



ANNUAL REPORT

2021


ServeNebraska
Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission

LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

This year ServeNebraska faced the same challenges that all other customer-serving organizations faced as we moved into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The commissioners and staff did not let that stop them from serving the communities through AmeriCorps programming. ServeNebraska Commissioners and staff put their customers and the citizens of the state front and center; and as a result, nine AmeriCorps programs and three AmeriCorps planning grants were funded to address critical needs facing the great state of Nebraska.

Commissioners spent the year hosting meetings with Nebraska state senators to share the critical needs being addressed; across the state, these meetings focused on the importance of passing LB197 which allows all AmeriCorps National Service members who are eligible for a Segal Education Award to waive the year of residency for in-state tuition. A huge thank you to Senator Tony Vargas and the Nebraska Legislature for passing this historic legislation. The Commission also reached out to our citizens statewide to understand what they value and what services they are looking for. This information drove the creation of the next three-year strategic plan for implementation beginning January 1, 2022.

ServeNebraska Commissioners stepped up again as they hosted the second virtual Step Forward Awards to recognize and thank citizen volunteers for their service to Nebraska. We greatly appreciate Governor Ricketts and our sponsors. We know that without them we could not hold such a prestigious event.

With great appreciation, we commend the ServeNebraska staff who stayed in touch with grantees through meetings, training, and/or technical assistance. Staff also held member events, stayed in touch and shared our appreciation for the service that members commit to. ServeNebraska staff were inspired to volunteer their skills and talents throughout the year and grew the services provided by ServeNebraska by standing up the AmeriCorps VISTA program. ServeNebraska is committed to using our funds with the highest integrity, building strong infrastructure, connecting people to solutions, growing supportive influence and also protecting and strengthening our internal team and Commission cultures. We look forward to 2022 and the positive changes that can be accomplished together through AmeriCorps National Service.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marjorie Maas".

Marjorie Maas,
ServeNebraska
Commission Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathleen Plager".

Cathleen Plager,
Executive Director

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A young Black man with a beard, wearing a red AmeriCorps jacket, is smiling and pointing towards a classroom. The classroom is filled with students at desks, and a whiteboard is visible in the background. The text "GET INSPIRED" is overlaid in large white letters in the upper right corner.

GET INSPIRED

AmeriCorps Programs in Nebraska

The ServeNebraska Volunteer Service Commission is a pass-through entity that grants federal AmeriCorps funding to organizations across the state. These organizations are selected by the ServeNebraska Board of Commissioners and operate AmeriCorps programming that addresses Nebraska's most critical needs.

College Possible

The College Possible AmeriCorps program helps students to succeed in school. AmeriCorps members serving there served 1400 college students during the 2020-2021 program year and helped 24 graduate with a postsecondary degree. They also helped 254 high school students apply and enroll in college.

Conservation Nebraska

This program strives to preserve Nebraska's remarkable beauty by educating citizens of our state to become more environmentally conscious. During the 2020-2021 program year, Conservation Nebraska AmeriCorps members educated 1,224 beneficiaries and 478 demonstrated increased understanding of conservation practices.

Recognizing Increased Skills in Education (RISE)

The RISE program serves youth on probation to provide them with skills and strategies to increase their attendance in school. During the 2020-2021 program year, these AmeriCorps members served 229 students and 77 of them increased their attendance.

International Council for Refugees and Immigrants (ICRI)

ICRI AmeriCorps members serve children and youth from refugee and immigrant families in navigating the challenges inherent to adjusting to life in a new country. They exceeded their 2020-2021 goal and served 143 students with 113 of them demonstrating increased academic performance.

Together Inc.

AmeriCorps members serving with Together Inc. focus primarily on providing healthy, culturally appropriate food to people in need. These members provided food to 54,567 individuals during the 2020-2021 program year exceeding their goal by 680%.

