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Governor Heineman Announces AmeriCorps Grants to Meet Local Needs

Washington, D.C. – Governor Dave Heineman announced today that Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska and Munroe Meyer Institute of the University of Nebraska Medical Center have received AmeriCorps grants from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. Lutheran Family Services will receive \$358,604 while the Munroe Meyer Institute will receive \$184,187.

These grants will support AmeriCorps members across the state. AmeriCorps Members in service through Lutheran Family Service will assist refugees and other New Americans to develop job skills and become fully engaged in the fabric of life in our state. They will also provide services and support to veterans and their families. Those in service at Munroe Meyer Institute will dedicate themselves to providing service to individuals with a wide spectrum of disabilities. Both programs are based in Omaha, but have a presence in central and western Nebraska.

ServeNebraska will coordinate the development and implementation of AmeriCorps programming with these organizations, which were selected in a highly competitive national process. In July, ServeNebraska will announce additional AmeriCorps grants supported by \$1.1 million in AmeriCorps formula funding.

“Citizen service is an essential part of the solution to many of the social challenges facing our communities,” said Governor Heineman. “AmeriCorps members will meet pressing local needs and strengthen our communities as they develop civic and leadership skills that can last a lifetime.”

The current year’s AmeriCorps grant cycle was highly competitive, due to the strong and growing demand by organizations seeking AmeriCorps resources. Nationally, organizations requested nearly twice the number of grant dollars and AmeriCorps positions than could be funded.

“I congratulate this year’s grantees for rising to the top in a highly competitive year,” said John Gomperts, Director of AmeriCorps. “These organizations will increase their reach and impact on meeting local needs through the infusion of dedicated AmeriCorps members.”

On a national level, AmeriCorps engages 80,000 Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet critical needs. Among other accomplishments, AmeriCorps members last year mobilized 2.6 million community volunteers, and tutored, mentored or served more than 2.5 million disadvantaged youth. Since 1994, more than 700,000 Americans have provided more than 860 million hours of service to their communities and country through AmeriCorps.

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ServeNebraska mobilizes Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration, and national service programs. It nurtures the development of AmeriCorps, provides training & technical assistance to those working to make the good life in Nebraska better, builds volunteer capacity & celebrates volunteer achievement, and furthers the involvement of those with disability in community service. To learn more visit serve.nebraska.gov.

AmeriCorps is a national service program administered by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet critical needs. Interested individuals can learn about available opportunities and apply online by visiting AmeriCorps.gov.