

2011

ServeNebraska
Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission

ANNUAL REPORT



SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR
JULY 20, 2012



Commission Chair, Jamesena Moore
Executive Director, Barbara Wilson Thomas

Mobilizing Nebraskans to Strengthen their Communities through Volunteering, Collaboration, and National Service Programs

ServeNebraska

History

ServeNebraska – the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission was established in 1994 as the Nebraska Commission for National & Community Service by Governor Ben Nelson’s Executive Order to “engage the idealism and energy of Nebraskans to meet the most critical needs of our communities.” In fulfilling this charge, we encourage and facilitate involvement by people of all ages and all walks of life to make the good life in Nebraska even better. ServeNebraska is independent, yet part of a network of state service commissions providing local input and community throughout our nation.

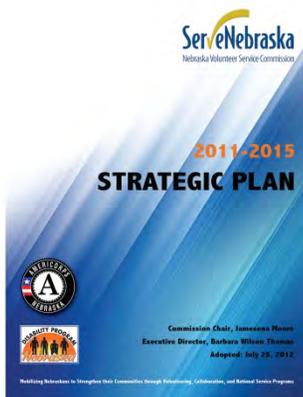
A diverse bipartisan Commission appointed by the Governor provides leadership and ensures that varied interest and perspectives are represented. Learn about becoming a Commissioner at http://serve.nebraska.gov/about/about_commissioners_staff.htm.

Mission

Mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration, and national service programs.

The simple statement captures the essence of the Commission’s work and reinforces our primary role of providing leadership and resources to support local service and volunteerism initiatives that meet community needs.

As the state service commission, ServeNebraska directs AmeriCorps national service programs, disability inclusion initiatives, professional development/training opportunities, volunteer service recognition, and capacity building efforts that enhance effectiveness and efficiency. ServeNebraska makes grants; facilitates collaboration with other agencies, foundations, community organizations and state, local and tribal governments; coordinates the sharing of resources; provides leadership in volunteerism and service; and ensures the quality of national service member and beneficiary experiences. ServeNebraska is the only state entity in Nebraska focused on volunteerism and national service.



2011-2015 Strategic Plan

ServeNebraska’s new five-year Strategic Plan, finalized in July 2011, is a roadmap to address the critical challenges facing Nebraska communities. Aimed at utilizing national service and volunteerism as strategies to guide Nebraska communities to look at innovative and creative ways to meet local critical needs, the plan incorporates valuable input gathered from rural and urban communities across the state.

The goals, objectives and activities identified in the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan recognize the critical role that ServeNebraska plays in engaging Nebraskans in service. The Strategic Plan highlights broad approaches to addressing community problems, supporting our most vulnerable citizens, strengthening the voluntary sector and leading the effort to build quality programs that add to the professional skills of Nebraskans aiming to better their communities.

ServeNebraska is...

Connecting...

By developing and giving visibility to the high impact national service and volunteer programs across the state, ServeNebraska continues to unite Nebraskans to solve community problems.



Recognizing...

Uniting Nebraskans to celebrate the generosity and achievements of volunteers and national service members through the annual First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards and the quarterly Governor's Points of Light Awards builds a strong foundation for "service above self" in Nebraska.

Building Quality...

Building upon the idealism of national service participants and volunteers, ServeNebraska provides resources, training, and technical assistance that grows high quality programs and engages a powerful strategy for change in the experience of serving others.



Connecting ...



AmeriCorps Nebraska Serves the Needs in Local Communities

OUTREACH

ServeNebraska had the privilege to support 12 AmeriCorps programs in 2011. AmeriCorps members served in 44 Nebraska counties at 95 host site organizations throughout Nebraska, covering 89.2% of Nebraska's population.