Partnership 4 Kids (P4K)

The Partnership 4 Kids AmeriCorps program provides students with the support they need to be successful throughout their education. P4K AmeriCorps members served 428 students in the 2020-2021 program year and helped 21 of them earn a post-secondary degree.

Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln

AmeriCorps members serving with Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln serve the community by providing education on nutrition and exercise to elementary school students. 409 students participated in these programs in the 2020-2021 program year and 405 of those students showed a significant change in behavior regarding healthy choices.

YWCA Adams County

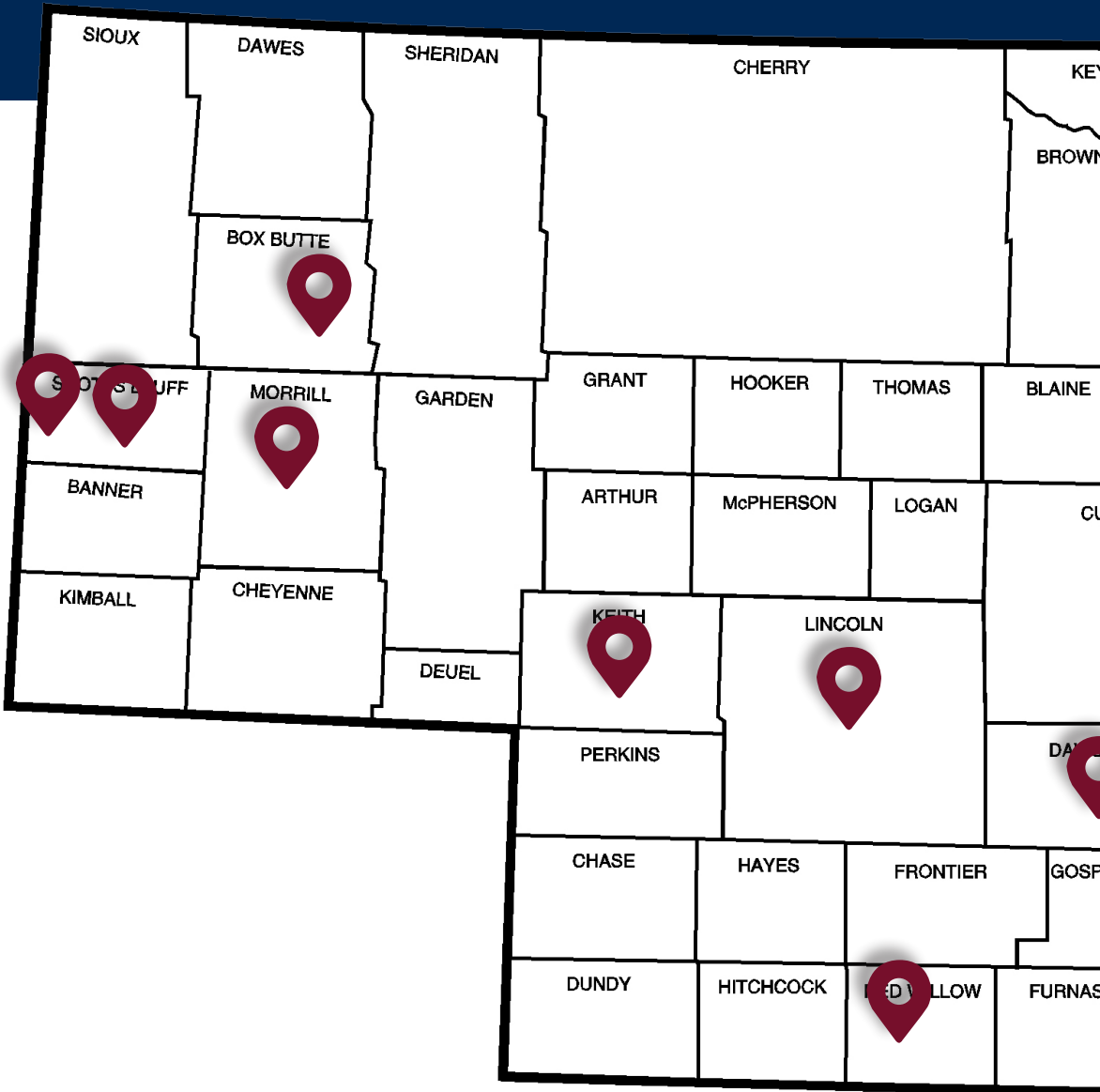
The YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps program meets several needs in Hastings and its surrounding communities. Among these services are GED courses at the Hastings Literacy Center. During the 2020-2021 program year these AmeriCorps members taught 137 GED students with 8 of them earning a GED.

