



Commission on Volunteer Service

VOLUNTEER IOWA DAY AT THE CAPITOL



Every \$1 in state funding leverages over \$48 in additional support—\$16.55 from private/local sources and \$32.11 from federal—plus the value of volunteer hours.

Our 2026 State Service Plan Goals

- 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



National Service

- **7,500+** AmeriCorps members and Seniors served at **785+** Iowa sites last year.
- **\$3.4M** in Segal Education Awards earned by AmeriCorps members.
- **\$26.2M** in federal funding supported cost-effective community solutions.
- **\$6.8M** in additional resources leveraged from Iowa businesses, foundations, and agencies.
- Since 1994, **15,000+** Iowans have served **20M+** hours, earning nearly **\$51.7M** in education awards.



Community Volunteerism

- Volunteer Iowa engages nearly **90,000** volunteers annually.
- Get Connected, our statewide database, connects **2,100** organizations with volunteers.
- Over half of Iowans (**53.2%**) volunteered regularly in 2023.
- Volunteer efforts contributed **\$1.5B** in labor value to Iowa communities.
- Iowa ranks **7th** nationally for informal volunteering.



Mentoring

- **24,000 youth** served by mentors across **71** Iowa MENTOR partners
- Iowa MENTOR Program partners span **76** Iowa counties.
- **45** youth programs meet national mentoring standards (NQMS).
- **84%** of mentees achieved their program goals.
- **3,731 students** completed a youth service-learning project

About Volunteer Iowa

Volunteer Iowa (the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service) is a state agency that fosters a bipartisan commitment to volunteerism and promotes a statewide vision and ethic of service. Volunteer Iowa is responsible for coordinating Iowa MENTOR, AmeriCorps, state funding for AmeriCorps Seniors, and for funding and supporting many other local volunteer programs.

2026 Commission Priorities & Impact



Commission Priority: Maintain full state funding for all federally awarded Iowa programs, including RSVP, through the HHS appropriations subcommittee as part of the ICVS budget.

Impact: In 2023–2024, over 5,300 RSVP volunteers contributed 256,000+ hours, valued at \$7.2M, to support disaster relief, financial literacy, and food security, serving nearly 62,000 Iowans



Commission Priority: Exempt AmeriCorps living allowances from state income tax.

Impact: AmeriCorps members made a major impact in 2024–2025 through direct service and leveraging 9,656 volunteers, yet their compensation is little over the poverty level. Tax relief would improve recruitment and retention.

Commission Priority: Fund expansion of Iowa Reading Corps, formalize AEA master coaching, and maintain RIVA AmeriCorps support.

Impact: Iowa Reading Corps accelerates student growth at 1.5–2 times the expected rate and is the most cost-effective literacy intervention. Increased funding would expand its reach, especially in rural areas.



Commission Priority: Sustain annual HHS subcommittee funding for mentoring grants via Iowa Health and Human Services appropriation.

Impact: State-funded mentoring programs foster supportive adult relationships and deliver substance abuse prevention training—proven to boost school attendance, mental health, violence prevention, and workforce readiness.



Commission Priority: Fully fund the Governor's operating budget for Volunteer Iowa to support federal match and program delivery.

Impact: Underfunding shifts costs to local programs, straining resources. Supporting volunteering is vital to community health and well-being.