Nebraska counties impacted by the AmeriCorps programs are:

Adams, Box Butte, Buffalo, Burt, Cass, Colfax, Custer, Dakota, Dawes, Dawson, Dodge, Douglas, Franklin, Gage, Gosper, Hall, Harlan, Holt, Jefferson, Johnson, Kearney, Knox, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Scotts Bluff, Seward, Sheridan, Stanton, Thayer, Valley, Washington, Wayne and York.

30,066 Nebraska children, women and men received assistance from 258 AmeriCorps members

SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED

Members helped enhance education, develop job skills and increase the quality of life for beneficiaries, the majority of whom are low-income, living with a disability or facing other significant challenges.

GROWING THE ETHIC OF SERVICE

AmeriCorps members throughout Nebraska recruit mobilize and train volunteers to meet local needs such as teaching ESL, helping veterans find services, feeding the hungry, serving persons with disabilities, mentoring children in after school programs and assisting with job employment skills.

In an increase of 195% from the previous year, AmeriCorps members mobilized 7,802 community volunteers in 2011



AmeriCorps members in national service commit a year of their lives to serving and connecting with their Nebraska communities. In exchange for their service, members receive a modest living allowance and an education award that can be used to repay student loans or fund future education. Full-time and part-time opportunities exist. Full-time 2010-11 members earned an education award of \$5,350.

2010-11 AMERICORPS PROGRAMS	# AmeriCorps Members	Grant Amount	# Host Placement Sites	# Rural & Urban Counties (* duplicate count)
FORMULA GRANTS				
Blue Valley Community Action -- BVCA AmeriCorps	8	\$65,000.00	1	2
Center for People in Need -- Partners in Achievement	35	\$455,000.00	4	3
Center for Rural Affairs -- Econ Dev/Clean Environment	5	\$39,000.00	3	3
City of Lincoln -- Go Green	26	\$298,995.00	11	1
Goodwill Industries -- Youthbuild Omaha	24	\$75,518.00	1	1
Hastings Literacy AmeriCorps Program	16	\$54,992.00	4	3
Kearney Area Comm Foundation -- Rural Corps of SC NE	25	\$111,487.00	12	8
Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance AmeriCorps Program	3	\$39,000.00	1	1
State Probation -- RISE (Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment)	16	\$162,506.00	11	17
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	158	\$1,301,498.00	48	39
COMPETITIVE GRANTS				
City of Lincoln -- Reach for the Stars	36	\$376,922.00	26	1
Lutheran Family Services in Nebraska -- LFS-AmeriCorps	36	\$376,990.00	11	9
University of NE Medical Center -- MMI AmeriCorps	28	\$184,187.00	10	12
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	100	\$938,099.00	47	22
TOTALS	258	\$2,239,597.00	95	61
				* 44 unique counties

Nebraska's AmeriCorps programs leveraged \$1,638,480 in local resources

Formula Grants are awarded to smaller or newer initiatives addressing local or statewide needs through funds awarded based upon a population-based formula by the federal Corporation for National & Community Service.

Competitive Grants are awarded to larger or more sophisticated initiatives addressing local or statewide needs through a national competitive process coordinated by the federal Corporation for National & Community Service.

Formula AmeriCorps Programs

During the 2010-11 program year, ServeNebraska coordinated 9 Formula AmeriCorps programs.

Blue Valley Community Action - Fairbury

Services for youth in southeastern Nebraska.

Center for People in Need – Lincoln; 4 host sites

Job training & assistance for low income individuals & families in Lincoln.

Center for Rural Affairs – Lyons; 3 host sites

Community development through microenterprise and community gardening in South Sioux City and Wellen.

City of Lincoln-Go Green; 11 host sites

Urban forestry and environmental activities & education.

Goodwill Industries-Omaha YouthBuild

Low income housing construction along with education and skill development of the AmeriCorps members.

Hastings Literacy Program; 4 host sites

Adult literacy and English Language Learner (ELL) instruction.

Kearney Area Community Foundation (Rural Corps); 12 host sites

Enhancing the volunteer capacity of a number of partner organizations in south central Nebraska.