University of Nebraska Kearney - Dept. of Counseling & Psychology (UNK)

AmeriCorps members serving with the UNK program are students in the Department of Counseling & Psychology. They utilize the skills they have gained during their education to increase access to mental health care. During the 2020-2021 program year, they provided services to 1,387 beneficiaries.

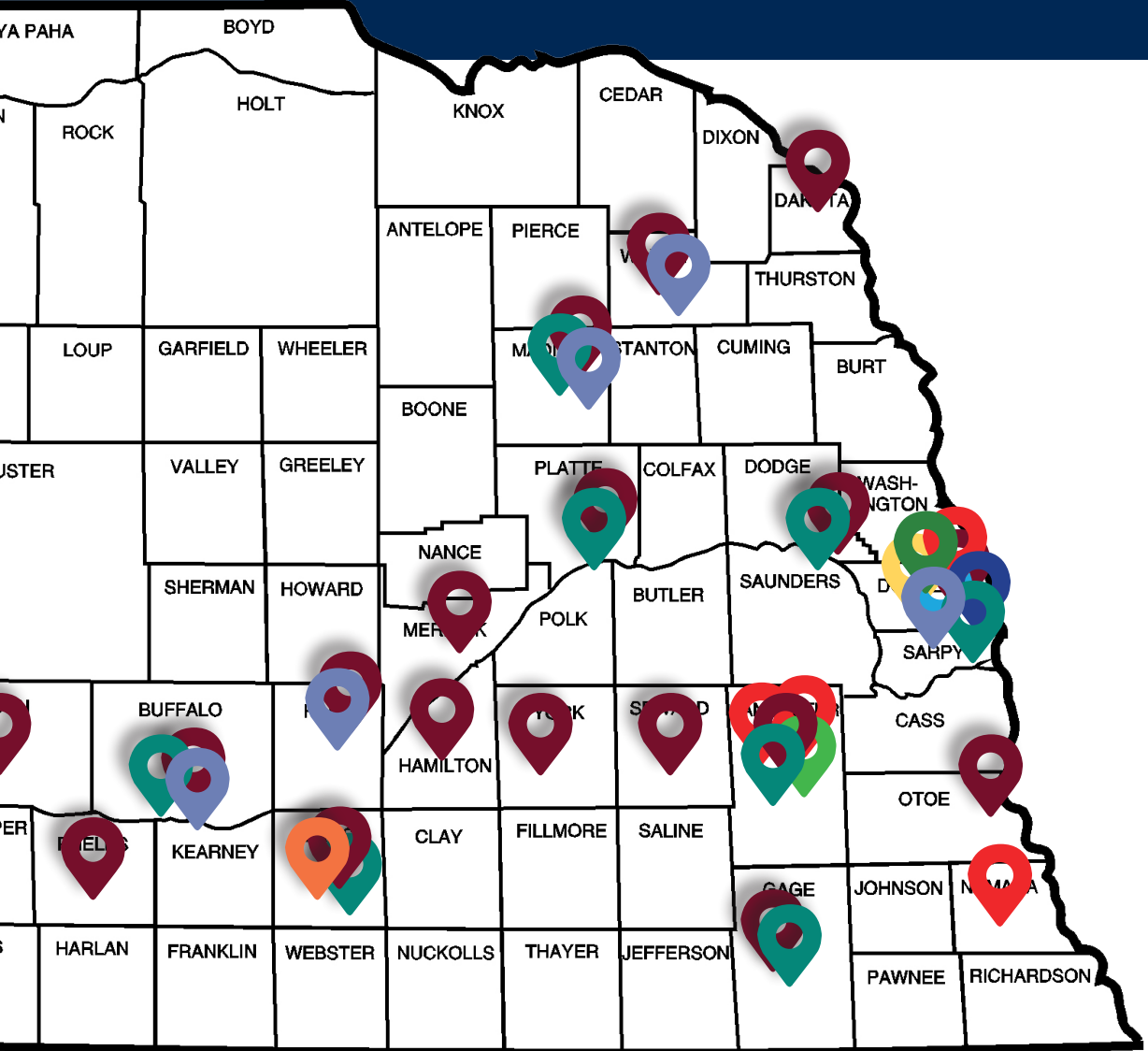
AmeriCorps Planning Grants

Organizations looking to start an AmeriCorps program in Nebraska may apply for AmeriCorps planning grant funds to design a program that will effectively meet community needs. United Way of the Midlands, NE Dept. of Education, Lead for Nebraska, and MENTOR Nebraska held AmeriCorps planning grants in 2020-2021.



-  Conservation Nebraska
-  YWCA Adams County
-  Recognizing Increased Skills in Education (RISE)
-  Together Inc.
-  AmeriCorps Planning Grants
-  Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln
-  Partnership 4 Kids
-  College Possible
-  International Council for Refugees and Immigrants
-  UNK - Department of Counseling and Psychology

AmeriCorps Program Service Sites 2020-2021



AmeriCorps
Nebraska

MAKE AN IMPACT



AmeriCorps Members in Nebraska

AmeriCorps members serving in AmeriCorps State & National serve to address critical needs in local communities.



As I've served with the youth in my position through AmeriCorps, I have found that serving with youth in the criminal justice system is where I belong.

-Michelle Lindhart, serving with RISE

I'm learning what serving means and what it can do for other people, [...] my input and what my service means to people, how we can literally help people's lives.

-Shae'Kell Butler, serving with Partnership 4 Kids



I have always admired people, older people, young adults who decide that they want something more in their life, and I love the idea of being a conduit to their reaching that, reaching their dreams.

-Elizabeth Musgrave, serving with YWCA

I just wanted to join AmeriCorps to be someone who gives them advice, that they can do this. If others can do it, you can do it too.

-Blue Wah, serving with ICRI



I think that it's really empowering to see that there are people out there that are really excited about making a change.

-Caitlin Little, serving with Together Inc.



SERVE

Nancy Hoch
Lifetime Achievement Award

ServeNebraska Step Forward Awards

The Step Forward Awards are the most prestigious awards given in the state for commitment to volunteer service. Nebraska's governor chooses honorees from across the state to celebrate service in our communities and thank volunteers for all they do.

