



## AmeriCorps Week 2020

AmeriCorps week, March 8-14, honors the valuable contributions of AmeriCorps members who pledge to "get things done" for Iowa and the nation as a whole. It also celebrates the contributions and support of the hundreds of local organizations that make AmeriCorps Iowa programs possible. Currently in Iowa, there are more than 1,500 members serving at more than 350 locations across the state.

Every year, 75,000 AmeriCorps members serve through more than 20,000 schools, nonprofits, and community and faith-based organizations across the country. In Iowa, members have played critical roles in the recovery of communities affected by natural disasters like the flooding in southwest Iowa in 2019 and the Marshalltown tornado in 2018. They also tutor and mentor children and youth, support refugee individuals and families, combat the opioid epidemic, restore the environment and meet other critical needs.

Volunteer Iowa will be profiling current and former AmeriCorps members throughout the week on social media and on our blog. Do you want to share your AmeriCorps story? Click [HERE](#) and complete a short form.

To join the AmeriCorps week celebration, follow AmeriCorps on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and join the conversation by sharing pictures and stories on Twitter, using #MadeinAmeriCorps and #AmeriCorpsWorks. Those interested in joining AmeriCorps can learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov/join](http://AmeriCorps.gov/join).



## Be The Greater Good. Join AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps is your moment to take the path less traveled, to break the status quo, to stop talking about the problem and be the solution. Join AmeriCorps and you can mentor and tutor kids, rebuild a community after disaster, help veterans, or work with local communities to alleviate poverty. There are thoughts of opportunities to choose from; find the one that fits you. Click [HERE](#) for more information or to apply.

## Become a Future Ready Iowa Career Mentor!



The Future Ready Iowa Mentoring Program launched in February, with the goal of pairing recipients of Last-Dollar Scholarships with mentors working in their field of study. Mentors and students will primarily interact through an e-mentoring communications platform, which overcomes any geographic barriers or scheduling conflicts. Through engagement in the program, students will establish meaningful career connections and strengthen their job readiness skills. Matches between students and mentors will be based on multiple factors, including professional goals, interests, and background.

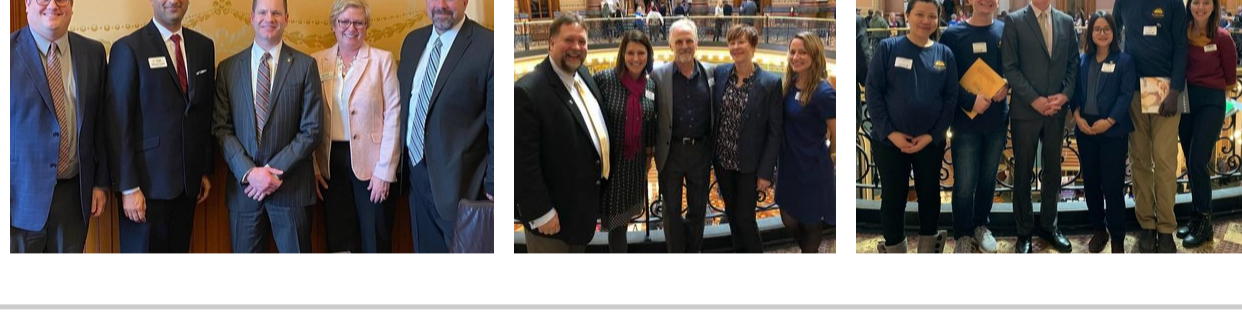
The Future Ready Iowa Mentoring Program is actively recruiting mentors in a variety of high-demand career fields. Mentors are especially needed in the areas of nursing/healthcare and IT/network administration. The program is being administered by staff at Volunteer Iowa and the Iowa Mentoring Partnership. If you would like to connect with Program Manager Jason Wiegand, he can be reached at [jason.wiegand@iowaeda.com](mailto:jason.wiegand@iowaeda.com). You can learn more about the program volunteer to serve as a career mentor at <https://futurereadyiowamentoring.chronus.com/>.

## Volunteer Iowa Day at the Capitol Overview

Volunteer Iowa and the Iowa Mentoring Partnership hosted Volunteer Iowa Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, February 11. This year, 55 attendees representing 20 organizations interacted with 52 Iowa legislators to share the latest information on the tremendous contributions volunteers and mentors make in Iowa's communities and the impact they have.

