

ServeNebraska



2022
Annual Report



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A Message From Our Leadership

ServeNebraska celebrates 2022 by thanking all those participating in the many aspects of service and volunteerism happening every day in Nebraska. We are grateful for the Governor-appointed commissioners and their leadership, voices, sponsorships all year long, and dedication to the mission for which our agency stands.

Through this publication we hope that you see our pride in working with people who care about their fellow citizens and the communities in which they live. All these individuals and groups seek to solve critical needs that are faced by our communities and citizens. This annual report lays out the many types of service that are being completed daily and some of the voices of those who serve in national service programs. We are proud to help support all these missions and grow service in our state.

ServeNebraska's mission also encourages and highlights Nebraskans taking the time to volunteer. We were able to bring the Step Forward Awards back to an in-person event this year and it was an honor to be able to celebrate volunteers face-to-face and to shake the hard-working hands of those who spend countless hours of their time making a difference.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the committed staff who work hard each day to help identify gaps in service and make an impact. This year we learned, we grew, we pivoted, and we achieved our goals, and we look forward to setting the bar higher in 2023.



Cathleen Plager
Executive Director



Kare Heilbrun
Commission Chair

Nebraska AmeriCorps State Programs 2021-2022

College Possible

The College Possible AmeriCorps program helps students in the Omaha area achieve their dream of attending college, often as the first in their families to do so. During the 2021-2022 program year, AmeriCorps members assisted 227 high school students in preparing and applying for college. Two hundred forty-seven high school students were coached in preparation for academic testing and over half improved their scores by an average of 2%.



Partnership 4 Kids

Partnership 4 Kids AmeriCorps members support Omaha area students throughout their schooling to help them achieve academic success. In the 2021-2022 program year, they assisted students in securing a total of \$500,000 in scholarships and saw 23 students earn a post-secondary degree.

YWCA Adams County

This AmeriCorps program has several missions, including running the ZONE after-school program, teaching GED courses at Hastings Literacy, operating the Career Closet, and more. Of the 118 individuals who took classes with AmeriCorps members at Hastings Literacy, 10 earned their GED during the last program year.



Conservation Nebraska

Conservation Nebraska AmeriCorps members provide environmental stewardship education to help Nebraskans learn how to live sustainable lives and preserve Nebraska's natural beauty. Nine hundred eighty-two individuals from 135 communities across the state attended educational events facilitated by AmeriCorps members during the 2021-2022 program year.

Together Inc. of Metropolitan Omaha

The Together AmeriCorps program fights food insecurity in the Omaha metro by operating a choice food pantry, tending community gardens, and providing nutrition education. During the 2021-2022 program year, they provided food security services to over 78,000 individuals.



Recognizing Increased Skills in Education

RISE AmeriCorps members assist Nebraska students who are on probation for truancy to develop skills to improve their attendance and succeed in school. One hundred twenty-eight students were served during the 2021-2022 program year. Eighty-five have completed the program.

International Council for Refugees & Immigrants

This program aims to support refugee and immigrant youth to navigate the challenges of adjusting to life in their new home. ICRI AmeriCorps members mentor youth and serve as resources for families to overcome language and cultural barriers. Seventy-five percent of parents of children who attended ICRI after-school programming indicated that their child's grades had improved.

MENTOR Nebraska

The MENTOR Nebraska AmeriCorps program endeavors to improve the quality and quantity of mentoring programs across the state by providing consulting and training to both new and existing programs.

