

26-27 Program Manual Change Log

Section	Change
Entire Manual	Sections 1.1 (Introduction and Role of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service), 1.3 (Leadership and Public Policy), 5 Iowa AmeriCorps Program Staff Core Competencies), and 6 (AmeriCorps Program Checklists, Resources and Tools) have been removed from the 2026-2027 Program Manual. All information removed is available as standalone documents in Basecamp.
Entire Manual	Volunteer Iowa has removed the requirement related to recruitment plans and recruitment and retention meetings based upon enrollment and retention averages.
Entire Manual	References to the CFR have been updated as needed.
Entire Manual	Updated language re: Federal Financial Reports, Unexpended Funds reports, and Excess Program Income reports. Clarified which reporting is required for each grant type (cost reimbursement and fixed).
1.2.A VI.	Information and requirements related to Recruitment and Retention plans and calls has been removed. Programs are strongly encouraged to complete a recruitment plan and take actions necessary to improve retention rates.
1.2.4	Removed the information about assessing program risk. Items included in program risk have been moved into the Monitoring Assessment form.
1.2.4 A	Removed the list of sample actions and activities that may impact the monitoring assessment levels.
1.2.5 C	Clarified the definition of “new program”.
1.2.5 E	Clarified the regular Financial Reporting monitoring opportunities
1.2.5 M 1V.	Added the option of Program Improvement Plan as a step that can be taken to correct identified issues, but that does not impact the State Support Cost amount.
1.2.5F	Added language about the impact of late or incomplete closeout packets impacting the ability to receive a no cost extension in the next grant year.
1.2.5H III.	Clarified language about Grantee’s responsibilities during desk reviews.
1.3	The Calendar of Events section number has been changed from 1.4 to 1.3 and updated for 2026-2027
2.1.3	Update language to reflect the change in the name of the Member Short-Term Leave, Suspension, and Exit policy, and the Living Allowance Management Policy.
2.1.3	Added language about an AI policy being required in 27-28
2.1.4 R	Updated language about the Assigned Technology Agreement.
2.1.8 C	Updated Iowa AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team to Iowa AmeriCorps Disaster Cadre
2.3.1 A	Revised performance measures language to be geared toward applicants and not awarded programs.
3.1.1 A	Changed the date of the second Enrollment Plan Update for programs with August/September start dates from May 30 th to May 1 st .
3.1.1 A	Added language about Abbreviated Time slots being available only to competitively funded programs in a continuation year.
3.1.1 A	Added language about term lengths and holidays or periods with limited service opportunities.

3.1.1 B	Added language slot conversion approval, caution to fixed amount grantees about the impact of slot conversions and reminding programs about the member management impact of enrolling many unplanned slots
3.1.5 B	Added language that clarifies that MSA amendments cannot be completed retroactively.
3.1.5 B	Clarified that all amendments to the MSA must be uploaded into OnCorps or in Correspondence in IowaGrants (for programs that do not use OnCorps) within 30 days of finalizing the agreement.
3.1.3 D	Added language about Reduced Half Time and Abbreviated Time slots being eliminated.
3.1.3 H	Added language about No Cost Extensions and late closeout packet submission.
3.1.5 I I.	Clarified the language around allowable member activities. Added language that identifies building capacity for the organization by moving activities from current staff or volunteers to a member as unallowable.
3.1.5 I I.	Added language about ensuring site supervisors understand they cannot assign additional activities to members without communicating with the program and completing an amendment to the MPD.
3.1.5 J.	Clarified language about the minimum hours in the Anticipated Service Schedule, and not using a range or average number of hours.
3.1.5 J.	Removed the variable schedule language and added language about enrolling members in slots that align with the anticipated service schedule e.g., one slot for school-year activities and one slot for summer activities.
3.1.6 A IV.	Moved language about garnishment of living allowance from section 4
3.1.6 A V.	Added guidance about the use of federal work study as member living allowance.
3.1.7 D	Added language about timekeeping basics that should be included in member training.
3.1.7 A. I.	Moved language about Jury Duty from section 4
3.1.7 A. II.	Moved language about National Guard Active Duty from section 4
3.1.7 I. III.	Clarified language about member end of term evaluations
3.2	Reorganized some information in this section. Clarified language about member training.
4.8.B I.	Clarified language around budget amendments in alignment with new AmeriCorps guidance.
4.8.B II.	Clarified language around budget review and modification.
4.8.C	Updated language about match waivers.
4.9.E	Updated reporting requirements for 26-27
5	Section 5, Iowa AmeriCorps Program Staff Core Competencies, has been removed and is available as a standalone document in Basecamp.
6	Section 6, AmeriCorps Program Checklists, Resources and Tools has been removed and a table of contents for all checklists, resources and tools is available in Basecamp