

# Volunteer Iowa | Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service



## 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 2025-2026. For the 2024-2025 application process, Volunteer Iowa particularly seeks programs that address the following priorities, drawn from Iowa's [State Service Plan](#):

- Developing new service opportunities
- Improving existing service opportunities and programming
- Building a culture and climate of service
- Expanding Iowa's volunteer base
- Service opportunities to develop community capital in the following areas:
  - State legislative and national service focus areas
  - Governor's priority areas such as Future Ready Iowa, supporting Iowa's energy plan, childcare and enrichment, digital literacy and education

### Application Materials

Applicants will need to reference the Request for Applications (RFA) 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 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.

Currently, returning operational AmeriCorps grantees are actively applying for AmeriCorps funding at the national level for competitive funding or seeking to continue funding through the Commission's state-level formula competition. New program applicants will compete through the formula competition later this winter/spring.

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 Applicants can be found in the [funding announcement](#). Questions about AmeriCorps state programming in Iowa can be sent to [americorps@volunteeriowa.org](mailto:americorps@volunteeriowa.org).

## Iowa Celebrates 30 Years of AmeriCorps

To celebrate the wrap up of AmeriCorps' year-long 30-year anniversary celebration, AmeriCorps and Volunteer Iowa celebrated with a one-day event on Friday, September 13. Approximately one hundred and fifty AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers and staff served with community organizations at one of six locations in Iowa - Oelwein, Cedar Rapids (two locations), Vinton, Dubuque, and Muscatine. Service activities included clearing small trees and shrubs, general building and grounds maintenance, harvesting produce and clearing gardens, planting trees and conducting species surveys.



Currently, more than 1.25 million AmeriCorps members and hundreds of thousands of AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have taken the pledge and served in communities large and small to help others live healthier, safer, smarter, and more resilient lives, while enhancing their own skills and earning money for their education.

To spotlight the valuable contributions of AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who pledged to "get things done" for our nation these past 30 years, we came together in service to others, to tackle the nation's most pressing challenges. These volunteers are essential to our nation's economic and social well-being. They are the lifeblood of our schools and shelters, hospitals, and hotlines, and civic, nonprofit, and faith-based organizations across the country. Staff representing Senator Charles Grassley, Senator Joni Ernst and Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks visited several of the service locations.



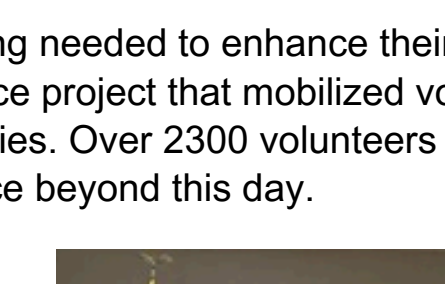
## Announcing Funding Opportunities for Nonprofits and Cities

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.
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.
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.

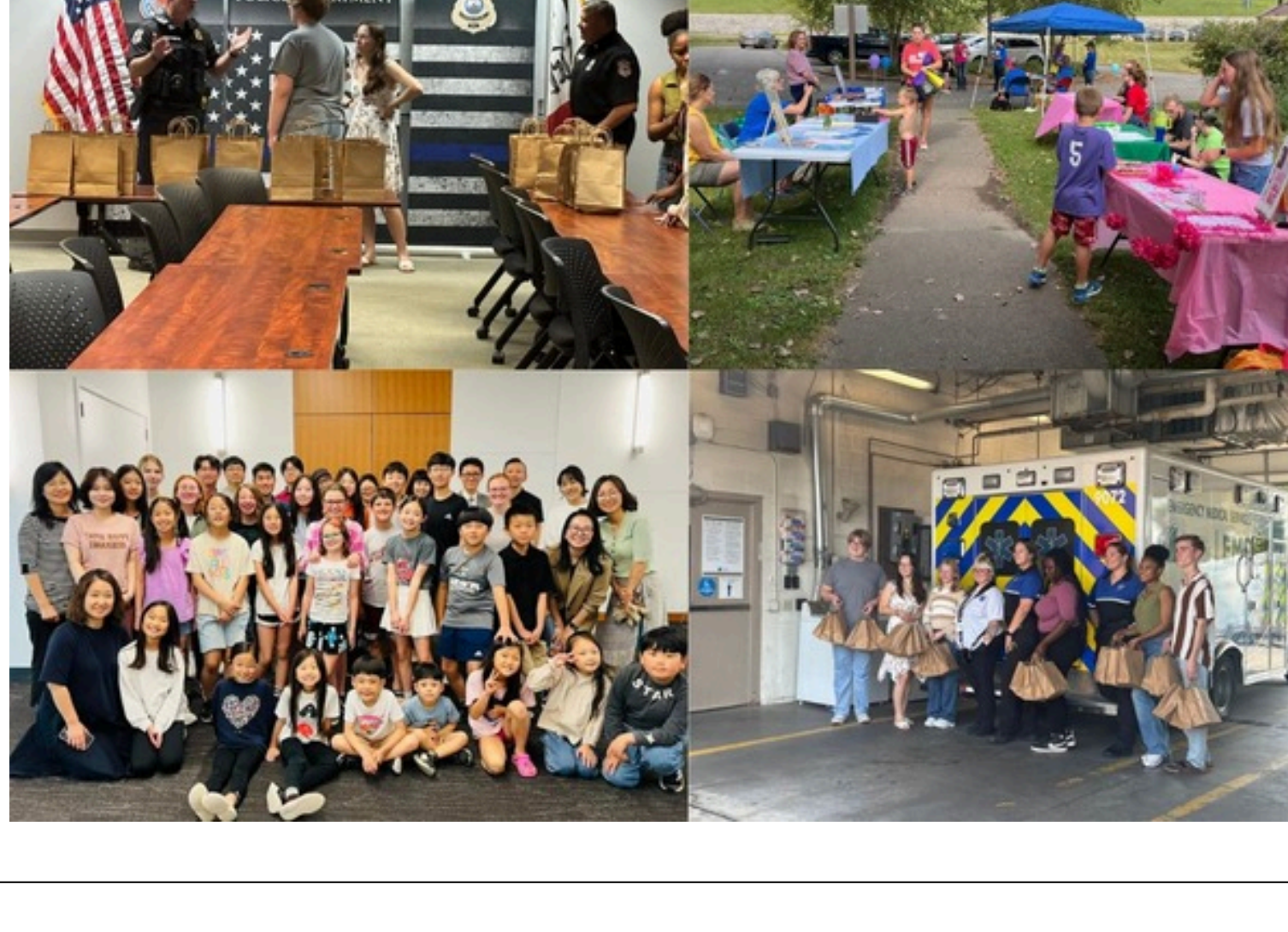
Each program includes comprehensive training and capacity building, implementation funding, and individualized coaching. Participants will implement what they learn and host a 9/11 Day of Service in their community.