Nebraska State Probation (RISE) – Lincoln; 11 host sites in rural Nebraska

Employment and job skill development to probationers in rural & frontier Nebraska.

Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance

Education and assistance to low-income residents of Omaha impacted by lead.

Competitive AmeriCorps Programs

During the 2010-11 program year, ServeNebraska provided leadership in the implementation of 3 Competitive AmeriCorps programs.

City of Lincoln-Reach for the Stars; 26 host sites

Comprehensive out-of-school services to youth in Lincoln's urban core.

Lutheran Family Services – Omaha; 11 host sites

Varied life-skills & employment readiness services to low-income, veterans and New American families in Omaha and Nebraska.

University of Nebraska Medical Center – Munroe Meyer Institute (MMI) – Omaha; 10 host sites

Varied services provided by and for individuals with a wide spectrum of disabilities in Omaha and throughout Nebraska.



New Service for Veterans Led by AmeriCorps Member in the At Ease Program at Lutheran Family Services

A U.S. Air Force veteran began service in 2011 as an AmeriCorps member with the At Ease Program at LFS and assisted in establishing and facilitating a peer-to-peer veteran's support group. The group provides an opportunity for veterans to encourage and talk with other veterans who may be experiencing similar challenges in their lives.

"I have a heart for veterans," said the AmeriCorps member. "The peer-to-peer group offers veterans support and encouragement from someone who can relate to their experiences and helps them take the next steps in their lives. It's so inspiring to see what the veterans can accomplish with support from the group, whether it's pursuing higher education, coping with PTSD or struggling to rebuild their lives."

ServeNebraska InterCorps Council

The InterCorps Council (ICC) is a representative body of 25 national service leaders from state, national and tribal Nebraska AmeriCorps and VISTA programs in Nebraska. ICC members provide leadership in connecting and coordinating programs and members to increase the reach and appreciation of national service in Nebraska. This group of energetic and passionate national service members:

- Conduct outreach presentations on AmeriCorps and national service in partnership with ServeNebraska commissioners;
- Provide key leadership roles in at least one service project for the year;
- Serve as ambassadors with elected officials and public leaders; and
- Promote disability inclusion within national service programs.

National Days of Service

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY (April 15-17)

For the 5th consecutive year, ServeNebraska successfully initiated Global Youth Service Day activities as a Nebraska lead agency for Youth Service America through funding from the State Farm Foundation, \$1,750 in mini-grant funding was awarded to 11 community projects led by and benefitting youth. 222 youth and 70 adult volunteers contributed 772 hours benefiting 4,855 adults and 1,216 youth in their communities. *Pictured at right are teens clearing trees and brush from the Allwine Prairie Butterfly Corridor to preserve the fragile ecosystem.*



JOIN HANDS DAY (May 7)

The ICC coordinated a Book Drive under the leadership of ICC member Charles Lieske (RISE AmeriCorps member) for Join Hands Day from April 9 through May 7. The statewide effort of collecting new and used books helped recognize the importance of literacy in our communities and encouraged children and adults to continue to read throughout the summer. AmeriCorps members set up 10 donation sites throughout the State of Nebraska. 69 volunteers were involved in the book drive collecting, sorting and distributing 1,377 adult books and 973 youth books.

AMERICORPS WEEK (May 14-21)

Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle hosted a Roundtable discussion during AmeriCorps Week with AmeriCorps and VISTA members May 16 on the impact of national service. More than 40 members attended to share their stories and the outstanding outcomes their service has had to engage and empower Omaha citizens to take action to tackle local problems. Mayor Suttle has VISTA members actively serving in his administration to assist with implementation of the Omaha Serves Cities of Service community service initiative. The Cities of Service started nationally as a bipartisan coalition of more than 125 mayors as a way to address local community issues. *At right, Maggie Matteis, ICC Chair and Reach for the Stars AmeriCorps member, accepts the 2011 AmeriCorps Week Proclamation from Governor Dave Heineman.*



9/11 DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE (September 11)

ServeNebraska proudly provided leadership and support in honoring the legacy of 9/11 and joined forces with the Corporation for National and Community Service to award 11 mini-grants (\$9,255) to communities throughout Nebraska. These mini-grants ensured that 9/11 is never viewed as just another day and is instead observed with appropriate reflection, giving and fellowship.

