



## Iowa AmeriCorps State Funding Announcement

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Volunteer Iowa) is pleased to announce a Request for Applications (RFA) for Iowa AmeriCorps State programs to operate in 2024-2025.

For the 2024-2025 application process, Volunteer Iowa particularly seeks programs that address the following priorities, drawn from [Iowa's State Service Plan](#):

- Programs that are part of or utilize a comprehensive community strategy
- Programs or strategies that engage underrepresented populations and those that provide a high return on investment
- Programs in geographic areas that are underserved or have the highest need
- Programs that address disparities in rural communities or with minorities
- New service opportunities to develop community capital in the following areas:
  - State legislative & national service focus area
  - Governor's priority areas such as Future Ready Iowa, supporting Iowa's energy plan, childcare and enrichment, digital literacy and education

### Application Materials

Applicants for this funding will need to reference the complete application materials posted to the [AmeriCorps State grants page](#) of the Volunteer Iowa website. Applications will be accepted only from organizations seeking funding to operate a program wholly within the state of Iowa (multi-state applicants apply directly to AmeriCorps, formerly known as the Corporation for National and Community Service). Multi-state AmeriCorps National Direct applicants that intend to place members in Iowa must consult with Volunteer Iowa regarding these intended placements using the process and link provided in the RFA.

Deadlines for submission of the required Pre-Application and Final Application can be found on the [AmeriCorps State grants page](#). Full details about the Request for Applications can be found in [the announcement](#).

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## Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony - Storm Lake

The 2023 Governor's Volunteer Awards northwest regional ceremony was held on Thursday, September 14 in Storm Lake. The ceremony featured remarks from Governor Kim Reynolds, read by Buena Vista University President Brian Lenzmeier. Four regional ceremonies were previously held in Cedar Falls, Vinton, Ankeny and Ottumwa.



More than 600 awards were presented this year. 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 a meaningful way for Iowa nonprofits, charitable organizations, and government entities to honor their volunteers with a prestigious, state-level award.

More information, as well as [a complete list of award recipients and photos from each event](#), is available at [volunteeriowa.org](http://volunteeriowa.org).



## Glenwood Area Volunteers Recognized

On Friday, September 8, a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast was held at the Bloom Senior Center. Over 70 Glenwood area volunteers were recognized for their work. One volunteer, Bill Rowe, provided a variety of musical selections. All volunteers received an RSVP umbrella. Each place setting had a puzzle piece, with the saying "You are a piece of the puzzle in someone else's life. You may never know where you fit, but others will fill the holes in their lives with pieces of you." One of the event activities was to have all volunteers assist in putting together the puzzle. Contact [Jan Schnack](#), RSVP Coordinator, to learn more about volunteering with the RSVP program in the Glenwood area.



# Unlocking the Power of Strategic Volunteer Engagement for Nonprofit Executives

Nonprofit executives are in a challenging position. While organizations are experiencing unprecedented demand for services, the industry faces a workforce shortage, and executives and funders lack alignment on how to move forward to a solution. Through [their groundbreaking research](#), released earlier this year, the Initiative for Strategic Volunteer Engagement has uncovered evidence of the power of strategic volunteer engagement and its impact on a nonprofit's ability to achieve its mission.

During this webinar, panelists Betsy Jacobson, Executive Director, United Jewish Council of the East Side; Jermaine Myrie, CEO, MENTOR; Alisha Rulapaugh, Sr. Director of Operations, Northeast Iowa Food Bank; and Dr. Sue Carter Kahl, President, Sue Carter Kahl Consulting will discuss:

- Evidence-based insights into how strategic volunteer engagement can help your organization better meet its mission.
- How to position your ask to funders for financial support to build organizational capacity to support volunteer involvement.
- Strategies for more effectively reporting on the impact of your investment in strategic volunteer engagement.
- Tactics for addressing the disconnect between your approach and common funder perspectives.

Who Should Attend? CEOs and Executive Directors of nonprofit organizations; staff members of nonprofits are strongly encouraged to attend with a member of leadership.

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 4, 2:00 PM Central Time

Register: [Unlocking the Power of Strategic Volunteer Engagement for Nonprofit Executives](#)

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## 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](#).

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

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## Volunteerism in the News

- [UWECI Adds Additional Volunteer Center in Benton County](#)
- [Big Brothers Big Sisters honors current mentors and attracts new ones with event](#)
- [STARS Program in Search of Mentors](#)

- [Two organizations are merging in Benton County to help promote volunteerism](#)
- [Seeking role models](#)
- ['Everybody Wins! Iowa' celebrating National Literacy Month](#)
- [Special Experienced Adults Edition: Active retirees matched with interests, skills to volunteer opportunities](#)

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## Important Dates

- October 5: [National Do Something Nice Day](#)
- October 22: [National Make a Difference Day](#)
- October 27: [National Civics Day](#)
- October 30: [National Speak Up for Service Day](#)
- October 31: Halloween
- November 11: Veteran's Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- November 15: [National Philanthropy Day](#)
- November 13-21: [National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week](#)
- November 20: [Family Volunteer Day](#)
- November 24: Thanksgiving Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- November 25: [Native American Heritage Day](#) (Volunteer Iowa office closed)

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## We have a new website!

Volunteer Iowa has a new website! Visit [volunteeriowa.org](http://volunteeriowa.org) to check it out. Share your first impressions in the comments below! Problems with finding what you're looking for? Email us at [info@volunteeriowa.org](mailto:info@volunteeriowa.org).

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*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.*

Get Connected!



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Volunteer Iowa, administratively housed at the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services  
1.800.308.5987 | [info@volunteeriowa.org](mailto:info@volunteeriowa.org) | [www.volunteeriowa.org](http://www.volunteeriowa.org)

1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200 | Des Moines, IA 50315 US

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