 - Clinton Schools Mentoring
 - Everybody Wins! Iowa, Des Moines
 - Independence Mustang Mentoring
 - North Fayette Valley Mentoring, Elgin
 - Stars Mentoring, Storm Lake
 - YSS Mentoring, Ames

- **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:
 - September – Raegan Junge, Keystone, IA
 - **Give Back Iowa Challenge:** Three of four visits by the Governor to the 2018 winners have been completed.
 - **Governor's Volunteer Awards:** A total of 500 awards were approved for 2018. The final three regional recognition ceremonies for 2018 were held in Storm Lake on July 16, Marion on July 30, and Ottumwa on August 1. A list of recipients is [online](#).
 - **National Service Member Spotlight:**
 - Eve Dietrich of Cedar Falls

- **RSVP:** Nothing new to report during this time period.

- **Service Enterprise**
 - Four organizations were selected to participate in the Volunteer Iowa fall cohort for the Service Enterprise Initiative change management process:
 - Juneteenth
 - Food Bank of Iowa
 - Des Moines Performing Arts
 - Hawthorn Hill & Bidwell Riverside
 - Additional organizations are participating in hubs in Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, and Ottumwa
 - The following organizations received Service Enterprise certification:
 - ALS Association Iowa Chapter, statewide
 - Iowa Child Advocacy Board, statewide
 - Waterloo Schools Foundation, Waterloo

- **State Service Plan**

- Iowa's State Service Plan, which must be updated and approved by the governor every three years, serves as a blueprint for maximizing civic engagement and service in Iowa. Volunteer Iowa is only directly responsible for some of the work. However, we prioritize and act on elements that are most achievable and ask our partners to do the same. Listening sessions were held in August in Pella, DeWitt, Cedar Falls, Sioux City, and online to gather feedback to establish priorities for volunteerism and national service programs in the 2019-2022 plan.

- **Volunteer Generation Fund**

- Volunteer Iowa received a continuation 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.