Lead for Nebraska

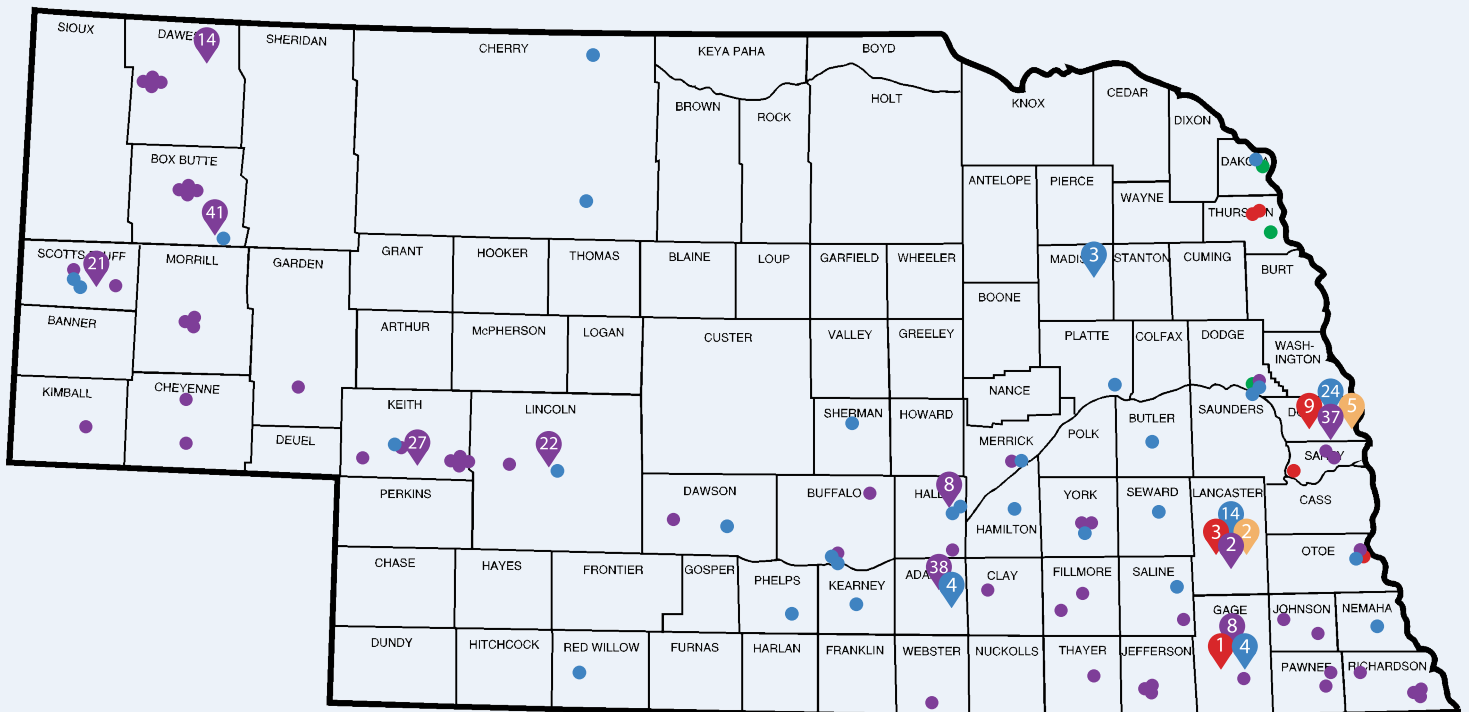
AmeriCorps members with this program strive to increase organizational capacity within communities and expand broadband access and digital literacy across the state. During the 2021-2022 program year, this program helped 16 organizations increase their capacity.

Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln

The Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln AmeriCorps program provides after-school programming to Lincoln students focusing on teaching students and their families to make healthy choices leading to healthier lives. PHL AmeriCorps members helped 599 children increase their knowledge about nutritious choices, and 79% demonstrated healthy behaviors following their participation.

AmeriCorps Planning Grants

Organizations planning to start an AmeriCorps program can apply for funding to assist them in program design. United Way of the Midlands and Nebraska Department of Education held planning grants in 2021-2022.



- AmeriCorps State Service Site(s)
- AmeriCorps National Program(s)
- AmeriCorps VISTA Program(s)
- AmeriCorps Seniors Service Site(s)
- AmeriCorps NCCC Project
- 2 Indicates the number of local service sites

AmeriCorps Members Serving in Nebraska

Quynh | *International Council for Refugees & Immigrants*

“Because of AmeriCorps, I am able to support the children that are struggling with finding the right path for themselves. I came to the US in 6th grade and I did not have any support. [...] It only takes one person to change someone’s life and I want to be that person.”