## 9/11 Day of Service Activities



Thirty organizations completed Day of Service projects in honor of September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance through Volunteer Iowa's Training + Implementation Funding. Supporting by an AmeriCorps Grant, these organizations applied to participate in either the City Volunteer Initiative, the Service Enterprise Program, or the Youth Board Initiative. These initiatives equipped nonprofits and city governments with the tools, training, and

funding needed to enhance their capacity by leveraging volunteer talent and culminated in 9/11 Day of Service project that mobilized volunteers in meaningful volunteer projects that addressed local needs and priorities. Over 2300 volunteers were engaged across the state and 641 expressed a desire to continue service beyond this day.



## Iowa MENTOR Brown and Black Girls Summit

On Saturday September 7, Iowa MENTOR held the DWELL: Black and Brown Girls in Mentoring Summit. 30 attendees of all ages gathered at Reiman held the DWELL: Black and Brown Girls in Mentoring Summit. 30 attendees of all ages gathered at Reiman held the DWELL: Black and Brown Girls in Mentoring Summit. 30 attendees of all ages gathered at Reiman held the DWELL: Black and Brown Girls in Mentoring Summit.

Activities ranged from mindfulness exercises like yoga, journaling and a wellness discussion seminar, to dancing, making natural beauty products from scratch and a workshop on setting intentions.

The day was broken into seven segments, which included a choice of activity or large-group seminar. Activities ranged from mindfulness exercises like yoga, journaling and a wellness discussion seminar, to dancing, making natural beauty products from scratch and a workshop on setting intentions.

The summit's theme, "The Worth Within Us," was reflected in each event throughout the day. DWELL attendees left with empowerment bags full of books, affirmations and resources, as well as new knowledge of themselves and other generations.



## Don't miss the 2024 Iowa Nonprofit Summit, October 22

The [Iowa Nonprofit Summit](#) brings together hundreds of nonprofit leaders from across Iowa to expand their knowledge of advocacy, fundraising, and philanthropy practices. It serves as a platform for connection and collaboration to enhance the nonprofit sector.

Join over 300 of your nonprofit colleagues for two days filled with professional development, networking, inspiration, and celebration – curated specifically for Iowa's nonprofit professionals.

In addition to practical trainings, hear from two nonprofit thought leaders.

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

The Kirkwood Center  
7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Iowa Nonprofit Alliance members get a deep discount. [See the tuition rates here.](#)

## Volunteerism in the News

- [2024 Excellence in AmeriCorps Awards Celebrates Outstanding Service and Impact](#)
- [Iowa Volunteers Stand United in Service to Honor the September 11th Day of Remembrance](#)
- [Greenwood volunteer celebrates 99th birthday: says helping others keeps her young](#)
- [AmeriCorps holds environmental service project at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve](#)
- [One tree at a time: Volunteers plant 40 trees at Woodlawn Cemetery](#)
- [Iowa Celebrates AmeriCorps 30th Anniversary](#)
- [NAMI Dubuque holds second annual suicide awareness walk](#)
- [It's "All in the Family" For RSVP Volunteers Northeast Iowa RSVP currently works with about 80 community organizations in Allamakee, Winneshiek and Howard counties](#)
- [City: Ottumwa Youth City Council to Recognize First Responders](#)
- [9/11 Hope and Honor Walk held in Cedar Falls](#)
- [Waterloo joins community partners for 9/11 Day of Service](#)
- [Waterloo's Day of Service starting Wednesday morning](#)
- [Cedar Falls honors remembers September 11th with 5K](#)

## Current Volunteer Iowa Opportunities

Volunteer with us! Find volunteer opportunities with Volunteer Iowa here: [Volunteer Iowa | Volunteer Iowa \(galaxydigital.com\)](#)

AmeriCorps programs across Iowa, supported by Volunteer Iowa, are recruiting now. Find a listing of Iowa AmeriCorps programs at [Join AmeriCorps | Volunteer Iowa](#).

## Important Dates

- **October 22:** Iowa Nonprofit Summit
- **October 26:** National Make a Difference Day
- **October 27:** National Civics Day
- **October 30:** National Speak Up for Service Day
- **November 11:** Veteran's Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- **November 15:** National Philanthropy Day
- **November 17-23:** National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week
- **November 23:** Family Volunteering Day
- **November 28:** Thanksgiving Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- **November 29:** Native American Heritage Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)

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.



Stay Connected with the Volunteer Iowa:

