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Governor Ricketts Announces AmeriCorps Grants to Nebraska Organizations

59 AmeriCorps members to meet state and local needs

STATE CAPITAL – Governor Pete Ricketts today announced that Nebraska has received \$1,684,153 in AmeriCorps funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

These grants will support 59 AmeriCorps members across the state to serve with two organizations – College Possible and Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. AmeriCorps members will tackle critical challenges in Nebraska including providing college preparedness, enrollment, and retention services, as well as targeted case management, job readiness training, and connection to services.

“This commitment from AmeriCorps will help organizations continue to pursue their missions that promote service and volunteerism in Nebraska,” said Governor Ricketts. “These AmeriCorps members will meet pressing local needs and strengthen communities as they develop civic and leadership skills to last a lifetime. I congratulate these outstanding organizations and thank all those who serve their communities through AmeriCorps.”

“AmeriCorps members personify the caring spirit of Nebraska and are a large reason why our state is ranked 6th in the nation in volunteering,” said ServeNebraska Executive Director Cathleen Plager. “Sharing a similar mission with ServeNebraska, AmeriCorps members will improve lives and strengthen communities across the state.

Of the total funding amount, \$1,115,467 million will be granted to ServeNebraska, the Governor-appointed state service commission, which in turn will award grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies across the state. Established in 1994, ServeNebraska’s purpose is to mobilize volunteers through the AmeriCorps Volunteer Program. Over the past 20 years ServeNebraska has impacted hundreds of individuals and families through non-profit, government and faith-based organizations helping create stronger communities and positively helping those in need throughout Nebraska.

After completing a full term of service, AmeriCorps members receive an Education Award that they can use to pay for college or to pay off student loans. The total amount made available to AmeriCorps members funded by these grants is \$280,936.

Nebraska currently has 13 AmeriCorps programs with 329 members serving their communities. Over 4,100 volunteers were mobilized by AmeriCorps members in the last year alone. Since 1994, more than 5,700 AmeriCorps members have served 9 million hours and earned more than \$20,630,000 in education scholarships in our state.

Below is a listing of 2015 AmeriCorps competitive grants in Nebraska:

Organization	Total Funding	AmeriCorps Members	Description
College Possible	\$228,000	20	AmeriCorps members will provide college preparedness, enrollment, and retention services to high school students in Omaha, Nebraska.
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska	\$340,686	39	AmeriCorps members will provide targeted case management, job readiness training, and connection to services for refugee and immigrant populations, low-income families, at-risk youth, and veterans and military families in urban and rural areas across Nebraska. AmeriCorps members will recruit and support volunteers to assist in addressing the needs of the target populations.

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