Eric | *Conservation Nebraska*

“Because of AmeriCorps, I have been able to help our state understand issues that I care about. [...] It has taught me to be patient and things will come together. Time is on your side. You can slow down and still be able to make an impact.”

Jack | *Together Inc.*

“AmeriCorps made me more culturally empathetic, more culturally aware.”

Trisha | *Recognizing Increased Skills in Education*

“My AmeriCorps service has impacted me in several ways, personally and professionally. I have had the opportunity to serve alongside and learn from some amazing people in the District 7 Probation Office. My service has allowed me to collaborate with Nebraska’s youth, educators, and so many others to benefit our community and the next generation of leaders. AmeriCorps has provided me an opportunity to fulfill my desire to serve others. I believe having a purpose beyond yourself is amazing.”



Tia | *YWCA Adams County*

“One of my favorite things about my service is how funny the kids are. The kids genuinely make me laugh, and I enjoy talking to them. Another one of my favorite

things about my service is the impact it makes on the kids.”

Mo | *AmeriCorps NCCC*

“This has been amazing! It’s been beneficial for a lot of people, them coming up here and seeing everything happening, as well as getting involved with building the earth lodge. I really really liked this project!”



Doris | *AmeriCorps Seniors*

“I serve because I enjoy helping people, and as a senior myself, it helps me, also.”

Marisa | *College Possible*

“Having that person in your corner saying that you belong here, you can do this, makes all the difference”



Hser | International Council for Refugees & Immigrants

“Because of AmeriCorps, I am able to help my students persevere in school and help them improve their academic skills. Because of ICRI, I am more aware of what’s going on in my community and how I can be a resource to them. With the experiences and the sources I have, I want to make a difference in my community and assist those who need help.”

Katie | College Possible

“One area of impact that I didn’t expect to get from service is

professional growth and development. I’ve been able to explore a field that I’m interested in and discover a career path that I hadn’t previously envisioned for myself that I am now very excited about pursuing.”

Katlyn | Conservation Nebraska

“I always felt that I could be doing more to help out my community, and AmeriCorps has given me the opportunity to do so.”





2022 Step Forward Awards

The 2022 Step Forward Awards ceremony marked the first in-person ceremony since 2019. ServeNebraska welcomed honorees from 2020, 2021 and 2022 to Omaha to be recognized for their service to the State of Nebraska.

First Lady Susanne Shore presented the awards and KMTV's Mary Nelson served as emcee for the event to help celebrate Nebraska's unique culture of commitment to community service. OPPD President and CEO Javier Fernandez provided the keynote address in which he expounded the reasons why our state stands out among the rest when it comes to helping our neighbors and taking ownership of our communities.

Each year, the Step Forward Awards honor a group of volunteers from 11

categories for their commitment to serving communities in Nebraska. The Governor selects the honorees to be honored at the ceremony each fall.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!

Leadership Sponsor

- Omaha Public Power District

Award Sponsors

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska
- Nelnet
- SHARE Omaha

Corporate Sponsors

- Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals
- JX Ranch

Benefactor Sponsors

- Goodwill Industries
- Bennie & Jamesena Moore



Lifetime Achievement: Henry Potter

Henry was awarded Nebraska's most prestigious honor given for volunteerism for his work founding L2 for Kids. The charity provides first-day-of-school clothing for children in need in the central Nebraska area. From 2012 to 2021, L2 for Kids provided 7,146 kids with over \$500,000 in new clothes from local stores.