Through community service projects, tribute was paid to 9/11 victims, survivors and first responders, and to our veterans and military families who help to keep our country safe. The emphasis on service honors the memory of those lost and aims to rekindle the compassion and unity felt throughout our nation after the attacks. Projects ranged from food drives and school beautification to disaster preparation and neighborhood cleanups with many focused on honoring veterans, soldiers, and first responders.

City of South Sioux City 9/11 Mini-Grant Project

The City of South Sioux City hosted a day of service in Freedom Park to honor a local fallen soldier - John Douangdara, a U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class and lead dog trainer for the U.S. Navy Seals and his dog, Bart. Volunteers planted trees, and a dog run was dedicated in South Sioux City in their honor (*pictured at right*). The dog park inside the Siouxland Freedom Park was named after Douangdara, who was killed when a helicopter carrying him and 29 other service members, including an elite group of Navy Seals, was shot down over Afghanistan. A statue of the dog handler and his dog is planned in 2012. While the park is named in his honor, it has a bigger meaning. "We just want to be able not only honor him but honor all veterans," said the sister of the fallen officer.



Disability Inclusion



In 2011, ServeNebraska's Disability Program provided accommodations and two grant opportunities to increase service opportunities possible for national service members and others with disabilities.



GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY DISABILITY MINI-GRANTS (APRIL 15-17)

\$2,070 in mini-grants supported 5 service projects to benefit youth with disabilities. 169 youth and 271 adult volunteers contributed a total of 1,216 hours of service directly benefiting 2,829 adults and 563 youth in their communities.

Shown at left is the Hart of the Matter project which united Ackerman Elementary students with children who are medically fragile and/or developmentally delayed from the Children's Respite Care Center. Through the use of adaptive equipment children with disability were able to join their peers and use their talents and creative expression to paint a large mural.

DISABILITY INCLUSION GRANTS

Special Disability Inclusion Demonstration Project (Summer 2011)

ServeNebraska partnered with Easterday Recreation Center (Lincoln) to provide 23 persons with disabilities age 18+, with the opportunity to develop lifetime skills in photography, sewing and model building in hopes of fostering independence and sustaining community involvement.

Participants took classes at Easterday Recreation Center in order to prepare projects to be presented at the Lancaster County Fair. Their efforts were entered and displayed in the Open Class Unique Individuals and Situations category. Leadership for this initiative was provided by Nate Hall, a Reach for the Stars AmeriCorps member in service at Easter Day Recreation Center.



Disability Inclusion Special Mini-Grants (Fall 2011)

ServeNebraska made available a Disability Inclusion Funding Opportunity in late fall 2011. This opportunity provided national service programs (AmeriCorps, VISTA and Senior Corps) the ability to improve programs and enhance member experiences. The grants emphasized helping programs identify and meet specific needs in the areas of:

- Inclusive Website Design,
- Reasonable Accommodations,
- Disability Inclusion Training/Conference Scholarships, and
- Disability Inclusion Special Projects.

Impact of Reasonable Accommodations in Changing Lives



Senior Corps/Foster Grandparent

Funding from a mini-grant allowed for the purchase of an IPAD with adaptive software programs which allowed the Foster Grandparent to communicate through 'voiceover' capability. She is now able to read to the children at story time and communicate much more effectively with her counterparts at her service location. Training to learn how to use the adaptive equipment was provided by staff at Hastings College.



