

Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremonies



The 2023 Governor's Volunteer Awards will be announced during special recognition ceremonies across the state. The ceremonies will feature remarks from Governor Kim Reynolds and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg.

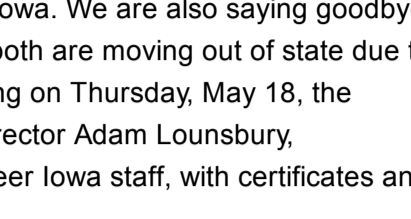
More than 600 awards are being presented this year during five ceremonies across Iowa. It is estimated that more than 150 communities in Iowa were served by this year's honorees.

Coordinated by Volunteer Iowa, the Governor's Volunteer Award program—now in its 39th year—provides an easy way for Iowa nonprofits, charitable organizations, and government entities to honor their volunteers with a prestigious, state-level award.

- The awards ceremonies will take place at the below dates and cities:
- Tuesday, June 6, Iowa Braille School, Vinton
- Tuesday, June 6, Hilton Garden Inn Cedar Falls, Cedar Falls
- Thursday, June 15, Ankeny Centennial High School, Ankeny
- Friday, July 7, Ottumwa Schools Career Campus, Ottumwa
- Date TBD, Buena Vista University, Schaller Memorial Chapel, Storm Lake

More information, as well as [a complete list of award recipients](#), is available at [volunteeriowa.org](#).

Celebrating Outgoing Commissioners



This month, we bid farewell to four commissioners. Dave Layton and Greg Sutherland will both conclude two full terms of service on the commission board June 30, having shared a wealth of knowledge during their time with Volunteer Iowa. We are also saying goodbye to commissioners Kevin Brown and Jamarco Clark, as both are moving out of state due to career opportunities. At their last full commission meeting on Thursday, May 18, the outgoing commissioners were honored by Executive Director Adam Lounsbury, commission board chair Angela Jiskoot, and the Volunteer Iowa staff, with certificates and cupcakes.

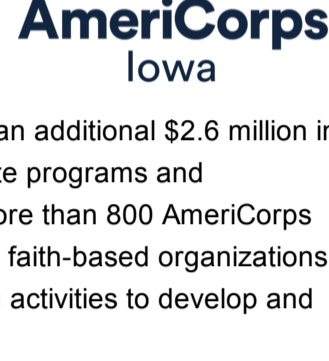
Leadership for the 2023-2024 commission term was confirmed at the May 18 commission meeting. Angela Jiskoot will continue to serve as commission chair, with Dan Cataldi continuing as vice chair.

Interested in joining our commission? Applications are accepted year-round, but we are currently in the process of reviewing applications to fill slots beginning in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Apply today at [Iowa Talent Bank](#) or contact [info@volunteeriowa.org](#).



Pictured left to right, with Executive Director Adam Lounsbury and Commission Chair Angela Jiskoot: Kevin Brown, Dave Layton, and Greg Sutherland. Not pictured: Jamarco Clark

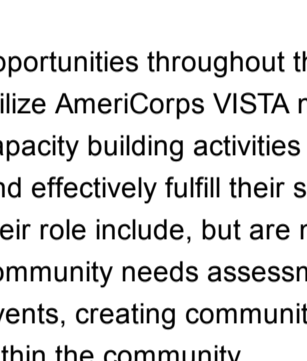
Volunteer Iowa Awards \$11.7 Million for State AmeriCorps Programs



Volunteer Iowa has awarded \$9.1 million in grant funding and an additional \$2.6 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards for Iowa AmeriCorps State programs and members. These grants will support 19 programs engaging more than 800 AmeriCorps members in Iowa who will serve with nonprofit, community and faith-based organizations across the state. Two additional grantees will conduct planning activities to expand and develop new AmeriCorps programming across the state.

