
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2018

Fiscal Services Division

December 8, 2017



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Volunteer Services

Background

The Volunteer Services Program is administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and was created to enhance the delivery of services to lowans in need. Volunteers under the supervision of paid staff assist in providing services and completing administrative tasks. Volunteers supplement paid staff rather than replace staff. This staff-volunteer team approach results in extended services to clients, especially during times of resource scarcity. Appropriated funds are used to pay for contracts with organizations that recruit and coordinate volunteers.

Volunteer Participation and Services

Volunteers must apply and be accepted to serve. Each volunteer donates from three to more than 40 hours per week throughout the year. In FY 2017, more than 5,900 persons volunteered 101,882 hours to the DHS, which represents a 16.9% decrease in volunteers and a 4.1% decrease in hours of service compared to FY 2012. The number of lowans served by volunteers in FY 2017 includes:

- 5,258 children
- 5,554 adults under the age of 60
- 3,381 adults aged 60 and over

Volunteer services include:

- Direct services to clients and residents, including parent aides, commodity distributors, and medical transporters.
- Indirect services, such as clerical assistance.
- Stipend volunteers, such as foster grandparents.

Funding

The Volunteer Services Program General Fund appropriation is included in the Health and Human Services Appropriations Act and has averaged \$85,000 annually for the five-year period from FY 2012 to FY 2017. The Program is also supported by federal funds annually through the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) in the amount of approximately \$63,000.

The average annual cost to recruit, coordinate, and support a single volunteer is \$25.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [217.13](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [441](#)

More Information

Department of Human Services: dhs.iowa.gov

LSA Staff Contact: Jess R. Benson (515.281.4611) jess.benson@legis.iowa.gov

Kenneth C. Ohms (515.725.2200) kenneth.ohms@legis.iowa.gov