RSVP – Retired Senior Volunteer

Dragon Software was purchased through a mini-grant to assist a Meals on Wheels volunteer to increase his ability to recognize written letters and numbers and allowed him to turn his verbal speech into a digital format. This adaptive equipment enabled a great volunteer be an even bigger asset to the community in which he serves. Training and guidance was provided by Assistive Technology Partnership.

Recognizing ...

Those Who Give So Much

Volunteer recognition from state leaders highlight the generosity of Nebraskans while inspiring others to action.

Governor's Points of Light Award Honorees

The Governor's Points of Light Awards are presented quarterly at a special ceremony at the State Capitol to recognize Nebraska volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities. Awards are presented quarterly to a Youth, Adult, or Group committed to service. Points of Light recipients reflect the fulfillment of one or more of the following criteria for Nebraska's communities: Community Needs & Solutions, Community Mobilization, Innovation, Building Partnerships & Collaboration, Impact and Ongoing Involvement. ServeNebraska received a total of 74 nominations for Governor's Points of Light in 2011.

2011 Award Honorees

February 2011

Adult **Bill & Evonne Williams, Omaha**

Youth **Taylor Grace, Springfield**

Group **Mourning Hope Grief Center Volunteers, Lincoln**

May 2011

Adult **John Johnson, Cody**

Youth **Mohit Jain, Omaha**

Group **Heartland Council of Pioneers Volunteers, Omaha**

August 2011

Adult **Michael J. Gallagher, Omaha**

Youth **Asmini KC, Omaha**

Group **United Methodist Committee on Relief, Cambridge and Falls City**

November 2011

Adult **Kelly Jolkowski, Omaha**

Youth **Andy Chase, Hastings**

Group **aWholeBunchofPeople.org, Lincoln**



Andy Chase of Hastings, November Youth Honoree

Andy assists with the after-school and summer food programs at the YWCA Zone. He also volunteered for the Spouse Abuse Shelter's No Violence Day and the Hastings Animal Shelter.

First Lady's Community Service Award Honorees

Nebraska's First Lady Sally Ganem is the former principal of Howard Elementary School in Fremont, Nebraska. Given her lifelong interest and passion for education, the First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards are focused on her commitment to learning. Awards honor distinguished community service. The First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards are presented annually at a special spring luncheon in recognition of distinguished volunteer service in fourteen categories.

2011 Award Honorees:

*Lifetime Achievement in Volunteer Service - **Sandra K. Meyer, North Platte***

*Outstanding Volunteer of the Year - **Sallie Atkins, Halsey***

*Outstanding Volunteer Group of the Year - **Eastern NE-Western IA Medical Reserve Corps, Omaha***

*National Service Award - **Geraldine Stirtz, Kearney** (Rural Corps of South Central Nebraska)*

*Debra Hartmann Outstanding Volunteer Management Professional Award - **Michael Ryan, Lincoln** (The Gathering Place)*

*Outstanding Service-Learning Adult Leader - **Terry McMullen, Omaha** (Metropolitan Community College)*

*Outstanding Service-Learning Student Leader - **Hannah Thompson, Omaha** (College of Saint Mary)*

*Outstanding Community Service Learning Program - **University of Nebraska Omaha, Service Learning Academy***

*Outstanding School Volunteer Program - **Reading Together Tutors, Grand Island** (Stolley Park Elementary School)*

*Outstanding Community Partnership in Education - **Operation SMART, Omaha** (College of Saint Mary & Girls, Inc)*

*Outstanding Business Support for Education - **Omaha Yahoo! Employee Foundation, Omaha***

*Outstanding Student Leader - **Marya Case-Ruchala, Lincoln** (Volunteer Partners)*

*Outstanding Community Service in Environmental Stewardship - **Green Bellevue, Bellevue***

*Outstanding Community Service Project - **Irving Middle School Community Outreach Challenge, Lincoln***

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year – Sallie Atkins of Halsey

As president of the Nebraska State Fair Board, Sallie led successful efforts to relocate the fair from Lincoln to a new site in Grand Island — in 400 days — coordinating all of the volunteers who made it possible... and she did it while being treated for breast cancer.