Jim Kuhn



Veteran Volunteer

Sandy Manfull



Adult Volunteer

Carissa Schank



Disaster Volunteer

Mahika Kanchanam



Youth Volunteer Leadership

Washington County Recycling Association



Volunteer Group

Sally Ganem



Jamesena Moore Making a Difference Service Award

Larry Massie



Senior Volunteer

Nicole Metz-Andrews



National Service

Dave's Pharmacy



Small Business Corporate Community Volunteer

Champions of Aging



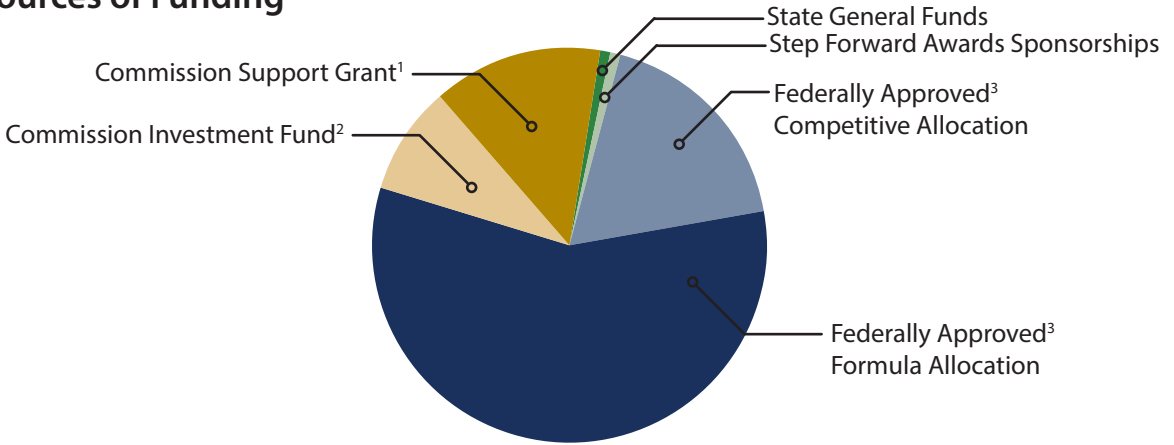
Large Business Corporate Community Volunteer

Special thanks to the 2021 Step Forward Awards sponsors!

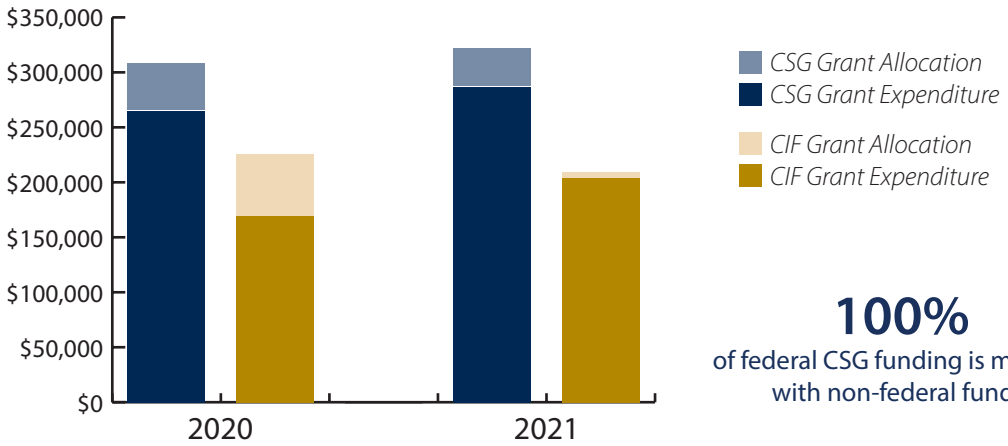
- Motion Content House
- Home Instead Senior Care
- Metropolitan Utilities District
- Nelnet
- Omaha Public Power District
- SHARE Omaha
- Bennie & Jamesena Moore
- Paul & Lori Hogan

