



Nebraska State Capitol
P.O. Box 98927
Lincoln, NE 68509-8927
Phone 402.471.6212
Fax 402.471.6286
www.serve.nebraska.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 2024

CONTACT: ServeNebraska
Cathleen Plager, 402-802-6865
Cathleen.Plager@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Ties for Third in Nation for Volunteering

LINCOLN, Neb. – Today, AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism named Nebraska as the third ranking state for formal volunteering in the nation as highlighted in the latest Volunteering and Civic Life in America research. The state is tied in third with Minnesota.

Nebraska’s formal volunteering rate has increased more than six percentage points in just two years. In 2023, 617,840 state residents volunteered through an organization, contributing \$933.3 million in economic value. Other Nebraska highlights:

- 97.7 percent of residents talked to or spent time with friends or family.
- 61.2 percent of residents informally helped others by exchanging favors with their neighbors.
- 73.6 percent of residents had a conversation or spent time with their neighbors.
- 34.3 percent of residents belonged to an organization.
- 56.7 percent of residents donated \$25 or more to charity.

“Nebraska represents the best of America. Nebraskans should feel proud to know that their neighbors and friends are looking out for their community, providing invaluable support by serving those in need,” said Michael D. Smith, CEO, AmeriCorps. “We can all learn a thing or two from Nebraskans.”

“It’s extremely exciting and encouraging to see the levels of volunteerism increasing again, not only in our state but across the country,” said Cathleen Plager, Executive Director for ServeNebraska. “Volunteering is a core part of what it is to be a Nebraskan, and seeing this data, reinforces our belief that volunteering is making a difference throughout Nebraska in ways that it really matters.”

Every two years, AmeriCorps partners with the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct the most robust survey about civic engagement across the United States and over time. The data informs AmeriCorps’ Volunteering and Civic Life in America research, a comprehensive look at how Americans make a difference in their communities and promote the common good. The latest research examines trends in formal volunteering, informal helping, and other civic behaviors.

The national volunteering rate has increased more than 22 percent in just two years. This is the largest expansion of formal volunteering AmeriCorps has ever recorded and truly showcases the spirit of volunteerism is on the rise in America.

Formal volunteering involves helping others through organizations. Through local nonprofit and community-based organizations, Americans are afforded new ways to engage with their communities and foster a sense of constructive action, civic participation and belonging. Volunteers support American schools and shelters, hospitals and hotlines, food banks, and civic, nonprofit, tribal and faith-based organizations across the country.

Below are the 10 U.S. states with the highest formal volunteering rates among residents in 2023.

State	2023 Formal Volunteering Rate
Utah	46.6%
Vermont	40.5%

Minnesota	40.3%
Nebraska	40.3%
Kansas	39.6%
South Dakota	37.8%
Connecticut	37.4%
Montana	37.2%
Washington, DC	35.8%
Oregon	35.7%

Volunteering doesn't always need to be formal. More than 137.5 million people – or 54 percent of Americans – helped their neighbors informally with tasks like running errands or watching each other's children between September 2022 and 2023. This represents a meaningful three percentage point increase from previous years.

###

About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency places more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term or one-time volunteers. Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov. AmeriCorps offers opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds to be a part of the national service community, grow personally and professionally and receive benefits for their service. AmeriCorps.gov/serve.

About ServeNebraska

ServeNebraska is the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission and is governed by a bipartisan board appointed by the Nebraska governor. Its mission is to mobilize Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through collaboration, volunteering and national service. ServeNebraska oversees AmeriCorps programming, hosts the state's most prestigious volunteer awards – the Governor's Step Forward Awards, and provides training and technical assistance. To learn more, visit serve.nebraska.gov.