Outstanding Service-Learning Student Leader – Hannah Thompson of Omaha

The student leader of 'Do Unto Others' at the College of St. Mary, was involved in such projects as collecting shoes for children in developing countries, a clothing drive for the Open Door Mission, a book drive for children in Uganda, and raising money for Mercy Beyond Borders in Sudan.

Building Quality ...

In Volunteer, National & Community Service

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

ServeNebraska's Training Program provides high quality professional development to national service program members and others involved in community and national service. A new training approach focusing on three primary constituencies was adopted in 2011: (1) current AmeriCorps programs and members; (2) current programs and participants in other streams of national service; and (3) potential new sponsors and participants. In 2011, two signature in-person training events provided motivation and direction to AmeriCorps program leaders, staff and members.

AmeriCorps Staff Launch – August 2011

ServeNebraska staff introduced 31 program and financial staff leaders of AmeriCorps programming to new program developments prior to the start of the new program year. Among the items shared were provisions and expectations, processes and procedures, ongoing training and technical assistance initiatives, and community resources for disability and inclusion needs. Additionally the one-day training gave program staff the opportunity to network with other programs and ServeNebraska commissioners.

Statewide AmeriCorps Kickoff – October 2011

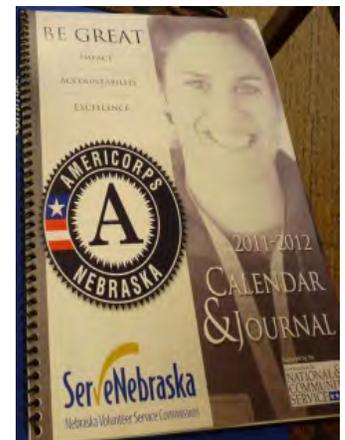


Nebraska First Lady and ServeNebraska Honorary Chair Sally Ganem kicked off the event by leading AmeriCorps members in the AmeriCorps Service Pledge (*shown at left*). The all-day training provided an opportunity for AmeriCorps members from programs across the state to gather, learn and network.

Training sessions focused on areas identified through an online needs assessment. Sessions were conducted on: (1) Navigating Difficult Conversations, (2) Everyday Professionalism, (3) Developing Your Personal, Powerful Elevator Speech, and (4) Civic Reflection on Diversity. AmeriCorps member teams worked

together to create posters that spoke to service and volunteerism and reflected the program and service they were assigned. Over lunch, AmeriCorps alums shared their experiences as AmeriCorps members and life after AmeriCorps.

A Calendar/Journal (*shown at right*) was developed for AmeriCorps members to use during their year of service to record their personal reflections of their service year in preparation for developing a creative project for the new Symposium – Celebration of Service planned in 2012.



Civic Reflection – June 2011

ServeNebraska adopted Civic Reflection as a service strategy with the initial training of program leaders and held its first Civic Reflection group discussion at the 2011 AmeriCorps Kick-off. Civic Reflection is the practice of reading and discussing short pieces of literature as a means of reflecting on the central questions of civic life. This simple practice can help citizens talk more comfortably about values, think more deeply about choices, and respond more imaginatively to the needs of their communities.

The Civic Reflection Facilitation training sponsored by ServeNebraska and led by Project on Civic Reflection facilitators from Chicago. 26 AmeriCorps Program Leaders, AmeriCorps InterCorps Council members, staff from ServeNebraska and Nebraska CNCS State Office and VISTA Leaders received training on how to use Civic Reflections over two days in June 2011. Program leaders learned about the methodology of service reflection and developed the skills to facilitate civic reflection sessions with their individual AmeriCorps teams.