2021 ServeNebraska Financial Position

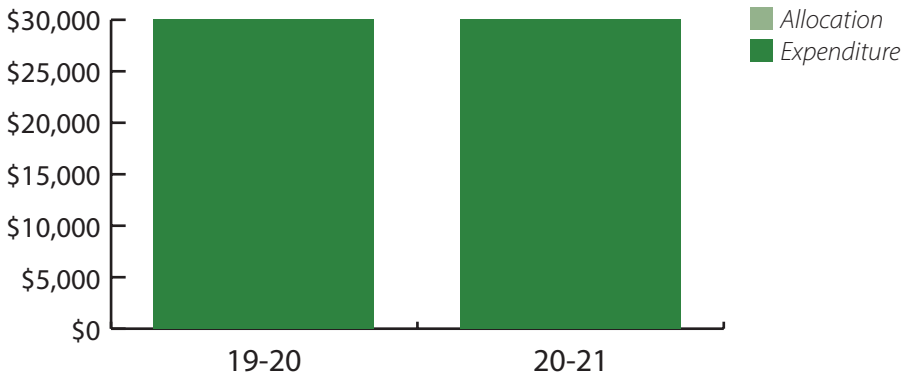
Sources of Funding



Federal Administrative Funding



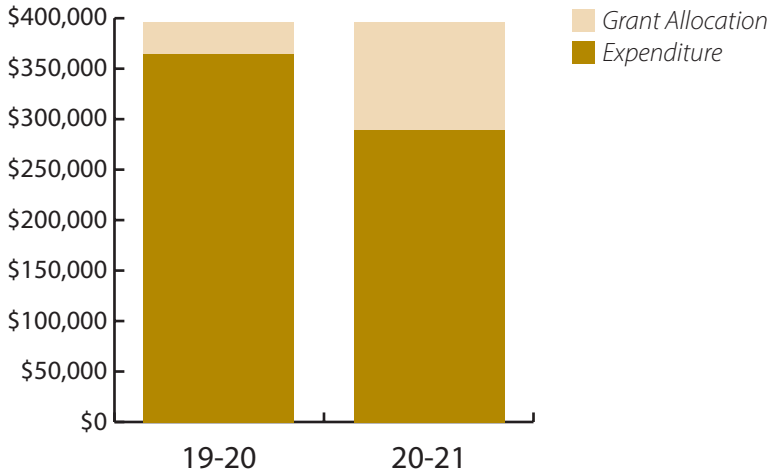
Nebraska State Funding



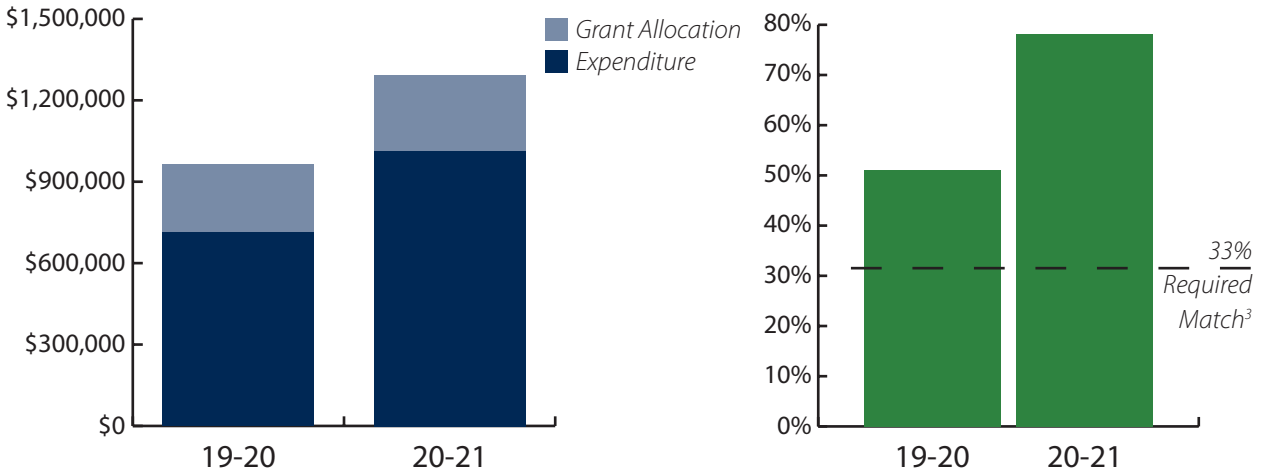
1. Commission Support Grant (CSG): Funds allocated to ServeNebraska for operation of the Commission and to support AmeriCorps grant funding.
2. Commission Investment Fund (CIF): Funds allocated to ServeNebraska to provide training and technical assistance to ServeNebraska staff and AmeriCorps programs in Nebraska.
3. ServeNebraska is a pass-through entity for AmeriCorps State and National subgrantees. These funds are granted to organizations to facilitate AmeriCorps programming.