Honorees:

- **David Hogsett** (*Lamar*) | Adult Volunteer Award
- **Raelynn Terveer** (*Norfolk*) | Youth Volunteer Leadership Award
- **Zoey Ballard** (*Omaha*) | National Service Award
- **Rhonda McClellan** (*Lincoln*) | Veteran Volunteer Award
- **Kris Peterson** (*Lincoln*) | Senior Volunteer Award
- **Dodge County Amateur Radio Emergency Services** (*Fremont*) | Disaster Volunteer Award
- **Buffalo Bill Kiwanis** (*North Platte*) | Volunteer Group Award
- **Fusion Medical Staffing** (*Omaha*) | Small Corporate Community Volunteer Award
- **Bosselman Enterprises** (*Grand Island*) | Large Corporate Community Volunteer Award
- **Congressman Don Bacon** (*Omaha*) | Jamesena Moore Making a Difference Award
- **Henry Potter** (*Willow Island*) | Lifetime Achievement Award



AmeriCorps NCCC Team Aspen 1 | Macy, NE



AmeriCorps NCCC Team Aspen 1 arrived in Nebraska in May. The team was hosted by Nebraska Indian Community College in Macy where they assisted in building a traditional earth lodge for use in class instruction and community engagement purposes.

The construction required the members to learn about the cultural significance of the structure and how to operate the machinery used to source and prepare the materials.

As a part of their time in Macy, some members took classes at the college and attended local Omaha Nation cultural events.

MLK Day of Service

AmeriCorps members and volunteers participated in a day of service to honor Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.



Program Leader Launch

Nebraska AmeriCorps program leaders gathered to learn about program operation and maintaining compliance.

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

Senator's Breakfast

Commissioners met with Nebraska senators to discuss the organization's mission and structure.



AmeriCorps Week

AmeriCorps Week was proclaimed by Nebraska's Governor. Members and volunteers across the country were celebrated.



AmeriCorps NCCC Team Hackberry 1 | Fremont, NE



AmeriCorps NCCC team Hackberry 1 arrived in Nebraska in July where they served with Habitat for Humanity in Fremont.

For the next seven weeks, the team assisted in constructing houses and learned valuable construction skills along the way with the help of Habitat for Humanity employees and volunteers.

In addition to building houses, the team hauled and sorted hundreds of pounds of gently-used appliances and furniture donations to be sold at a discount in the Fremont HomeStore. HomeStore revenue helps to fund the construction of Habitat homes.



Step Forward Awards

Volunteers from across Nebraska were honored for their commitment to strengthening communities.



JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

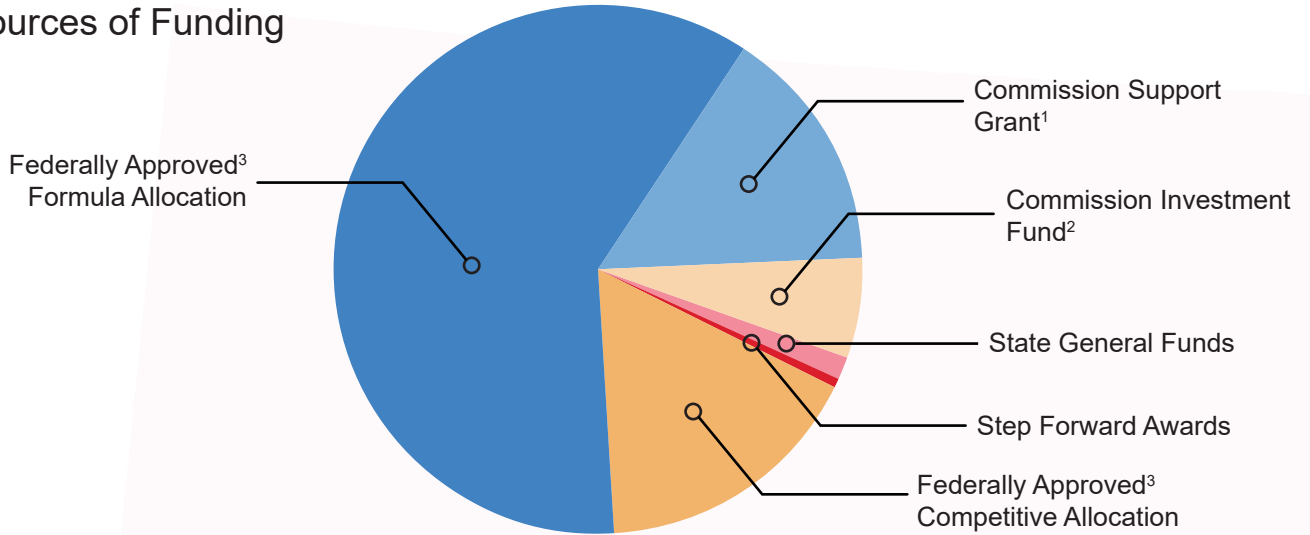


AmeriCorps Member Kick-off Conference

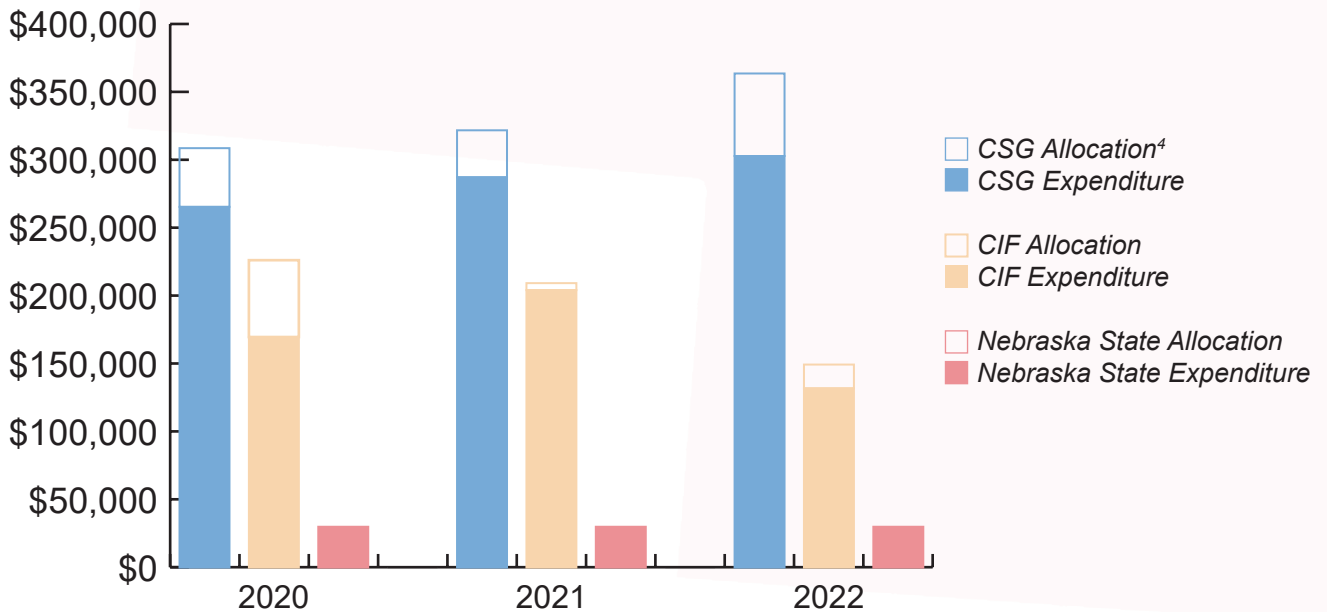
Nebraska AmeriCorps members participated in professional development sessions and learned about other AmeriCorps efforts in Nebraska.