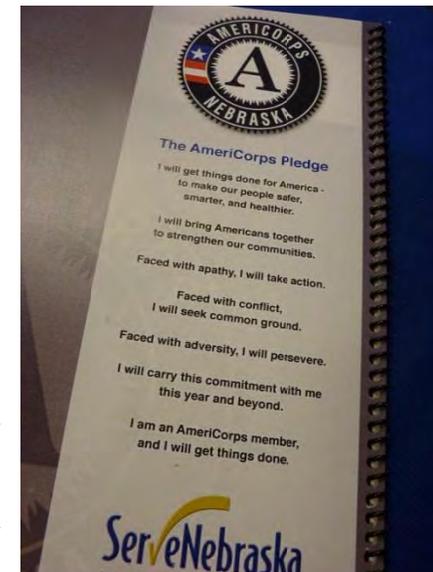
“Nowhere in our AmeriCorps member contract does it say, you have to think about your actions, but civic reflection gives us a chance to do that.”

– AmeriCorps member after participating in a Civic Reflection session with their Program Leader

Impact ...

The following quotes from AmeriCorps beneficiaries were captured via an anonymous online survey.

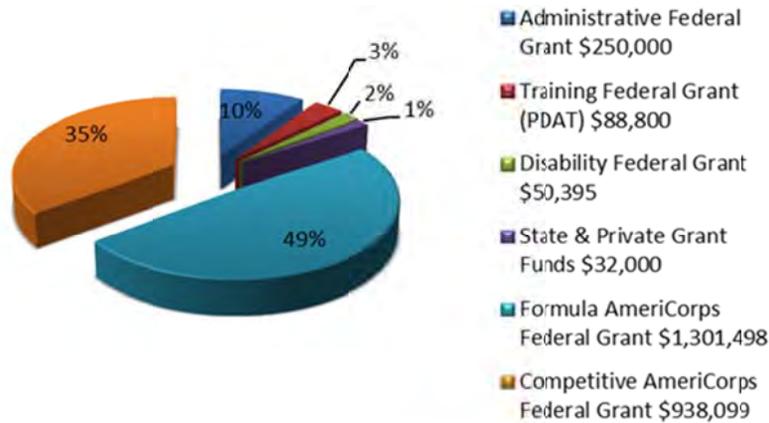
- ◆ *AmeriCorps members have helped our low-income neighborhood by providing a range of recreational, nutritional and educational opportunities that we otherwise would not have. Most neighborhood residents are so poor that they cannot even afford to board a bus to get to the other side of town. But AmeriCorps members have provided neighborhood children with opportunities.*
- ◆ *AmeriCorps has provided me with a chance to network and explore career choices. It has offered me many opportunities that I may not have otherwise been able to do.*
- ◆ *I wouldn't be getting my life in order if it wasn't for this program.*
- ◆ *I believe this program helped me start on the right track.*
- ◆ *AmeriCorps has helped me understand any employer's expectations and I've learned that I have some skills I didn't even know I had.*
- ◆ *I feel like AmeriCorps helped me in many ways. It has taught me how to make a budget and effectively manage money.*
- ◆ *AmeriCorps has helped me learn how to communicate correctly with potential employers and how to get along with co-workers.*



Financials

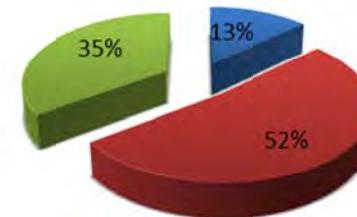
ServeNebraska provided oversight and accountability for \$2,660,792.

2011 ServeNebraska Revenues



2011 ServeNebraska Expenditures

- Program Support, Monitoring, Training & Operations \$300,511
- AmeriCorps Formula Grant \$1,180,077
- AmeriCorps Competitive Grant \$797,549



- Federal grant funds - awarded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Formula and Competitive funds are passed through to subgrantees.
- State funds - awarded by the Nebraska Legislature through the Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- Private grant funds - awarded by the State Farm Foundation for Youth Service America.