Programs across the state are currently recruiting AmeriCorps members to serve in the coming year. Iowa AmeriCorps members may be eligible to receive benefits including a living allowance, health care, childcare, and the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. Visit [Join AmeriCorps](#) on our website to search and apply for AmeriCorps positions in Iowa.

For the complete list of awardees, view [the announcement on our website](#).



Choose your future. Choose AmeriCorps. Help tackle poverty in Iowa.

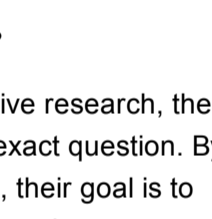
Volunteer Iowa currently has 16 AmeriCorps VISTA opportunities throughout the state of Iowa in recruitment. Non-profits throughout Iowa utilize AmeriCorps VISTA members in their efforts to combat poverty. Members do vital capacity building activities for the non-profit, allowing the organization to more efficiently and effectively fulfill their service to their community. Activities members can undertake in their role include, but are not limited to, volunteer recruitment and training, undertaking community needs assessments, applying for grants, creating volunteer recognition events, creating community events, and raising awareness of the organizations mission within the community.

Several non-profits across the state are currently looking for service-minded individuals to support them in their work in a role as a VISTA member. There is no typical VISTA service, and as such, each of the following openings offers a different experience with different goals and tasks. These opportunities can be a great opportunity for college graduates to get experience in the non-profit sector, a way for people to gain experience if they are pivoting careers, or a great opportunity for retired-age people to find something to do.

More information about the AmeriCorps benefits and terms of service, and available positions, can be found on the [Iowa AmeriCorps VISTA section of our website](#), or contact us at [info@volunteeriowa.org](#). Please share the opportunities with anyone you know who would be a good fit.



Apply now to participate in Service Enterprise

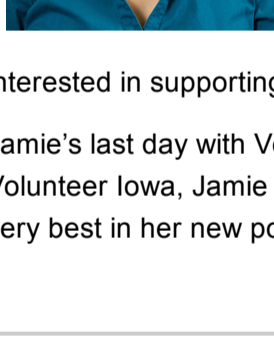


Service Enterprise is the national volunteer engagement accreditation for organizations. Selected applicants participate in a diagnostic, cohort-based training, individualized coaching, and certification to create and implement an organizational strategy to effectively engage volunteers throughout the organization.

Applications to participate in the Central Iowa fall cohort will be open until the cohort is full, or August 21st, whichever comes first. Similar timelines are in place for cohorts across the state. Now is a great time to start planning and get your applications in. Applications can be requested by emailing [michelle.raymer@volunteeriowa.org](#). Orientation and diagnostics will be conducted in September, and trainings in October and November.

What is strategic volunteer engagement, and why does it matter?

Driven by the power of volunteer energy and grounded in comprehensive research, the [Initiative for Strategic Volunteer Engagement](#) launched to answer this exact question. By providing practical recommendations for funders and nonprofit leaders, their goal is to transform the future of volunteerism with greater investment in strategic volunteer engagement. The initiative recently released [Activating the Power of Strategic Volunteer Engagement for a Better World: A Conversation Starter for Funders and Nonprofit Leaders](#). Within these pages, you will find resources and practical steps to bolster your collective efforts in cultivating stronger communities. Ready to take the next step? [Service Enterprise](#) is a research-based process proven to result in strategic volunteer engagement for organizations.



Farewell to Jamie Orozco Nagel

A valuable member of the Volunteer Iowa team will be leaving us to assume a new role, which will take her back to her roots with national service. Jamie Orozco Nagel has accepted a position with Heartland AEA as a school social worker. Jamie's first AmeriCorps position was at a school, where she first became interested in supporting the non-academic needs of students.

Jamie's last day with Volunteer Iowa will be Thursday, June 8. After nearly 14 years with Volunteer Iowa, Jamie is leaving big shoes to fill. She will be missed but we wish her the very best in her new position!