ServeNebraska Financial Position

Sources of Funding



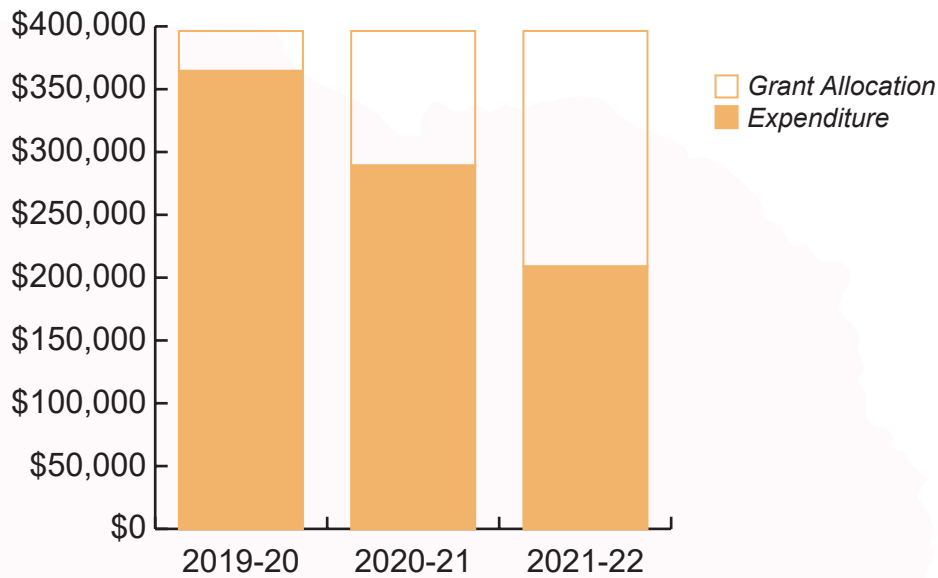
Administrative Allocations & Expenditures



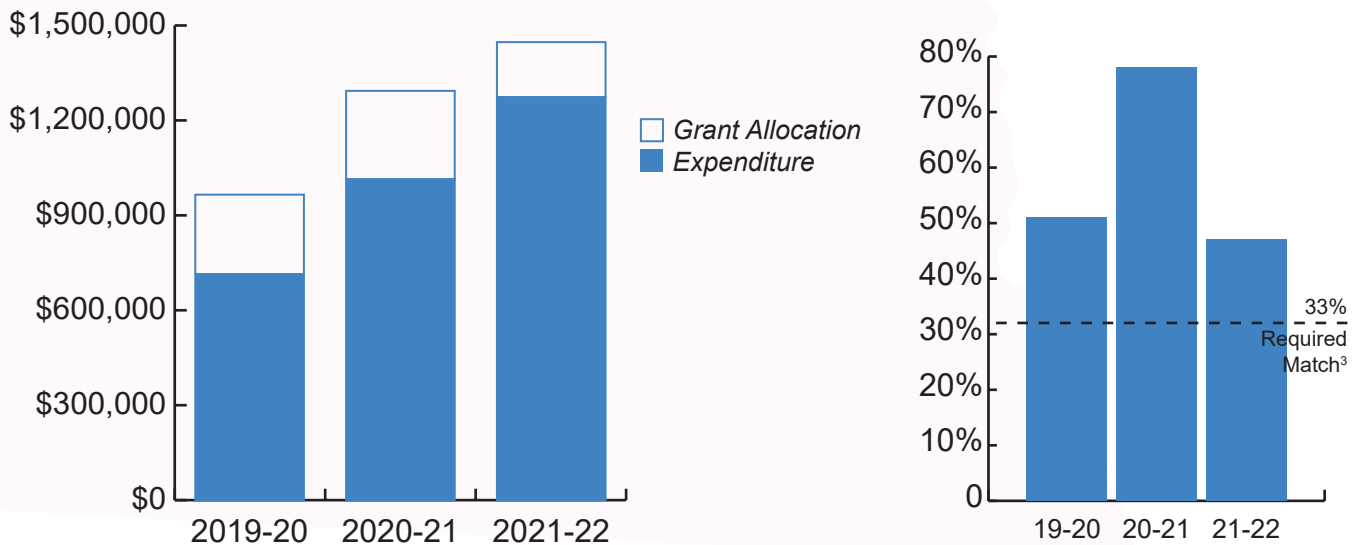
1. Commission Support Grant (CSG): Funds allocated to ServeNebraska to conduct Commission business and to support AmeriCorps grant funding. 100% of CSG Funding must be matched with non-federal funds.
2. Commission Investment Fund (CIF): Funds allocated to ServeNebraska to provide training and technical assistance to ServeNebraska staff and AmeriCorps programs in Nebraska.
3. ServeNebraska is a pass-through entity for AmeriCorps State and National subgrantees. The majority of the Commission's funds are granted to organizations to facilitate AmeriCorps programming.
4. Beginning in 2022, the CSG allocation includes supplemental ARPA funding to be used over the course of 3 years. ServeNebraska has elected to divide the total ARPA allocation into equal thirds displayed as a part of each year's CSG allocation.

