

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

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Nebraska AmeriCorps funding announced for 2014-2015

(Lincoln, Neb.) Eleven AmeriCorps Programs have been selected for grant funding to support 250 AmeriCorps members located throughout Nebraska. A competitive application process invited proposals to address community needs from nonprofit and public entities for 2014-2015 AmeriCorps funding.

AmeriCorps members are talented individuals who, through sustained service, devote up to a year of service to addressing our state's most pressing needs through the AmeriCorps national service program which is an opportunity for them to serve their country. AmeriCorps members serve at local nonprofit or governmental organizations which have applied for and received competitive grants.

“National service is an essential part of the solution to many of the social challenges facing our communities,” said Cathleen Plager, ServeNebraska Executive Director. “These AmeriCorps members will meet pressing local needs and strengthen Nebraska communities as they develop civic and leadership skills that can last a lifetime.”

ServeNebraska provides guidance, direction, and administration to the development and implementation of AmeriCorps programming throughout Nebraska. Led by volunteer Governor-appointed Commissioners and managed by a small skilled staff, ServeNebraska works to grow the strong spirit of service in Nebraska.

ServeNebraska AmeriCorps Programs with point of contact information are listed below.

Blue Valley Community Action (Fairbury) - BVCA AmeriCorps - \$66,500

Engaging youth in-school/afterschool service-learning, providing academic support and enrichment, promoting parental engagement, facilitating alcohol and substance abuse prevention programming for youth and adults.
Contact: Collena Laschanky, 402-729-6510, claschanky@bvca.net

Center for People in Need (Lincoln) - PROH AmeriCorps - \$133,000

Benefitting low income, high needs clients, through mentoring and teaching job training classes, assisting clients to learn computer skills, educating clients in preparing for citizenship and social adjustment, and making community education presentations. Contact: Audrey Jackson, 402-476-4357 ext. 206,
ajackson@centerforpeopleinneed.org

City of Lincoln (Lincoln) – Youth on the Move AmeriCorps - \$203,279

Academic support, mentor relationship building, service learning opportunities, youth and leadership development, and career preparatory activities for K-12th grade youth. Contact: Deb Buckman, 402-441-4907,
dbuckman@lincoln.ne.gov

Goodwill Industries (Omaha) – YouthBuild Omaha AmeriCorps - \$91,326

Low income housing development in Omaha through the efforts of young adult AmeriCorps members who are concurrently participating in YouthBuild pursuing their GEDs and developing construction skills.
Contact: Miriam J. Blair, 402-522-7238, mblair@goodwillomaha.org

Kearney Public Schools Foundation (Kearney) - Rural Corps of South Central Nebraska AmeriCorps - \$67,977

Academic assistance and mentoring to students from Pre-K to 12th grade in classrooms, and help with homework and enrichment activities for students attending the before/after school programs.

Contact: Carol Renner, 308-698-8005, carol.renner@kearneypublic.org

Metropolitan Community College (Omaha) - MCC AmeriCorps - \$5,488

Mentoring and academic support, expanding educational and career pathways, enhancing cultural and experiential learning and leadership opportunities. Contact: Lindsey Spaustat, 402-457-2324,

lmspaustat@mccneb.edu

Nebraska State Probation (Lincoln) - RISE AmeriCorps - \$205,784

Reducing recidivism through improving education and employment opportunities for adult and juvenile probationers. Contact: Kari Rumbaugh, 402-471-2855, kari.rumbaugh@nebraska.gov

University of Nebraska Lincoln-Cooperative Extension (Lincoln) – UNL Extension AmeriCorps – \$79,787

Science Education, spurring more youth to be interested in science related careers and Nutrition for youth and adults to make healthy food choices and pursue physically active lifestyles.

Contact: Dave Ulferts, 402-350-3312, dulferts2@unl.edu

University of Nebraska Medical Center Munroe Meyer Institute (Omaha) - MMI AmeriCorps – \$182,409

Behavioral health services to the underprivileged, underserved, and military families who do not generally have access to behavioral health services. Contact: Ryan Thorson, 402-559-2282, rthorson@unmc.edu

Volunteers of America Western Nebraska (Lewellen) – Healthy Rural Communities AmeriCorps - \$66,500

Food insecurity, obesity, sustainable environments and environmental stewardship for individuals and rural communities are the focus of “Healthy Rural Communities” located in Colfax, Garden, Knox, Lancaster, Platte and Saline counties of Nebraska as well as Farm to School in multiple rural counties.

Contact: Rose Brassfield, 308-778-5548, rosebrassfield@gmail.com

YWCA Adams County (Hastings) – YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps - \$64,766

Direct service to clientele in need which includes; afterschool programming, homework assistance, job training for women, adult education (ESL and GED) classes, translation and connection of services for those who are homeless or near homeless.

Contact: Jennifer Lewis, 402-462-8821, jlewis@ywcaadamscounty.org

On a national level, AmeriCorps engages 80,000 Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet critical needs. Members serve through more than 14,000 organizations in rural and urban communities throughout the nation. Among other accomplishments, AmeriCorps members last year mobilized 3.4 million community volunteers, and tutored, mentored or served more than 3.5 million disadvantaged youth.

Since 1994, more than 900,000 Americans have provided more than 1 billion hours of service to their communities and country through AmeriCorps.

ServeNebraska pursues its mission of mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs. To learn more, visit www.serve.nebraska.gov.

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