Volunteer Iowa Transition Update

Volunteer Iowa is moving! Beginning July 1, Volunteer Iowa will be placed within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This repositioning of Volunteer Iowa will not result in a cut to programs or services. While some areas may soon look or function differently than they do now, your work with Volunteer Iowa will remain largely the same. Some items to note are:

- Volunteer Iowa staff will move to full-time remote status beginning July 1, 2023, through early summer 2024. Our mailing address, phone numbers and email addresses will not change.
- Contracts issued to Volunteer Iowa will remain the same
- Claims will be submitted the same way
- Commission meetings through this time period will continue to have in-person and remote options
- Any future changes will be shared either through your program officer, your main Volunteer Iowa contact, or through the Volunteer Iowa newsletter
- Questions or concerns? Please contact your program officer or send a message to [info@volunteeriowa.org](#)

Volunteer Iowa is excited about this transition to an agency that will help us increase our connection to the needs of nonprofits, community support providers and social services programs. We will keep you informed of other updates as we move through this process.

Service in the News

- [We all need purpose](#)
- [Kruse receives 2023 Governor's Volunteer Award](#)
- [Dallas Center's AmeriCorps selling backyard compost bins](#)
- [Green Iowa's Robert "Bob" King Inducted into Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame](#)
- [Gov. Reynolds, Lt. Gov. Gregg announce grant awards to launch Iowa United First Aid pilot program in three counties](#)

Current Volunteer Iowa Opportunities

Volunteer with us! Volunteer Iowa is always on the lookout for individuals who want to give back and help support our work. Find [general volunteer opportunities with Volunteer Iowa](#). Our current openings are:

- Do you have experience as an AmeriCorps member, or are you a returned Peace Corps volunteer that wants to continue making a difference in your community? Volunteer Iowa is seeking an experienced AmeriCorps member to promote volunteerism and national service in Iowa. [Apply today!](#)
- Volunteer Iowa (Iowa Commission on Volunteerism) is looking for an energetic, independent volunteer or team of volunteers to help [assemble and organize award packets for the Governor's Volunteer Awards](#) program. This opportunity is great for detail-oriented volunteers who want to lend their talent for organization to a worthwhile cause - recognizing and thanking volunteers across the state! This work can be done by an individual or a team who will work closely with the staff to assemble and organize the GVA award packets for the award ceremonies.
- Volunteer Iowa seeks a detail-oriented volunteer to assist with improvements to the statewide [Get Connected](#) database. This database provides the ability for individuals and groups across the state to find and register for meaningful volunteer opportunities and improves the ability for nonprofits and organizations who are in need of volunteer assistance to have those needs met. The volunteer will ensure the information contained in the database is up-to-date, create resources to ensure usability of the site, and develop a promotion plan to reach organizations and individuals who could benefit from the service. This opportunity can be completed virtually and scheduled at the volunteer's discretion. [Learn more and sign up](#) today.

Join the ranks of other AmeriCorps VISTA members serving in organizations across the state helping to alleviate poverty. AmeriCorps VISTA provides opportunities for Americans eighteen years of age and older from diverse backgrounds to dedicate a year of service with non-profit organizations or public entities (as a host organization) to create or to expand efforts designed to empower low-income individuals and communities. VISTA members serve for one year in full time position with a host organization. More information about joining VISTA and a current list of AmeriCorps VISTA opening in Iowa can be found on our [AmeriCorps VISTA page](#).

Other [Iowa AmeriCorps programs](#) supported by Volunteer Iowa are also recruiting now.

Important Dates

- June 6: Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremonies in Vinton and Cedar Falls
- June 14: [Flag Day](#)
- June 15: Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony in Ankeny
- June 18: Father's Day
- June 19: [Juneteenth](#)
- July: [Anti-Boredom Month](#)
- July: [National Picnic Month](#)
- July 4: Independence Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- July 7: Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony in Ottumwa

Looking for a way to give back? Visit [Get Connected](#) today to find volunteer opportunities. Organizations can [post volunteer opportunities](#) on [Get Connected](#) as well at no cost.