Nebraska Volunteer Foundation Fund

Developing Resources to Support ServeNebraska

The Nebraska Volunteer Foundation Fund was established to provide financial resources to support the mission and programs of ServeNebraska, the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission and to advance volunteerism, community and national service among Nebraskans. The Foundation was created in 1996 as a separate 501c3 organization and aligned with the Nebraska Community Foundation as an affiliated fund in 2006. As an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, all contributions to the Nebraska Volunteer Foundation Fund are tax-deductible.



During 2011, the Foundation Fund Advisory Committee finalized its Articles of Operation and started development of a fundraising plan to provide resources to purchase airtime for new ServeNebraska "Why I Volunteer" PSAs to promote volunteering and AmeriCorps.

New for 2012...

AmeriCorps Outreach and Awareness Campaign

- ~ Place AmeriCorps Nebraska Heroes posters in all colleges and high schools throughout the state to promote national service as a solution to local community problems.
- ~ Partner with the Nebraska Broadcasters Association to air Public Service Announcements that promote AmeriCorps national service to help Nebraska communities meet critical needs.
- ~ Utilize promotion to increase involvement in national service.



Co-Sponsor 2012 Governor's Conference on Rural Development

- ~ Partner with the Nebraska Rural Development Commission.
- ~ Develop Volunteerism/Community Engagement Track at conference to be held in North Platte, April 18, 2012.
- ~ Present the First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards Ceremony as part of this event.
- ~ Reach out to new audiences to expand community and national service, volunteerism and AmeriCorps awareness to benefit rural economic development.

Symposium - Celebration of Service

- ~ A forum for Nebraska AmeriCorps members to showcase their service stories through creative artistry inspired by service experiences.
- ~ An opportunity for AmeriCorps members across the state to share the successes of their service.
- ~ Presentations preparing AmeriCorps members for life after AmeriCorps.

Launch Let's Build Nebraska - Online Resource for Nebraska Nonprofits

- ~ Partner with complementary organizations to strengthen Nebraska nonprofits through an extensive redesign and expansion of the ServeNebraska online resource library and continuation of resources developed through a local capacity building grant.
- ~ Lead partners include ServeNebraska, Region V Systems (Lincoln) & Lincoln Human Services.
- ~ Develop name, logo and website (www.letsbuildnebraska.org) with new, stronger focus on nonprofits and a statewide volunteer network.
- ~ Provide online resources, training, webinars, best practices and links for all of Nebraska that will include a professional coaching and mentoring component to benefit emerging nonprofits.



Commissioners

Tamara Bailey

Grants Coordinator/Administrator
South Sioux City

Nancy Faber

Magnet High School Principal (retired)
Elkhorn

Sally Ganem, Honorary Chair

Nebraska's First Lady
Lincoln

Barry Kriha

Research Director, RFD-TV
Omaha

Gerry Osborn

Postmaster (retired)
Ainsworth

Ron Sedlacek, JD

Attorney, Husch Blackwell Sanders, LLP
Lincoln

Rose White

Public Affairs Director, AAA Nebraska
Omaha

Lorinda Brown

Eight to Great Facilitator, Disability Advocate
Grand Island

Jan Fitts, LCSW

Executive Director, Community Action
Partnership of Western Nebraska
Gering

April Kelly

Author and Speaker
Omaha

Jamesena Moore, Chair

Volunteer Professional (retired)
Bellevue

Donlynn Rice

Curriculum/Instruction Administrator
NE Department of Education
Lincoln

Carol Speicher

Rural Development (retired)
Columbus

Lois Wine, Vice-Chair

Director of Volunteer Services
Rose Blumkin Jewish Home
Omaha

Keelan Chapman

Youth Commissioner
Lincoln

Tanya Hansen, JD

Attorney, Leininger Smith Law Firm
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Denise Kollath

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Julie Nash

Director, Senior Action, Inc
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Susan Schnase

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Omaha

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