2021-2022 AmeriCorps Program Spending

Competitive Cost Reimbursement AmeriCorps Grants in Nebraska¹



Formula AmeriCorps Grants in Nebraska²



1. Competitive AmeriCorps Grants in 2021-2022: College Possible

2. Formula AmeriCorps Grants in 2021-2022: Conservation Nebraska, RISE, YWCA Adams County, Together Inc., Partnership 4 Kids, ICRI, Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln, United Way of the Midlands, Nebraska Department of Education, Lead for Nebraska, MENTOR Nebraska.

3. AmeriCorps Formula funding in 2021-2022 was federally required to be matched at a minimum of 33%. Nebraska AmeriCorps subgrantees provide this match with local and private funding.

2021-2022 AmeriCorps by the Numbers

3,100

Individuals who participated in AmeriCorps programs in Nebraska

\$316,108

Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards awarded to members who successfully completed their term of service in Nebraska

305

Nebraska service sites

383

Volunteers recruited and managed by AmeriCorps members in Nebraska

Commissioners & Staff

Kare Heilbrun
Chair
Scottsbluff

CJ King
Vice Chair
Omaha

Jennifer Worthington
AmeriCorps/National Service
Committee Chair
Grand Island

Drew Graham
Community Volunteering
Committee Chair
Aurora

Dawn Hovey
Finance Committee Chair
Omaha

Michael Anderson
Omaha

Karen Bredthauer
Grand Island

Kelly Fleming
Omaha

Lisa Hiatt
Lincoln

Marjorie Maas
Omaha

Rod Morris
Omaha

Ashley Mueller
Lincoln

Elizabeth Paleogos
Omaha

Joe Popevis
Lincoln

Anastazia Bauer Scheer
Omaha

Mikki Tighe
Omaha

Daniel Cruz
Ex-Officio
Kansas City, Mo.

31,553

Children and youth served by Nebraska AmeriCorps programs

192

Individuals who received job training or placement

Cathleen Plager
Executive Director

Audrey Jackson
Deputy Director

Joni Dulaney
Fiscal/Grants Officer

Andrew Allen
AmeriCorps Program Officer

Katherine Lacy
AmeriCorps Development Officer

Rani Taborek-Potter
Public Information Officer

New Commissioners in 2022



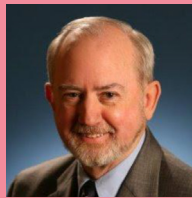
Karen Bredthauer

Karen was appointed in February and has held volunteer leadership positions with United Way and the Regional Planning Commission.



Michael Anderson

Michael was appointed in July. He brings experience with AmeriCorps programming through the management of the Youthbuild program with Goodwill Industries.



Rod Morris

Rod was appointed in November. He has shown a lifelong commitment to service through his volunteer work with St. Vincent De Paul and the Knights of Columbus.



Elizabeth Paleogos

Elizabeth was appointed in August and comes to the Commission as a representative of an AmeriCorps Seniors program.



Mikki Tighe

Mikki was appointed in November. She has served as both an AmeriCorps member and program supervisor.



Daniel Cruz

Daniel joined the commission in September. He is the Senior Portfolio Manager for the North Central Regional AmeriCorps office in Kansas City, Mo.



ServeNebraska
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