

2024 State Priorities & Impact



For every \$1 appropriated by the state, we leverage over \$48 in funding (\$16.55 in private/local and \$32.11 in federal), not including the additional value of volunteer hours.

Our 2024 State Legislative 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

- Over **7,800** AmeriCorps Seniors & AmeriCorps members served in the last program year
- Over **\$3.4 million** in Segal education awards awarded to AmeriCorps members
- More than **\$29 million** in federal funding invested to support cost-effective community solutions
- More than **\$7.1 million** in outside resources leveraged from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources in Iowa last year
- Since 1994, more than **14,000** Iowa residents have served **19 million** hours, earning education awards totaling more than **\$48.2 million**



Community Volunteerism

- Nearly **73,000** volunteers are leveraged annually by Volunteer Iowa
- Volunteer Iowa's statewide database supports nearly **1,800** organizations in finding volunteers
- In 2022, **57.6%** of Iowans volunteered regularly according to a statewide survey (BRFSS)
- Volunteers provided service worth **\$1.3 billion** in labor to Iowa charities and communities keeping them afloat while meeting a bigger demand
- Iowa's informal volunteer rate ranks **9th** highest in the country



Mentoring

- Over **6,000** youth are served annually by a mentor in **52** local program partners of Iowa MENTOR
- **42** youth-serving programs meet national standards of the National Quality Mentoring System through the National Mentoring Resource Center
- Iowa MENTOR has program partners covering **66 counties**
- **81%** of participants in Iowa mentoring programs have met program goals

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.

AmeriCorps Seniors Priorities, including RSVP



AmeriCorps Seniors

Legislative Priority: Provide sufficient state funding to maintain support for all federally-awarded Iowa programs (\$418,698). Annual RSVP state funding is awarded in the Health and Human Services (HHS) appropriations subcommittee (transfer from Dept. on Aging Appropriation).

Impact: In 2022-2023, over 3,800 RSVP volunteers served Iowa communities, contributing over 222,000 hours to support community needs such as disaster relief, financial literacy, and food security, at a value of \$5.8 million.

AmeriCorps Priorities



AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Tax Burden

Legislative Priority: Exempt the AmeriCorps living allowance from state income tax.

Impact: AmeriCorps members have a tremendous impact, both directly and by leveraging additional volunteers (15,663 in 2022-2023), yet their compensation is little over the poverty level. Removing the income tax burden would help recruit and retain high-quality members. Tax proposals will be considered by the Ways and Means committees.

Iowa National Service Corps

Legislative Priority: Dedicate funding towards expanding the Iowa Reading Corps and/or formalize role of master coaching with AEAs and maintain appropriation for RefugeeRISE AmeriCorps.

Impact: The Iowa Reading Corps program has been shown to help struggling students' progress at 1.5 to 2 times the target rate. Funding and institutional efficiency would help expand the Reading Corps to rural areas. It is the currently the most cost-effective intervention.

Iowa MENTOR (Iowa Mentoring Partnership) Priorities



Legislative Priority: Maintain annual funding awarded for program grants in the Health and Human Services appropriations subcommittee (with Iowa Department of Public Health appropriation).

Impact: State funding supports grants to certified mentoring programs to connect young people with supportive adult relationships and provide specific substance abuse prevention training. Mentoring is an effective evidence-based prevention and intervention strategy with positive effects on school attendance and achievement, mental health support, violence prevention, and workforce development.