



## Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame Nominations Open

Nominations for the 2024 Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame Awards are now being accepted! Nominations must be submitted online or postmarked by January 20, 2024; honorees will be recognized during a special ceremony at the Capitol in April. Details and nomination materials can be found on the [Volunteer Iowa website](#).

Induction into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame is the highest state-level honor volunteers can receive; the people selected have changed the community, the state, the nation, or the world through the gifts of their time and talent. Inductees are recognized both during a special ceremony held in the State Capitol Building and by having their names engraved on the Volunteer Hall of Fame plaque on permanent display in the State Historical Museum. Since the award's inception in 1989, over 175 Iowans have been honored.

Any Iowa individual, national service member (current or alum), family, group, organization, nonprofit, business, or corporation, who has made a long-lasting positive and meaningful difference in the lives of people through their volunteer service activities, may be nominated for the [Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame](#).

Anyone with questions or needing assistance with the nomination form can contact [Rebecca Gernes](#).

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## APPLICATION DEADLINES EXTENDED! Funding Opportunities for Nonprofits and Cities

Applications are now open for three "Training + Implementation Funding" programs to empower change through volunteer engagement, culminating in a 9/11 Day of Service. Ten organizations will be selected for each opportunity. At the heart of this initiative lies the belief that volunteering is a cornerstone of strong, vibrant communities. When nonprofits and cities harness the power of volunteers effectively, they can achieve extraordinary results.



1. [Service Enterprise Program](#): Funding of up to \$4,000 and access to a national, research-based organizational accreditation program in volunteer engagement designed to empower nonprofits to extend their mission and budget through strategic volunteer engagement. **Applications due December 12.**
2. [City Volunteer Engagement Initiative](#): Specially tailored for cities and municipalities, this cohort-based program provides training and \$4,000 to support city staff to develop, implement, and enhance volunteer engagement strategies that align with their unique needs and objectives. **Application deadline extended to January 22, 2024.**
3. [Youth Service Board Development](#): Each awarded organization will receive \$3,000 to develop a youth service board at their organization. This youth board will collaborate and plan a September 11th Day of Service for 9/11/2024 that inspires other youth in the community to volunteer and launch others into service beyond that day. **Applications due December 12.**

Each program includes comprehensive training and capacity building, implementation funding, and individualized coaching. Participants will implement what they learn and host a 9/11 Day of Service in their community. Applications are now open.

Contact [info@volunteeriowa.org](mailto:info@volunteeriowa.org) with any questions.



## Excellence in Disaster Services

# Leadership Award

Michael Rojas, Volunteer Iowa Disaster Program Officer, was honored last month with an “Excellence in AmeriCorps Award” during the annual AmeriCorps Symposium in Washington, DC. Michael served as an AmeriCorps State member with the Iowa Habitat for Humanity Mobile Response Team, responding to tornadoes and floods. He was then hired on as staff to lead and mentor new members in doing the same. Starting in 2020, Rojas led the Iowa COVID-19 pandemic food insecurity response. When a derecho swept through the state that year, he served as the Incident Commander for the FEMA MA. With Volunteer Iowa, he is taking the leadership skills he learned through AmeriCorps and putting them to work at the state and national levels.

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## Join our team!

Volunteer Iowa is seeking our next AmeriCorps Program Officer! We are accepting applications now through December 4. Interested in exploring this opportunity? Visit the [State of Iowa Job Board](#) for details and a link to apply.



## Meet our new VISTA!

Becca Ites is a Des Moines native. She joined Volunteer Iowa as the Iowa MENTOR Outreach and Engagement VISTA on November 5. Becca has a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and a master's in athletic development and Wellness Promotions.

Most of Becca's career has been spent working in a weightroom. She built and ran the strength and conditioning program at East High School beginning in 2014 and then moved to Johnston to assist their program development. She's seasoned in grant writing and management, volunteer networks, and program management and development. Her career has been spent in service and the VISTA position was a natural fit moving forward. Outside of work hours, you can find Becca gardening, hiking, or doing anything outdoors with her family.

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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

- [Special Experienced Adults Edition: Active retirees matched with interests, skills to volunteer opportunities](#)
  - [All In Mentoring continues to grow, expands services](#)
  - [ISU Extension breaks with Big Brothers Big Sisters Johnson County](#)
  - [Linn County recruiting high school students for new Climate Resiliency Corps](#)
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## Important Dates

- December 7: [National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day](#)
  - December 7: Hanakkah begins
  - December 10: [Human Rights Day](#)
  - December 25: Christmas Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
  - December 26: Volunteer Iowa office closed
  - December 26: Kwanzaa begins
  - January: [National Mentoring Month](#)
  - January 1: New Years Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
  - January 8: [War on Poverty Day](#)
  - January 9: [I Am A Mentor Day](#)
  - January 15: MLK Day of Service (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
  - January 17: [International Mentoring Day](#)
  - January 25: [Thank Your Mentor Day](#)
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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!



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)

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