Staff members and participants from Volunteer Iowa programs (including AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, RSVP, Volunteer Centers, and Mentoring Programs) educated lawmakers about the impact their programs have across the state and informed them about the high-quality program support and resources provided to them by Volunteer Iowa and the Iowa Mentoring Partnership.

Thank you to the Commissioners and program staff served by Volunteer Iowa for joining us this year!

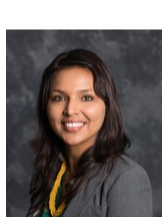


## 6th Annual Give Back Iowa Challenge



The 6th Annual Give Back Iowa Challenge registration is now open! Now is the time to register your organization and begin planning for the two month challenge! Register today at <https://volunteerchallenge.iowa.gov/volunteer-challenge-employer-registration>.

The Give Back Iowa Challenge is an eight-week statewide challenge, which serves as a competitive way to encourage organizations and businesses alike to participate in community volunteering. The Challenge runs from April 1st through May 31st. It's simple; register your organization, track the hours of your employees, record those hours on our system, and celebrate your employees and their dedication to volunteerism!



## Innovation Exchange 2020

Volunteer Iowa programs and their community partners are invited to attend a day of professional development. Don't miss this opportunity to network, develop community collaborations and share innovative ideas and resources.

In addition to networking opportunities, topics will include:

- Recognizing and addressing racial and implicit bias with volunteers and programming
- Inclusive and equitable volunteer recruitment and retention strategies
- Continuous improvement from our challenges/successes

These sessions will be facilitated by Manisha Paudel, Equity Coordinator with the City of Des Moines. The sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, April 28 in Waterloo and Wednesday, April 29 in Des Moines, from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Contact Chad Driscoll at [chad.driscoll@iowaeda.com](mailto:chad.driscoll@iowaeda.com) or 515.348.6227 with questions. Registration will open later in March.

## Reminder - Volunteer Iowa's Address Has Changed!

Volunteer Iowa moved to a new location in December 2019. This may mean that your organization needs to request a W-9 from Volunteer Iowa to update our address in your vendor system. You can request an updated W-9 by contacting [icvs@iowaeda.com](mailto:icvs@iowaeda.com) or calling 800.308.5987.



## Upcoming AmeriCorps Formula Grant Deadline

The next, and final, deadline to submit an AmeriCorps pre-application to be considered for funding in the 2020-2021 program year is March 10. Any new applicant that is interested in applying for AmeriCorps funding needs to submit a pre-application by the deadline. All materials are available online: <https://volunteeriowa.org/document/2020iowaamericorpsgrants>. This will outline the remaining deadlines, timeline of the process, and how and where to submit information. If you have any questions, please reach out to [americorps@iowaeda.com](mailto:americorps@iowaeda.com).



## Notice of Funding Opportunity

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has posted a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for the purpose of mobilizing more Americans to engage in service for the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance and/or the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

If you are interested in organizing service projects for these national days of service and meet the criteria for applying, we hope you will consider these opportunities. Information about the full NOFO, application instructions, and a link to eGrants, can be found [here](#).

**Applications are due by Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

## Volunteer Hall of Fame People's Choice Award



The Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame inductees will be announced soon, and that means the People's Choice Award voting will begin! During the month of March, the public is invited to vote for the Volunteer Hall of Fame inductee they feel most deserves to receive the People's Choice award, which gives extra recognition for exceptional contributions as a volunteer.

The list of inductees and an online polling station can be found at [volunteeriowa.org](http://volunteeriowa.org). One vote per day may be submitted through March 31.

The People's Choice Award winner will be announced April 21 during a recognition ceremony in the State Capitol for the 2020 Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame honorees and Excellence in Mentoring Award recipients.

## Service in the News

- [\\$21.3 Million Awarded for Senior Corps Volunteer Programs](#)

## Important Dates

- March 8: [International Women's Day](#)
- March 8-14: [AmeriCorps Week](#)
- March 10: Pre-applications due for NEW [AmeriCorps applications](#)
- April: [Global Volunteer Month](#)
- April 1: [Give Back Iowa Challenge](#) begins
- April 7: [National Service Recognition Day](#)
- April 17-19: [Global Youth Service Day](#)
- April 19-25: [National Volunteer Week](#)
- April 21: Volunteer Hall of Fame and Excellence in Mentoring Awards Ceremony
- April 22: [Earth Day](#)
- April 28: Innovation Exchange, Waterloo
- April 29: Innovation Exchange, Des Moines

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!