2020-2021 AmeriCorps Financial Position

Fixed Competitive¹ AmeriCorps Grants in Nebraska



Formula² AmeriCorps Grants in Nebraska



1. Competitive AmeriCorps Grants in 2020-2021: College Possible.

2. Formula AmeriCorps Grants in 2020-2021: Conservation Nebraska, Recognizing Increased Skills in Education, YWCA Adams County, Together Inc., University of Nebraska Kearney, Partnership 4 Kids, International Council for Refugees & Immigrants, 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 was federally required to be matched at a minimum of 33%. Nebraska AmeriCorps subgrantees provide this match with local and private funding.

The New AmeriCorps Logo

Unveiled in 2021, the federal AmeriCorps agency undertook a rebranding project and began using the new AmeriCorps logos.

Several programs were consolidated under the AmeriCorps brand including AmeriCorps Seniors, AmeriCorps NCCC, and AmeriCorps VISTA.

This new brand identity is part of an ongoing effort to increase awareness about AmeriCorps service and modernize the image of National Service in our country.



LB197 In-State Tuition

Senator Vargas introduced this important and pioneering piece of legislation that makes Nebraska uniquely attractive to AmeriCorps alumni.

The passage of LB197 granted in-state tuition to AmeriCorps members from any state who are eligible for a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. Nebraska is the first in the country to do so and demonstrates how much Nebraska values AmeriCorps alums for their service and welcomes civically-minded students to Nebraska

Schools of National Service

When AmeriCorps members successfully complete their term of service, they are awarded a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help them achieve their educational goals. When a school becomes a School of National Service, they commit to providing AmeriCorps alums with additional benefits.

New Nebraska Schools of National Service in 2021 include the University of Nebraska Omaha, Chadron State College, Wayne State College, and Peru State College.



AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA is a unique type of AmeriCorps programming in which members perform indirect service in local organizations focusing primarily on fighting poverty.

ServeNebraska became an AmeriCorps VISTA intermediary in 2021. ServeNebraska will work to place AmeriCorps VISTA members across the state to find solutions to challenges unique to Nebraska communities.

COMMISSIONERS & STAFF

Marjorie Maas
Commission Chair
SHARE Omaha

D. Kare Heilbrun
Chair-Elect
Community Volunteering
Committee Chair
Team Health

Dawn Hovey
Finance Committee Chair
Essential Pregnancy Services

Jennifer Worthington
AmeriCorps/National
Service Committee Chair
Grand Island Public Schools

Anastazia Bauer Scheer
Boys Town

Matt Blomstedt
Nebraska Department of Education

C. Kelly Fleming
Omaha Public Power District

Drew Graham
Svehla Law Offices, PC, LLO

Cathleen Plager
Executive Director

Katherine Lacy
Development Officer

Michelle Zinke
AmeriCorps Program Officer

Amy Hall
Bosselman Enterprises

Ashley Hatheway
Self-employed

Lisa Hiatt
Girl Scouts Spirit of NE

CJ King
IBEW

Ashley Mueller
USDA NIFA

Deborah Neary
Nebraska State Board of Education

Wayne A. Nestor
Trinity Lutheran Church - Columbus

Sheila O'Connor
Associated General Contractors, Nebraska
Building Chapter

Joseph Popevis
Nelnet

Patti Stengel
Ex-officio
AmeriCorps

Audrey Jackson
Deputy Director

Rani Taborek-Potter
Public Information Officer

20-21

AmeriCorps Nebraska By the Numbers

135

AmeriCorps members served beneficiaries in Nebraska.

158

volunteers recruited and managed.

6,295

hours served by managed volunteers.

390

beneficiaries served in disaster response.

2,118

children & youth served.

207

individuals received job training &/or placement services.

28

individuals received independent living services.

14

AmeriCorps members remained in the education field following service.

98

AmeriCorps members successfully completed a term of service & received a Segal Education Award.

\$411,393.89

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